

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT  
and  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019  
1:45 PM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 55/SENATE RESOLUTION 39  
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**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 55/Senate Resolution 39 requests that the Auditor conduct a management and financial audit of the City and County of Honolulu's animal control contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the important services provided by the HHS, including euthanasia of some animals, as a critical component of wildlife protection and disease mitigation in Hawaii. The Department has worked with HHS and other animal welfare groups in the past on the issue of feral cat proliferation in Hawaii. While the Department does not take a position on the issue of an audit, we do note multiple concerns and mischaracterizations within the language of these resolutions.

The stated concern of these resolutions is that HHS has been performing euthanasia of "healthy, adoptable animals" and implies that an alternative solution is to utilize spay and neuter services. The question should not be whether these animals are "adoptable" in terms of health and temperament, but whether they are being adopted. If there are more adoptable pet animals present in Hawaii than there is demand for those animals, this overpopulation should be mitigated through either increased adoption efforts, exporting animals to be adopted outside of

**SUZANNE D. CASE**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**ROBERT K. MASUDA**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**M. KALEO MANUEL**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Hawaii, creating sanctuaries that separate animals from native wildlife, and, as a last resort, humane euthanasia.

This issue is of particular concern when considering cats in Hawaii, which, if unadopted, are sometimes taken from shelters by “owners” who release cats onto the landscape under practices called “Trap, Neuter, Return,” or more recently “Return to Field.” The releasing of healthy cats from shelters onto the landscape, rather than into homes, is entirely unsustainable and should be considered animal abandonment.

With regard to cats, the primary mischaracterization in these resolutions is the implication that increased neutering can replace euthanasia services and result in the reduction of the population size of feral cats in Hawaii. This statement is not supported by peer-reviewed science, which has produced many studies demonstrating that neutering of feral cats and re-releasing them onto the landscape does not result in population reduction. The Department is not aware of any scientific evidence showing that the spay and neutering services referenced in this measure have resulted in “greatly reduced pet overpopulation challenges” as stated in these measures.

Further, utilizing spay and neutering services does not mitigate the impacts that cats have on native wildlife through predation or disease transmission. Some of these animals are neutered and others are not. Regardless, they pose a predation threat to Hawaii’s native birds and have been documented preying on shearwaters, petrels, moorhens, coots, and other native species. Cats are also the only reproductive host of the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which has been cited as a cause of death in Hawaiian monk seals, alala, nene, and other native species. The State of Hawaii and federal partners spend considerable funding attempting to save these species, many of which are federally listed as threatened or endangered, from extinction. Seeking to reduce euthanasia services while supporting increased spay and neutering is contradictory to the State’s investment in native wildlife protection.

In January 2019 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, comprised of six State agencies and administered by the Department, adopted a resolution entitled “Supporting the Keeping of Pet Cats Indoors and the Use of Peer-Reviewed Science in Pursuing the Humane Mitigation of the Impacts of Feral Cats on Wildlife and People,” attached here for reference. The position of the Council is that pet cats should be kept indoors or otherwise separated from native wildlife through the use of fencing, catios, or sanctuaries. Solutions to mitigating the impacts of feral cats must be supported by peer-reviewed science, and in particular should not include a reliance on neutering services provided under methods such as “Trap, Neuter, Return.”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



**HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL**  
1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL  
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DENISE ALBANO  
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH KAWAOKA D.Env.  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NICHOLAS COMERFORD, Ph.D.  
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION  
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF  
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**RESOLUTION 19-2**

**SUPPORTING THE KEEPING OF PET CATS INDOORS AND THE USE OF PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE IN PURSUING HUMANE MITIGATION OF THE IMPACTS OF FERAL CATS ON WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE**

WHEREAS feral and free-roaming cats have been documented as predators of wildlife native to Hawaii, including endangered bird species; and

WHEREAS the toxoplasmosis parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*) reproduces only in the feline digestive system; and

WHEREAS toxoplasmosis has been documented as the cause of death in both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in Hawaii, including but not limited to the spinner dolphin, the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered alala, the endangered nene, and the red-footed booby; and

WHEREAS in humans toxoplasmosis can present health risks to pregnant women and/or immunocompromised persons if they handle cat feces or eat raw or undercooked meat; and

RECOGNIZING that previous public policy discussions in Hawaii have included consideration of funding or exempting from other laws practitioners of a system referred to as "Trap-Neuter-Return" that includes the re-release of neutered feral cats into the wild; and

RECOGNIZING that indoor cats have greater life expectancy than free roaming or feral cats; and

RECOGNIZING that numerous scientific studies, summarized in a meta-analysis titled "Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return" by Longcore et al (2009) in the journal *Conservation Biology*, have shown that "Trap-Neuter-Return" is not an effective strategy to reduce the number of feral cats in a given area or the predation and disease impacts of feral cats; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to advise and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between state, federal, international, and private programs, and to coordinate the State's position with regard to invasive species; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council recognizes that feral and free roaming cats can have a variety of impacts in Hawaii, including predation of native species and the proliferation and transmission of disease to wildlife and humans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council supports the keeping

of pet cats indoors or otherwise contained to a pet owner's property through use of cat patios, fencing, or other tools to minimize impacts such cats may have on the surrounding environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council recommends that proposed methods for mitigating the impacts of feral cats on native wildlife and/or humans should be both humane and supported by peer-reviewed, scientific evidence demonstrating the efficacy of such methods; and

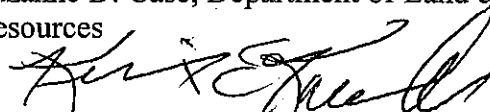
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council does not recommend the use of "Trap-Neuter-Return" or other efforts that support the feeding or re-release of feral cats into the wild or into public spaces; and

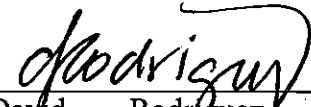
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii, the President of the State Senate, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and to the directors or chairpersons of each HISC agency.

Adopted by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council on the following date: January 29, 2019

  
Suzanne D. Case, Department of Land & Natural Resources

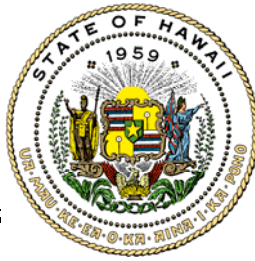
  
Denise Albano, Department of Agriculture

  
Keith Kawaoka, D. Env., Department of Health

  
David Rodriguez, Department of Transportation

Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Nicholas Comerford, Ph.D., University of Hawaii



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SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair  
The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

The Honorable Laura H. Thielen, Chair  
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

**S.C.R. NO. 55, 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**

**S.R. NO. 39, 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**

Hearing: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 1:45 p.m.

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The Office of the Auditor has **no position** regarding S.C.R. No. 55 and S.R. No. 39, which require 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.” **However, we offer the following comments.**

First, we understand the requested audit to be of the City and County of Honolulu’s procurement and administration of its contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society. The City and County of Honolulu has a legislative auditor whose office performs management and financial audits of City agencies and programs. With our current staffing, we have limited capacity to do the work required by the measure, the other work that we are currently statutorily mandated to perform before the beginning of the next legislative session (e.g., analyze certain tax incentives pursuant to Section 23-72, HRS); review departments’ special funds, revolving funds, trust funds, and trust accounts (Section 23-12(b)(2)); and the other audits and studies that are contained in 33 pending bills and concurrent resolutions.

We also have concerns about our ability to perform work required by the measure without sufficient funds to do so. Specifically, S.C.R. No. 55 and S.R. No. 39 request that we “contract support from an entity with sufficient expertise and knowledge to audit the animal welfare policies and programs of the Hawaiian Humane Society and provide recommendations for reducing euthanasia.” However, we do not have the funds to contract for support with such an entity. If the Committee is inclined to move the resolution forward, we would recommend this requirement be deleted.

Thank you for considering our testimony related to S.C.R. No. 55 and S.R. No. 39.



**LATE**

**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 27, 2019

To: Chairs Sen. Mike Gabbard and Sen. Laura Thielen  
Vice Chairs Sen. Russell Ruderman and Sen. Lorraine Inouye  
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
and the Committee on Government Operations

Submitted By: Bob Armstrong, Board Chairman and Interim CEO  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2221

RE: Testimony on SCR 55/SR 39: 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  
Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 1:45 p.m., Capitol conference room 224

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Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Thielen, Vice Chairs Ruderman and Inouye, and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for allowing me to comment on SCR 55 / SR 39 requesting the auditor to conduct a management and financial audit, to include operations and procurement, of the City and County of Honolulu's animal services contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society.

As chairman of the board of the Hawaiian Humane Society, I assure you that the board takes its oversight responsibility seriously. The board is committed to the Society and supports its work to create a more compassionate community for people and animals.

This resolution raises two primary areas of concern regarding the Hawaiian Humane Society. It criticizes the quality of leadership at the organization and questions its euthanasia policies.

The board has received, and takes seriously, concerns about leadership and euthanasia. We are in the midst of an internal evaluation of the workplace environment at the Society and a leadership transition.

The Society's team of professionals does amazing work for the people and animals of Oahu every single day. The board has launched a nationwide search for a new CEO to ensure we find a leader who will support the hard work of our staff and inspire all of us to greater achievements.

Regarding euthanasia, it is one of the most difficult aspects of the Society's work, but sometimes it is necessary. When an animal is suffering due to injury or illness, euthanasia is absolutely the most humane option. When an animal poses a safety threat, euthanasia is the most responsible option. None of these decisions are made lightly. The Society's use of euthanasia has reached historic lows in recent years even as the number of pet animals on Oahu has grown.

While Hawaiian Humane's protocols and processes are carried out according to strict standards, the board has engaged an outside expert in animal welfare to conduct an independent review of the Society's euthanasia policies and practices. If there are things we can do better, we absolutely want to improve.

As a private nonprofit, the Hawaiian Humane Society complies with all financial and operational reporting requirements. In addition, detailed reports are submitted regularly on the fulfillment of the City & County of Honolulu's animal services contract. Detailed applications are submitted with any state funding request. And the Society readily responds to any requests for additional information from policymakers.

I am proud to be part of an organization whose employees dedicate themselves to shelter and rescue animals, find families for pets who need homes, and advocate for the humane treatment of animals everywhere.

The opening of the Community Spay/Neuter Center is the most recent expansion of the services Hawaiian Humane provides to our community. Looking to the future, the board voted this week to add a full-service veterinary clinic to the plans for the Society's new West Oahu campus.

As it has throughout its 136-year history, the Hawaiian Humane Society will continue to strive toward better performance and more effective service to our community.

Mahalo for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of assistance.



*improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.*

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Testimony by  
Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

In Strong Support of SCR 55/SR 39  
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.

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government Operations  
Wednesday, March 27, 1:45 pm, room 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Thielen and Committee members,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is in strong support of SCR 55 and SR 39. We believe that the animal control contract managed by the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Customer Services does a disservice to not only animal lovers, but tax payers as well.

The State is justified in auditing the contract. The State already conducted an audit of the animal control contract in 1995 (so precedence is established). The State has given almost \$650,000 in grant in aid to the Hawaiian Humane Society. And currently two state departments contract with the animal control organization for stray animal pickup, euthanasia and disposal. The City administration has failed Oahu tax payers and recent scrutiny by both the federal and state government indicate that they are in no ethical position for an internal audit.

### **ILLEGAL SOLE SOURCE CONTRACT**

In 2016, the City illegally and inappropriately bundled the Animal Control contract with the Neuter Now contract and the Feral Chicken contract. Both of these contracts were already being managed in the private sector. By bundling the contract and "giving" that expanded contract to the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS), the City avoided the state's competitive bid process, secured a bogus waiver for a "sole source" contract, and basically stuck Oahu tax payers with an overpriced bill that allows a contractor (Hawaiian Humane Society) to operate with no oversight, no accountability, and no transparency. Since then, the City added the Feral Feline Fix into the contract valued at \$150,000.

- The National Assoc. of State Procurement Officials defines sole source as "any contract entered into without a competitive process based on a justification that only one known source exists or that only one single supplier can fulfill the requirements."
  - Only ONE known source exists for supplies or services as determined by documented research
  - **FALSE: PDP and the Pig Hunters Association held BOTH the Neuter Now and Feral Chicken contracts PRIOR to the sole-source bundling by the City.**
- In the State's audit of the animal control contract and Neuter Now program in 1995, the State Auditor stated in the report that the "**use of the sole source method for both animal control and Neuter Now was questionable.**" So the City unbundled those



contracts. Randy Leong, Dep. Director for Customer Services, returned to the bundled contract in 2017.

### **COST OF BUNDLING**

In the 2016 fiscal year, the budget for Animal Control was \$3.3 million – without the \$600,000 Neuter Now contract. Last year, that contract was \$4.1 million which included a reduced Neuter Now budget of \$500,000 and a Feral Chicken contract of \$80,000. Because of this bundle – with the blink of an eye - the Animal Control Contract realized a net increase of \$200,000 – without anyone knowing. With an annual 5% increase written into the contract, the Hawaiian Humane Society’s animal control contract will exceed \$5 million per year by the end of 2022. The 5% annual increase is better than the raises offered to teachers, police officers, or fire fighters.

### **COLLUSION OF THE CONTRACT**

Attached is a copy of the Hawaiian Humane Society’s annual report from 2014/2015 when they managed the Neuter Now contract which includes an administrative cost of \$46,000 to manage the contract. When PDP managed the contract, our administrative costs \$21,000 – significantly less than that of the HHS. These cost savings go directly back into the program to help spay and neuter more animals. PDP also made a number of recommendations to Customer Service to improve the program, spay/neuter more animals, and save tax payers money. Coincidentally – AFTER the City bundled the contract, they – along with HHS – have reported to City Council that their administrative fee for managing Neuter Now is only \$18,000. This is just a blatant attempt by the City to demonstrate that the HHS is managing the contract at a more affordable price. Its blatant collusion by the City and HHS. The City told HHS that they had to offer a lower fee than PDP’s \$21,000.

### **AUDIT THE ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACT**

We believe it’s the responsibility of the State to once again audit the animal control contract which was last audited by the State in 1995. ONLY after the State audit did the City step up 2 years later and audit the contract in 1997. Kauai County has already audited their animal control contract on their island and Hawaii Island has also taken up the issue. As the largest island and the largest contract, tax payers – and animal lovers – deserve answers to basic questions about a contract that rewards killing animals.

- As mentioned, Customer Services signed an animal control contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society which includes a 22% increase over the next 5 years. Yet between 2012 and 2016, they took in 6,000 fewer animals. How does the City justify a \$22 million contract when they are struggling to pay for our roads, sewers, parks and rail transit – even when they are doing less AND when other city workers are being asked to do MORE for less?!
- As mentioned, the City illegally and inappropriately bundled the Animal Control contract with the Neuter Now contract and the Feral Chicken contract. An auditor can more effectively respond to procurement violations by the City. The State – not the City – is in a better position to conduct that audit. It would be inappropriate for the City to audit their own illegal procurement activity.

- The Animal Control Contract specifically cites and rewards the Hawaiian Humane Society for killing animals at a cost to tax payers. The contract includes the following scope of service:

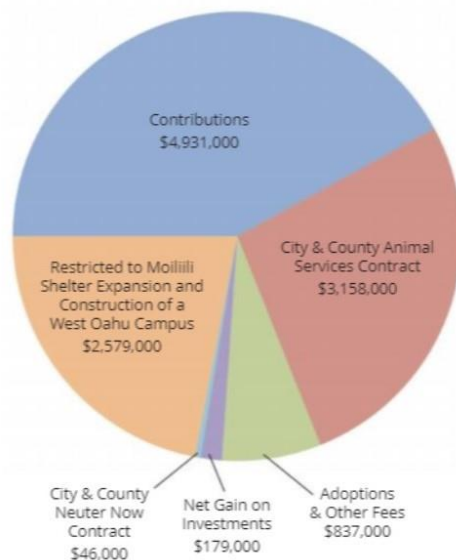
“Providing services for humane euthanasia of stray animals that are not adopted, or returned home (approximately 2,000 dogs and 11,500 cats and 2,500 other animals during a year) and providing services for proper disposal of remains. In lieu of euthanasia, Contractor may provide, at no additional cost to the City, long-term care for unclaimed or unadoptable animals.”

Killing is no solution. And NO ONE should get paid more to kill animals. It time to focus on saving lives. Its not fair to animals. And its not fair to tax payers.

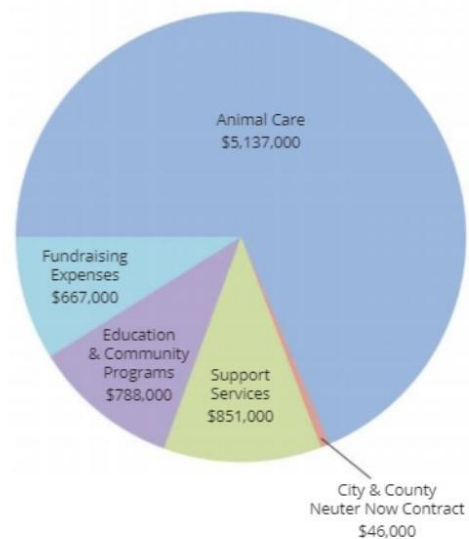
## FINANCIAL REPORT

July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

Funding Sources



Use of Funds



These numbers were unaudited at the time of publication. A copy of the complete independent auditor's report is available upon request.

HHS 2014/2015 Annual Report (\$46k for NN)

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 10:12:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha and Mahalo for introducing SCR55,

NISHIHARA, KIDANI, Baker, Fevella, Gabbard, Inouye, K. Kahele, Kanuha, Keith-Agaran, Moriwakii

A forensic audit is in order especially with so many former employees complaining about the practices at Hawaiian Humane Society. It is critical that our vendors paid with tax payer dollars are in integrity with their practices and their finances.

Mahalo,

Sylvia Dolena

Director, Aloha Animal Advocates

Island of Hawaii



## Testimony in Support of SCR 55 and SR39

March 24, 2019

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Laura Thielen and members of the Senate committees on Agriculture & the Environment and Government Operations:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy.

The Pacific Pet Alliance has long been concerned about a lack of an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society by either the State (1995) or the City & County of Honolulu (1997). Now the situation has escalated and the State must address these concerns. We are in full support of an audit.

Part of an audit must contain shelter data that reflects a meaningful analysis of the current situation and trends in shelter admissions. The online annual reports for the Hawaiian Humane Society does not provide data in a format that would easily allow it to be compared to other shelters. At this time, there is no uniform shelter/rescue data reporting in Hawaii.

The Pacific Pet Alliance notes from legislative testimony that the Hawaiian Humane Society admits about 10,000 dogs and puppies annually to their care. Their online annual reports reflect that figure. The National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) keeps statistics on animal shelters nationwide which show a gradual decline in shelter admissions. These data are submitted voluntarily or available through online public sources. In Hawai'i, the **NAIA has only been able to obtain data from the Kauai and Maui Humane Societies**. Kauai Humane Society goes a step further to explain their data: <http://kauaihumane.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/NFHS-Basic-Matrix-2016-2017.pdf>. The NAIA online data is readily available in a format that conforms to shelter data collected nationwide. **Both shelters also show gradually declining shelter admission trends.** [http://shelterproject.naiaonline.org/shelter\\_data/states/12](http://shelterproject.naiaonline.org/shelter_data/states/12) The Hawaiian Humane Society's annual reports contain data that is incomplete and not useable for the NAIA's data collection project. The Pacific Pet Alliance is in communication with the NAIA. If shelter statistics for any shelter/rescue in Hawaii is released to them, they will provide the data analysis at no cost to the State or Counties.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should any of you like to discuss uniform shelter data, we would welcome the opportunity.

Lynn Muramaru  
Board member  
808-542-9581  
pacificpetalliance@gmail.com

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 6:36:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Rylee Brooke Kamahele	Testifying for Hashtag Speak Up Movement	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Humane Society kills an average of 7 out of every 10 animals that comes through their doors. That is ridiculous! I have personally saved animals straight out of their intake room because they literally euthanize animals for the dumbest reasons. Treatable skin conditions, aggression due to fear, being underweight, I mean, the list goes on and on. While the public believes they are helping animals by surrendering them to HHS, most times, they are sentencing that animal to death without even realizing it.

Let's talk the Nimitz Rescue in 2017 that my organization ran alongside PDP, K9 Kokua, FAF, and Paws of Hawaii. The entire reason that we stepped in in the first place is because we needed to rescue these animals from a death sentence at HHS. We removed and placed around 200 dogs, cats and guinea pigs into permanent homes after they received medical treatment and behavior therapy in their foster homes. If the HHS was living up to their mission statement, we would never have had to do this rescue. In fact, many of the smaller rescue organizations probably would not even exist. Why is it that we need to save animals from the state's biggest, most well know, and supposedly most reputable animal shelters?

Some people might argue that space, the number of animals being turned in, or money is the reason that HHS NEEDS TO euthanize so many animals, but let's go through facts.

Fact #1: The HHS holds the animal control contract, so while people are bringing them animals to be saved, what most of the public does not know is that they are paid to kill animals. They actually have quotas in their contract on how many animals they need to kill to receive this funding. I know, pretty messed up, right? They are rewarded for taking in animals and euthanizing them, specifically 11,500 cats, 2,000 dogs, and 2,500 other small animals. This is one of the REAL reasons why they euthanize for pretty much any reason. How do you pose and advertise as a rescue when you are also animal control?

Fact #2: Speaking of advertising, last year they spent \$500,000 on PR and advertising. That is a lot of money to invest in advertising when you are killing 7 out of 10 animals coming through your doors with our tax money! I don't know about you, but I would much rather they use that money on actually saving lives than on commercials claiming they do. The HHS actually receives millions of dollars in funding and donations. They have over \$30 million sitting in their reserves and, if I remember correctly, they had a \$4.1 million dollar contract that was illegally bundled for animal control which brings us to...

Fact #3: Of that contract, \$650,000 was the budget given to the HHS to reduce Hawaii's overpopulation of animals which could effectively be done through sterilization, and instead, only \$350,000 of that budget is being used and the HHS has illegally bundled animal control and euthanasia with spay and neuters so even with that \$350,000, our tax money is being used to kill more animals and never really address the overpopulation problem with a solution. How will the state ever control the animal overpopulation problem if we never address the root of the problem and only continue to treat the symptoms? What is happening now is a never ending cycle that does not work towards doing anything for the animal overpopulation problem we have in Hawaii. It's a cycle of death instead of prevention.

Fact #4: Euthanasia and disposal is expensive and saving animals through prevention via spay and neuter costs less, is actually proven to reduce animal overpopulation in the long run, and is a compassionate solution. For every \$1 spent on spay and neuter, the city would save \$5 on impoundment, euthanasia, and disposal. Plus, sterilization would prevent animals from ending up in shelters in the first place as well as reduce the overpopulation problem we have in Hawaii in general.

Fact #5: Many of the animal rescues or groups who work to help animals in Hawaii do so because the HHS is basically a death sentence. A lot of these groups would probably not even have been started if the HHS was doing what they claim to. These rescues work on significantly smaller budgets and work mainly through the help of the community. Most of these groups advocate for spay and neuter or rehabilitation and treatment over euthanasia even with the little funding and means they have because let's face it, none of them are receiving the millions in funding or have millions in reserve like HHS. Going back to the Nimitz Rescue I talked about earlier, we saved around 200 animals from that camp and PDP provided medical treatment, sterilization, and behavioral therapy. The HHS came in and took around 30 dogs, even after the social workers on site had asked them not to because they were working with no kill rescues and had assured their clients of that, they still went in and took those dogs. Not all of those dogs made it out to their adoption floor. Please explain to me how a rescue run by

a 10 year old girl and 4 small organizations could save 200 animals when the HHS and their millions couldn't even save the 30 something dogs they took?

With these other organizations in place, HHS intake has actually gone down and for some reason, even with less animals being taken in, HHS received a 5% increase in the animal control contract. They are getting paid more to do less and a lot of that money is for them to euthanize animals. So while they pose as a rescue, they're being paid to kill and all the while, these smaller organizations are doing the hard work.

Fact 6: HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country at a time where other high kill shelters are embracing programs and policies that reduce the unnecessary killing of animals for population control. We live on an island. We control what animals come in and out of the state and we even have a quarantine process. Our state should have the easiest time bringing down our overpopulation problem, so why do we have one of the highest euthanasia rates instead and an endless animal overpopulation problem? Because the HHS is inefficiently using funding and they are being paid for animal control so overpopulation is beneficial for them.

An audit is long overdue. I could sit here all day and tell you all the reasons I dislike the HHS. There are so many stories and so many animals who suffered and died unnecessarily because they are really animal control posing as a rescue. Please help us hold them accountable! This is our tax money at work. The HHS has not been audited since 1995 and we need this.



**LATE**

Dear Senator Gabbard and Senator Thielen,

On behalf of Aloha Kitty TNR, I am writing in support of Senate Concurrent Resolution 55 calling for an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Aloha Kitty TNR is a 501c(3). Our mission advocates “Responsible Animal Welfare through Education and Prevention”. We provide the community an additional resource in rescue, trap neuter return, transport, and adoption services. In the past, we worked with the Hawaiian Humane Society to sterilize hundreds of cats and reunite lost animals with their owners, and in some cases utilize their adoption facility.

Under the current leadership of Lisa Fowler, it was extremely difficult if next to impossible to help these animals. We had to enlist the help of several veterinary hospitals, rescues, and explore other avenues for adoption.

Despite being Hawaii’s largest animal welfare organization and receiving millions of taxpayer dollars annually, the Hawaiian Humane Society has not been audited by the State since 1997.

The Hawaiian Humane Society conducted its own investigation into reports of misconduct by Lisa Fowler in 2018 which lead to no substantial changes in the organization’s operations or personnel. Subsequently more than 60 employees have left the organization and our community’s animals and owner surrendered pets are continuing to be euthanized for minor medical issues including lice, ringworm, mange, URIs, and more.

King Kalākaua, one of the founding members, appointed Miss Helen Kinau Wilder gave her the authority to enforce animal cruelty laws. She was the driving force behind animal welfare and the principles of which the Hawaiian Humane Society is founded.

The Hawaiian Humane Society belongs to the people. Given countless reports of mistreatment of animals and employees, an audit is necessary to restore the Hawaiian Humane Society’s effectiveness and trust with serving our community’s animals and people.

Sincerely,  
Leilani Ng  
Co-Founder, Aloha Kitty TNR

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:16:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Maria da Silva	Testifying for Cat People of Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

Submitted this on behalf of CPO: Cat People of Oahu is a small, local non-profit (501c3 pending) rescue that was born due to the failures of the Hawaiian Humane Society. Our group strongly supports an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society for a number of reasons:

1. There has not been an audit since 1995 (state) and 1997 (city).
2. Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being used appropriately.
3. HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country and these practices need to be investigated.
4. To address the issue of the Hawaiian Humane Society holding the animal control contract, how this conflicts with the mission of a humane society, and why the contract money has been increased despite a reduction in intakes.
5. To address the illegal bundling of the Neuter Now, Feral Cats, and Feral Chickens contracts with the animal control contract, making it a sole-source non-competitive bid.
6. To address the questionable leadership of Lisa Fowler, who was hired despite knowing her issues in Hawaii Island, the high staff turnover due to the leadership and management, and the increase in euthanasia under her leadership.
7. To address the lack of progressive practices and programs that are currently being used on the mainland to increase adoptions and euthanasia, but are not being implemented here.

We believe that both the city and state should audit the Hawaiian Humane Society and their government contracts.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,  
Cat People of Oahu

Maria da Silva

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 3:26:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alexis E. Jamison	Testifying for Cat People of Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

Cat People of Oahu is a small, local non-profit (501c3 pending) rescue that was born due to the failures of the Hawaiian Humane Society. Our group strongly supports an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society for a number of reasons:

1. There has not been an audit since 1995 (state) and 1997 (city).
2. Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being used appropriately.
3. HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country and these practices need to be investigated.
4. To address the issue of the Hawaiian Humane Society holding the animal control contract, how this conflicts with the mission of a humane society, and why the contract money has been increased despite a reduction in intakes.
5. To address the illegal bundling of the Neuter Now, Feral Cats, and Feral Chickens contracts with the animal control contract, making it a sole-source non-competitive bid.
6. To address the questionable leadership of Lisa Fowler, who was hired despite knowing her issues in Hawaii Island, the high staff turnover due to the leadership and management, and the increase in euthanasia under her leadership.
7. To address the lack of progressive practices and programs that are currently being used on the mainland to increase adoptions and euthanasia, but are not being implemented here.

We believe that both the city and state should audit the Hawaiian Humane Society and their government contracts.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Cat People of Oahu

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 12:12:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/27/2019 1:06:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Committee on Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 8:40:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Adam Carlson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society. Accountability and transparency is imperative in this day and age. HHS receives \$5 million dollars from the City and County of Honolulu for animal control. As a tax payer it is our right to make sure that our money is being utilized appropriately. HHS has not been audited since 1995(State) & 1997(City). HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country, and has done nothing to reduce killing animals as their only method of animal control. This is cruel, expensive, and ineffective. As the Aloha state we must do better, and an audit is the start of this process.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 10:24:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SCR55. There have been many irregularities reported regarding the HHS over the years, which has operated for many years without oversight.

If they receive public funding, they should be held accountable to the public and therefore subject to audits.

Thank you for your time,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 10:33:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I TOTALLY SUPPORT this bill., Mahalo, Cinde Fisher



**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 10:41:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jessica Dunn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is an incredible opportunity for HHS to demonstrate if their actions meet their mission. As a past employee, I've seen the good things they do but I've also seen the areas they refuse to improve. Animals should not be euthanized in front of other animals assembly line style - it is inhumane, unethical, and does not follow veterinary code. Their assesment of animals health (especially cats) is not comprehensive and they exaggerate illness for their euthanasia justification. On an island as populated and transient as Oahu, I understand euthanasia is necessary but HHS does not strive to reduce euthanasia through education or outreach methods or through collaborating with community non-profit groups. The corporate culture at HHS was my reason for leaving as they run HHS in a manner of "get in line and if you ask questions you are not right for our organization". An employee's ability is questioned if they offer to foster or help an animal slated for euthanasia and they imply you are unable to do your job fully and must be suffering from compassion fatigue to even ask to help these animals. HHS does a wonderful job of making you feel the fault is in you and not their practices.

HHS was founded in 1883; not sure if and when they have been audited since they started but given that they receive the City's 5 Million dollar contract; they should welcome an audit to show how efficiently they are spending that tax payer money. It is imperative that the auditor be a third party with shelter medicine background.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 12:58:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lynn Robinson-Onderko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/21/2019 1:11:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
joel fischer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

***SCR55: AUDITING THE HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY (HHS)***

**PLEASE PASS THIS RESO. IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT!**

**FOR MANY YEARS, I HAVE BEEN ADVOCATING FOR AN AUDIT OF HHS. THIS IS FOR TWO REASONS. FIRST, I AM CERTAIN THAT THE HHS HAS BEEN ABUSING THEIR FUNDING MY MISAPPLYING IT TO THE SLAUGHTER OF INNOCENT ANIMALS. SECOND, I BELIEVE THE HHS HAS BEEN HIDING THIS ABUSE FROM FUNDING SOURCES.**

**LET ME BE CLEAR: OVER THE LAST 50 YEARS, I HAVE ADOPTED ALL MY DOGS FROM HHS. I DO NOT WANT TO DESTROY OR REMOVE THIS ORGANIZATION. BUT I WANT HHS TO TRULY BE A HUMANE SOCIETY AND NOT AN *INHUMANE* SOCIETY. AUDITING THE HHS WILL START THE BALL ROLLING TOWARD A MORE OPEN, TRANSPARENT, AND, I HOPE, MORE HUMANE ORGANIZATION.**

**THANK YOU.**

**DR. JOEL FISCHER (PROFESSOR; RET.)**

**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MANOA**

**HONOLULU 96822**

**JFISCHER@HAWAII.EDU**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 11:21:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susan Govier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Writing in SUPPORT OF SCR 55: My family and I regularly donated to the Hawaii Humane Society UNTIL ten years ago when we realized they were not doing what they had always done to help people by picking up animals, finding lost animals, helping educate people in care of their animals especially in problems. They seem to have gotten very wealthy and somewhat political.

Who do you call now to pick up a stray or lost animal? Please support this audit and lets find out what is going on with this group collecting my tax money.

Susan Govier, Aiea

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/22/2019 5:33:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katherine Linster	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society, Considering the sizable amount of taxpayer dollars that is provided to HHS, it is the government's responsibility to examine that the funds are being used appropriately. As a charitable organization receiving large amount of taxpayer dollars and public donations, their operations must be transparent. Sadly, HHS has been largely cloaked in mystery, soliciting public funds, yet shielding themselves from public view. In a time where everywhere across the nation and the world are making significant strides in the humane care and treatment of animals, HHS is increasing its reserves by equating humane with death. A financial and management audit is long overdue, it's time to shed light and ensure that public trust is not being broken.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 11:02:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Brenda Ryan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, I would like to offer my support to audit the Hawaiian Humane Society, to include their budget, expenditures and process of rehabilitation and euthanization of animals. I am an animal lover my whole life, starting from the 4-H program as a teen, to the board of directors of the Aloha State Rottweiler Club in Hawaii, and holding various positions on advocating for children and animals who cannot speak for themselves.

I am also a freelance writer for a global dog magazine and have owned cats, rabbits, horses, ducks, chicken and dogs. I fully support this bill and hope the community will have a transparent understanding of the operations of the Hawaiian Humane Society and those involved.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 7:56:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Celeste Kato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of SCR55, asking for an audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society, by both the State and the City.

Any organization receiving the amount of taxpayer money that HHS is receiving needs to be held accountable. Where is the money going? What is it being used for? Exactly how many animals are they killing each year? What kind of improvements are they offering to reduce animal overpopulation? Besides killing them, that is.

The City gave HHS the animal control contract, bundled with the Neuter Now, Feral cat, and Feral chicken contracts. They were not awarded this via competitive bid. Why was this arrangement allowed?

If HHS has nothing to hide and euthanasia is at an all time low as they claim, then why are they fighting an audit? They should open their doors and their financial books for all to see what is really going on at this so-called humane society.

Please pass this bill and audit the Hawaiian Humane Society. And if you do pass this bill, give them a deadline for the audit. Do not let them stretch it out, giving them to hide or change their numbers.

thank you.

Celeste Kato

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 9:47:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Susanne Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support an audit of the Humane Society to assure that funds are used properly. It is disturbing that Hawaii has one of the highest rates of animal euthanasia in the country. Our aloha spirit should include responsible compassionate care of animals.



**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/25/2019 10:28:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tami Shotz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Due to the fact that the Hawaiian Humane Society has contracts with both the State and City & County and is receiving government funding they should be required to have a financial audit done to ensure compliance with state laws. There needs to be both transparency and accountability for any organization that is receiving tax-payers funding, especially when the public is requesting it due to the high euthanasia rates and questionable handling of funding. I went to the Hawaiian Humane Society a few weeks ago to transfer over a microchip and visited with the animals and an alarming number of cages sat empty, which indicates that instead of funding being used to maintain the shelter and for animals care that the animals are instead being euthanized. Based on the Hawaiian Humane Societies numbers for intake on a daily basis versus the number of animals adopted in a year, the kennels should never be as empty as they were the times I visited within the last year unless a great deal of them have been euthanized and are not making it to the adoption floor. Of course, it is cheaper to euthanize than to provide vet care, food, care and shelter for an animal than to maintain animals within the shelter but given their massive contracts and funding it should be more than sufficient to maintain a full shelter as well as foster care. If State and City & County money is being allocated for the care of animals, then the shelter should be adopting out more animals and euthanizing less animals as a way to be more self-sufficient based on adoption fees. Instead, they rely on donations and tax-payers money that enable them to be able to euthanize more and adopt out less animals because euthanasia is more lucrative and that is not what the people of Hawaii want or expect from a Humane Society that is receiving tax-payers funding. An audit needs to be done and made public and Hawaiian Humane Society needs to be held accountable for their actions.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:49:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kelley Streadbeck	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 6:35:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mike Chow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

1. There has not been an audit since 1995 (state) and 1997 (city).
2. Taxpayers deserve to know that their money is being used appropriately.
3. HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country and these practices need to be investigated.
4. To address the issue of the Hawaiian Humane Society holding the animal control contract, how this conflicts with the mission of a humane society, and why the contract money has been increased despite a reduction in intakes.
5. To address the illegal bundling of the Neuter Now, Feral Cats, and Feral Chickens contracts with the animal control contract, making it a sole-source non-competitive bid.
6. To address the questionable leadership of Lisa Fowler, who was hired despite knowing her issues in Hawaii Island, the high staff turnover due to the leadership and management, and the increase in euthanasia under her leadership.
7. To address the lack of progressive practices and programs that are currently being used on the mainland to increase adoptions and reduce euthanasia, but are not being implemented here.

We believe that both the city and state should audit the Hawaiian Humane Society and their government contracts.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 7:50:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HHS receives millions of taxpayer dollars, and yet has not had an audit in years. Its time. From their own published statistics, the euthanasia rates are ridiculously high. How is that 'humane'? The HHS has also actively opposed measures that would allow low cost spay/neuter of pets. How is that 'humane'? The reality is: 1. they have high euthanasia rates. 2. they have an animal control contract. Seems like they are paid to kill animals? That is NOT what I want MY tax dollars to be doing. This stemmed from the illegal bundling of animal control with Neuter Now and feral cat and chicken contracts. So yes, they really are being paid to KILL.

Now this issue I am mentioning is not going to be an audit issue I don't think but they implemented and then halted the Kitten Consignment Program which allowed people to foster kittens and bring them to the HHS to adopt out after taking care of the spay/neuter. This allowed people like me to foster. I do not have the resources to adopt out animals and would otherwise end up keeping them, so this helped me save them. Then HHS stopped it (so I had to find a home for the kittens on my own anyway) because they were getting too many kittens. That shows that there is a great NEED. Joey's Feline Friends took in hundreds of cats/kittens and it was run by an individual with little financial backing. Why can't the HHS with its MILLIONS in donations take in hundreds of animals?

I am not even going to discuss Lisa Fowler except that with the Board member stating that they 'supported her' and that they feel the HHS followed 'best practices' for euthanasia tells me they do not want to change. Disgusting. This is the Aloha State. Time for some Aloha for the animals here.

Mahalo.

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:20:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT an audit on the HHS.

Amy Cady

Ewa Beach

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:05:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Knowles	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please audit the HHS!

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 10:00:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 4:41:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
S Beth Crumrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature, Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government Operations, Sen, Mike Gabbard and Sen. Laura Thielen,

Hawaiian Humane Society, as the agency chosen by the state and the county to manage animal issues, needs to be held accountable.

It has come to public attention that there is alleged egregious misappropriation of funds at this organization and taxpayers need to know whether or not this is the case.

There are also reports of very high euthanasia rate. "Euthanasia" is for animals that are suffering. It has been reported that many of the animals that are killed by HHS are healthy and adoptable. This situation needs to be examined in depth.

No HHS audit has been done by the state since 1995 and the city has not audited sine 1997.

Mahalo for proceeding with a full audit of HHS practices at all levels.

S Beth Crumrine



**LATE**

Testimony by Sabrina Dela Rama

In Strong Support of SCR 55/SR 39 – Audit of the Hawaiian Humane Society’s Animal Control Contract

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Government Operations

Wednesday, March 27, 1:45 pm, room 224

Aloha Senator Gabbard, Senator Thielen, and committee members,

My name is Sabrina Dela Rama and I am an animal lover, animal rescuer, and PDP board member. While the recent resignation of Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) CEO, Lisa Fowler, may appear to have solved all our problems, that is just the tip of the iceberg. For decades, the HHS has operated with little fiscal oversight despite the millions of tax payer dollars funding their operations (both State and City).

#### **WHY DO WE NEED AN AUDIT?**

- Today – the state and county both contract with the Hawaiian Humane Society. HHS receives \$5 million for animal control from the City; grants from the state in the last 3 years of \$650,000; contracts with the state to take animals from state agencies; and even additional city grants to fund their shelter. These are all tax payer dollars. They have not had an audit since 1995 (state audit) and 1997 (city audit). After receiving almost \$100 million in tax payer dollars to do the SAME thing year after year for the past 30+ years – and never offer anything to REDUCE the killing – it’s time for an audit!
- HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country at a time when other high kill shelters are embracing innovative programs and policies that REDUCE the unnecessary killing of animals for population control. Their animal control contract REWARDS them for taking in and euthanizing more and more animals every year instead of basing the contract on SAVING LIVES. The contract specifically states that they will euthanize 11,500 cats; 2,000 dogs; and 2,500 other small animals. Killing animals is expensive. Saving lives saves money and is more humane and compassionate solution.
- With the proliferation of affordable spay/neuter clinics and animal lovers across social media working hard to report and return lost pets to their owners, the intake of animals at HHS has gone down year after year since 2007. Despite the reduction, the City gave HHS an annual 5% increase in the animal control contract for the next 5 years. Teachers, police and fire fighters didn’t even get that kind of pay raise! Mysteriously – in 2017 – the HHS reported an INCREASE in the intake of 1,100 more animals! That’s just another 1,100 animals that they get PAID to kill. And this was ONLY reported AFTER the public and lawmakers were made aware that they were getting paid MORE to do LESS!
- The City’s Department of Customer Services illegally bundled the animal control contract with Neuter Now, Feral Cats, and Feral Chicken contracts making it a “sole source” non-competitive bid awarded to the Hawaiian Humane Society. To do this illegal bundle, the City had to remove other contractors who had legitimately bid and won the contracts! State procurement MANDATES a competitive bid process to ensure that tax payer dollars are not squandered. This inside deal was cut with HHS to conveniently hide the truth about how the budget is being used

by the department. Its impossible to follow the money so there is NO accountability by HHS or the City.

- The City expanded their contract to now include the Feral Feline Fix certificate program. Poi Dogs & Popoki introduced the \$10 certificate program and was subsequently banned from utilizing the program by helping people spay and neuter feral cats at the Big Fix. This vindictive response by the City and HHS came after PDP blew the whistle on their illegal procurement contract. So HHS gets paid \$150,000 to spay and neuter feral cats (all tax payer dollars)...and then those same cats get turned in to HHS and they get paid again to euthanize those cats under their animal control contract. **THIS IS WHY THE STATE NEEDS TO AUDIT THIS CONTRACT!**
- Both the State and the City should audit the HHS and their government contracts. Stop wasting money to kill animals! We deserve better!

Thank you Senator Gabbard, Senator Thielen and Committee members for allowing me to testify.

Mahalo,

Sabrina Dela Rama

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 6:40:24 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Polly Nguyen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

i am writing in support of auditing the Hawaii Humane (?) Society .

It would be a mistake to rely on the Humane society to correct their own house of problems, as the problem has not been addressed by their board for far too many years. Hopefully the Hawaii State Legislature will do a State Audit of Hawaiian Humane Society and Animal Control Contracts.

Why is this important?

The last time the state conducted an audit of HHS and the animal control contract was 1995. The city has not conducted an audit since 1997. The animal welfare community has reported for decades that the HHS has been euthanizing healthy, adoptable and treatable animals, and getting paid millions to do so. It's shameful.

Numerous current and former employees have been shedding light on the illegal, immoral and unethical practices of the CEO and their rubber stamp board of directors who have failed the employees and the animals they're supposed to aid.

In 2018, the Hawaiian Humane Society submitted a grant in aid request to the state for \$300,000 to build a shelter in Ewa (not particularly happy that the land was formerly the slaughterhouse, seems gruesome)- even though they have \$33 million in reserves, raised \$13 million to build their shelter, and receive \$5 million annually from their animal control contract. And in their greediness - spending tax payer money to kill animals instead of trying to save lives - they have requested ANOTHER grant from the state AND they are in line to receive a grant from the City. How much money does the Hawaiian Humane Society need to kill more animals?

Don't let our tax dollars be wasted by the killing machine - Hawaiian Humane Society— until they complete an audit and gave a plan to remedy the wanton killing of defenseless animals.

Sincerely yours,

Polly Nguyen

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 7:36:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shiloh Francis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The HHS has been allowed to go too long without an audit or any sort of accountability. I strongly support auditing the Hawaiian Humane Society.

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:12:29 PM  
Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Katie Ward	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that the Hawaiian Humane Society is abusing their animal control contract. An animal shelter should **not** be paid to kill animals and these contracts should not be bundled together. I understand completely that the Hawaiian Humane Society cannot be a "no-kill" shelter - seeing as it takes ALL animals in. But 80+% of cats euthanized per year is ridiculous. They are not doing everything they could be doing to save animals. They do not have any foster program in place for neonatal kittens - ALL kittens under 1.5 pounds are immediately euthanized, despite the fact that there are many willing and able fosters. There is no "kill list" that many mainland shelters have, where animals scheduled to be euthanized are posted and the public is given a chance to save them. HHS needs to be more transparent and an audit is the first step in that.

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 8:52:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
judith carluccio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There has not been an audit since the 90s and taxpayers need to know that their money is being used appropriately. HHS has one of the highest euthanasia rates in the country. Animals are dying for no reason and accountability is needed Thank you

**LATE**

**SCR-55**

Submitted on: 3/26/2019 9:19:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/27/2019 1:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Alice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Humane Society has been a huge disappointment to myself and the thousands of animals that are brought there and euthanized for 'simple' fixes. The Hawaiian Humane Society needs to be audited to show how it has benefited the animals it's supposed to be serving while showing greater transparency to the taxpayers that support them. If simple solutions such as paying a small amount to each 'trapper' that brings in a cat to be fixed, there would most likely be a lot more people willing to help with spay / neuter / returning feral cats to the community, while almost completely getting rid of the 'need' to euthanize at all...



**LATE**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Senator Laura H. Thielen, Chair

Senator Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

Lea Hollingsworth-Ramsey

808-261-1534

Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 2019, 1:45pm

SUPPORT SCR55

**I SUPPORT SCR55** 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

As a concerned community member, a board member of the Hawaiian Feathered Friends Network (HFFN) and an admin for the Facebook Groups Hawaii Parrot Forum (HPF) and Bourke Parrots (BP). I urge you to have the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) audited. **An audit is long overdue and HHS needs to be completely transparent about every aspect of their operation.** We want to know their annual budget

A) What is spent on:

- supporting the facility
- employee salaries (number of paid employees, and a breakdown of salary ranges, highest to lowest )
- advertising expenses
- support for the animals (food, medical, etc).
- other operating expenses

B) What is received from:

- donations
- animal sales
- spay/neuter clinics
- government contracts
- hours of work donated by volunteers

**HHS's operating procedures for deciding which animals are slated for euthanasia upon intake needs to be reviewed and revised.** Not all of them are critically ill, or injured beyond repair. Yet they are still destined for the euthanasia. It's a senseless and unnecessary waste of

life. With the help of insiders, HFFN and the HPF have saved numerous birds and parrots that were going to be euthanized by HHS. Birds that need just a small amount of care before they are either released back into the wild or placed in a home. This is a huge area of concern, because it's not just us in the bird community that have our insiders sneaking healthy animals out to save their lives. There are also dog and cat insiders.

**HHS's operational guidelines for "found and stray animals" and the length of time before they are moved from being a "found or stray animal" to an animal that is up for adoption also needs to be reviewed.** HFFN and HPF have calculated it's about 48 hours before HHS places smaller birds (lovebirds, budgies, conures, finches, pigeons, chickens, etc) up for adoption. 48 hours is not long enough for a person who lost a bird to figure out they need to check or call the HHS. The first few days, owners are frantically searching their neighborhood for their bird. It's only after the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> day that they start calling HHS and posting to all the social media sites. HPF and HFFN cooperates with 911 Parrot Alert which is an international lost and found bird registry. Most birds are not reunited with their owners until the 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> day, and if they were transferred to the humane society by then HHS would have already placed their bird up for adoption and the bird is gone forever. HHS needs to adhere to a 30 day holding period to allow owners to recover their pets.

**HHS's statistics for the number of animals taken in, animals sold, euthanized, still in holding, average length of stay before adopted or euthanized needs to be disclosed.** The Humane Society's reputation in the community is not a good one. People know how many animals are euthanized and they talk. Starry eyed volunteers go in thinking they are volunteering their time to save animals, and they are soon smacked with the harsh reality of what really takes place. Those that are partial to the birds, reach out to members of our group to divert birds that will be euthanized. It's not just birds and we are not the only group saving lives.

Because of these issues, the Hawaiian Humane Society needs to be audited and their policies and procedures need to be reviewed. Too many animals are bring euthanized, animals are being placed up for adoption before the customary 30 day waiting period, and the reasons for this can't be money. HHS has expanded their facility and added another building so they have funds, but it does not appear they are using it on the animals. An audit will reveal where the money goes, what it is used for and it will answer a lot of questions the community has about the organization and how they run things.

**I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT SCR55 REQUESTING AN AUDIT OF THE HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY.**