

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER
PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**APRIL 1, 2021
2:00 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1387 SD1 HD1
RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION**

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1387 SD1 HD1, that requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets if the pets are not licensed. The Department offers comments.

The Department appreciates the amendment made by the House Committee on Agriculture to exclude the Animal Quarantine Branch of the Department of Agriculture from the definition of "owner". The Department notes that its Plant Quarantine Branch ("PQB") also regulates prohibited hybrid dogs and cats and may be subject to the same "owner" requirements under this measure should such animals be confiscated and subsequently require short term confinement and care. As such, the Department respectfully requests a further amendment to exclude PQB from the definition of "owner". Accordingly, all Department quarantine facilities would be excluded from the definition as "owner".

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

Hawaii Island Humane Society / Hawaiian Humane Society / Kauai Humane Society / Maui Humane Society / Molokai Humane Society

Date: March 30, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa
and Members of the
Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick
Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in support of SB1387, SD1, HD1:
Relating to Microchip Identification
Thursday, April 1, 2021, 2 p.m., Via Videoconference

The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAAWA) supports the passage of Senate Bill 1387, SD1, HD1, which requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed.

HAAWA's members include the largest animal shelters in each of the four counties, as well as the leader in pet animal spay/neuter on Molokai. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support of SB 1387, SD1, HD1.

Microchip identification is the gold standard for reuniting lost pets with their human families. This measure is virtually identical to the Revised Ordinance of Honolulu's animal regulations as updated last year at the behest of the Hawaiian Humane Society. The humane societies in Kauai and Maui counties are pursuing similar changes to their local animal ordinances. These measures represent current best practices in animal welfare.

Mahalo for considering our testimony on this issue,

Hoala Davis, *Executive Director, Molokai Humane Society*

Elizabeth Jose, DVM, *Chief Executive Officer, Hawaii Island Humane Society*

Steve MacKinnon, *Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane Society*

Anna Neubauer, *President and Chief Executive Officer, Hawaiian Humane Society*

Nicole Schafer, *Executive Director, Kauai Humane Society*



Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
Comments on SB 1387_SD1_HD1 Relating to Microchip Identification
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce | April 1, 2021**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to provide **comments on SB 1387_SD1_HD1**.

American Bird Conservancy is dedicated to the conservation of native birds and their habitats, and we understand that the effective care and control of domestic cats is important for the conservation of wildlife and healthy ecosystems. Domestic cats have contributed to the [extinction of at least 63 species](#) in the wild, including the Lāna‘i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and are the [largest source of direct, human-caused bird mortality in the United States](#).^{i,ii} Domestic cats are a serious threat to endangered Hawaiian birds, such as Palila, ‘Alae Ke‘oke‘o (Hawaiian Coot), ‘A‘o (Newell’s Shearwater), ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel), and others.


American Bird Conservancy supports responsible pet ownership and effective strategies to reduce the unowned domestic cat population as a means of contributing to the health and welfare of pets and reducing harm to vulnerable wildlife. Microchipping, which is also supported by the American Veterinary Medical Association’s [Guidelines for Responsible Pet Ownership](#), is a simple and effective solution that has been shown to tremendously increase the likelihood of a lost cat reuniting with its owner.ⁱⁱⁱ

We respectfully request an amendment to the bill to ensure meaningful implementation and consistency with existing microchipping standards at the county level. We ask that you strike paragraph (g) of Sec. 143 on “Microchip Identification.” This paragraph creates an exemption for “animals cared for as part of a designated population management program,” yet no such designation exists. Neither a state agency nor process are identified for issuing such designations, and “population management program” is undefined. Thus, any individual could simply claim to be part of such a designated program and avoid the microchip requirement entirely.

Furthermore, paragraph (g) puts this bill at odds with existing City & County of Honolulu Code (§7-6.2, §7-6.3), which establishes that identification, including by means of a collar or tag, ear tag issued by the animal control contractor, or a microchip, is required for “any person owning, harboring or keeping, or providing care or sustenance for a cat, whether registered or not, or having custody of a cat, whether temporarily or permanently.” Thus, paragraph (g) of Sec. 143 on “Microchip Identification” could be interpreted to exempt cat identification where it would be required by the City & County of Honolulu, placing the laws at odds with each other. Striking paragraph (g) eliminates this conflict.

American Bird Conservancy and our members appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Grant Sizemore, M.S., CWB®
American Bird Conservancy
gsizemore@abcbirds.org

ⁱ Doherty T.S., A.S. Glen, D.G. Ninmo, E.G. Ritchie, and C.R. Dickman. 2016. Invasive predators and global biodiversity loss. PNAS 113(40): 11261-11265.

ⁱⁱ Loss S.R., T. Will, and P.P. Marra. 2015. Direct mortality of birds from anthropogenic causes. Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics 46: 99-120.

ⁱⁱⁱ Lord L.K., W. Ingwersen, J.L. Gray, and D.J. Wintz. 2009. Characterization of animals with microchips entering animal shelters. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 235(2): 160-167.

SB-1387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 12:17:41 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John D. Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support

SB-1387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 2:13:42 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea K. Blakemore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't think pets should be forced to be chipped. We should have more spay neuter clinics for strays and not be killing domestic animals it is unethical. Chipping all "owned" pets to differentiate them from strays seems to be the main purpose of this bill. The amounts of animals killed in shelters is really sad, given that dogs and cats are here because of humans. Rather than chip animals to validate their existence, why not stop allowing for a continual cycle of litters to be born and killed en masse by the "Humane Society". Make it illegal to feed strays and make spaying and neutering and adoptions a priority. Regulate inhumane breeders running businesses like puppy mills. Do not mass-kill strays.

SB-1387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/30/2021 7:59:30 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is an absolute mess - just kill it.

SB-1387-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2021 5:33:29 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/1/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RICKY BAKER	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposition to SB1387 SD1 HD1

Microchipping your pet, which is a medical procedure, should be up to the owner. While I do acknowledge there are benefits to microchipping, the proposed bill gives no substantial statistics that microchipping is better than utilizing tags. There is no way to know how many pets get returned to their owners everyday because of an ID tag.

Relying on a microchip gives a false sense of security that your pet will be returned quickly. The average person does not have a microchip reader, which means your pet will be taken from where it was found, to a vet clinic or downtown to the Humane Society to be identified. At this point, the owner may be fined, and additional procedures may be required to be performed on your pet to conform to current Humane Society laws recently passed.

Should this bill move forward, I would at least recommend that the microchipping requirement not be enforced on puppies under 5 months old. Many breeders require their puppies to remain with them as long as possible prior to placing in a new home, and are very selective about whom the puppy goes home with. Microchipping at such an early age would create an undue hardship and additional expense to these individuals.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ricky Baker