

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 House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, March 19, 2021
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1387, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION**

Senate Bill 1387, Senate Draft 1 proposes to require dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Domestic dogs and cats are natural predators and can be extremely destructive to wildlife if allowed to roam loose. They have significant impacts on native and migratory bird species, including ground-nesting seabirds and water bird and shorebird species. It is a high priority for the Department to remove stray animals as quickly as possible from wildlife management areas, so they do not continue to roam loose and harm or harass native species.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

MARCH 19, 2021
10:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 1387 SD1
RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1387, that requires dog and cat owners to microchip their pets if the pets are not licensed. The Department fully recognizes the benefits of microchip identification of pets however has concerns and makes the following comment.

The definition of "owner" in this bill is too broad because it includes: "providing care or sustenance for a dog or cat; or having custody of a dog or cat, whether temporarily or permanently." This would make agencies such as the Department, owners when animals are cared for in quarantine or taken into custody when prohibited for import. The department requests that state quarantine facilities be excluded from the definition of "owner."

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by
Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong support of SB 1387 - Relating to Microchip Identification
House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, Mar. 19, 2021

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We operate The Big Fix, a mobile spay/neuter and wellness vehicle on the island of Oahu which provides affordable services for low-income pet owners in rural and at risk communities. We also rescue animals, place them in foster care, and adopt them into forever homes. We are in strong support of SB 1387.

Since 2014, PDP included a mandatory microchip ID for all animals that we sterilized at no additional cost to the owner. In that time, we have microchipped 20,000 dogs and cats on Oahu. Today – we charge pet owners \$20 to implant a microchip via our mobile clinic The Big Fix which is a very affordable and accessible option.

In 2017, PDP introduced a Honolulu City Council bill to mandate microchip identification, but it failed to pass. In 2020, the bill passed but it has several limitations. SB 1287 not only expands mandatory microchip IDs, but it addresses the shortfalls in the county law.

REQUIRES ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACTORS TO UTILIZE NATIONAL MICROCHIP FOUND PET ALERTS

Our local Humane Societies which serve as the animal control contractors on all island still use the archaic “paper processing” method for lost and found animals. For the past 7 years, PDP has utilized Found Animals, a national nonprofit microchip registry which is provided free to pet owners for the life of the pets. When a pet is found, the owner will receive a voicemail, email and text alert within minutes. The owner will receive the contact name and number of the finder and can contact the person to arrange for pickup. Since pets are statistically lost within one-mile of their home, this process allows pets to be returned directly to their owners within the communities where they live and often times by their own neighbors down the road – instead of making a trip to animal control (one by the finder, and once by the owner). They also avoid the administrative burden and fees charged by animal control.

The Hawaiian Humane Society does not implement the Found Pet Alert utilized by the National Michelson Found Animals organization and we are not sure why. PDP has been notified by rescuers on a number of occasion that found animals chipped to PDP were surrendered to HHS and PDP never received an alert. On Dec. 1, a cat was surrendered to HHS. PDP finally received the Found

Alert on Dec. 6. As a result of their delay, the cat sat in a kennel at HHS for 5 days. When a volunteer went to pick up the cat, PDP was charged \$50 for boarding – even though we had just received the Found Alert that day.

If the animal control contractors would utilize the more efficient, more effective and more convenient Found Pet Alert offered by national microchip registries, more pets would be reunited with their owners in a timely manner – forgoing costly boarding and stress on the pet. Another national registry used by Hawaiian Humane Society – 24PetWatch – has similar option although not as comprehensive nor is it free. However it is still an improvement on the current paper-based system and pet owners have a choice of services to use.

REQUIRES VETERINARY CLINICS TO RELEASE THE SCANNED MICROHIP NUMBER TO FINDER

Many people are encouraged to take found pets to veterinary clinics so that pets can be scanned for a microchip ID. For no legal reason – some veterinary clinics refuse to release the microchip number to the rescuer. There is absolutely nothing private or confidential about the microchip number. What **IS** private and confidential is the owner information, but the veterinary clinic does not have access to that information either. And it is **NOT** released by the national microchip company. Instead, the finder information is provided to the owner. But the **ONLY** way the finder can file a Found Report is to have the microchip number. The veterinary clinics that refuse to release that information are doing a disservice to our community-wide efforts to return lost pets to their owners. They are a barrier to savings lives. In response, PDP placed scanners at PetSmart stores in Honolulu, Kapolei, and Mililani – to give people an alternative. But it simply comes down to finding the most convenient place to scan a found pet for a chip. And veterinary clinics should be part of the solution – not part of the problem. **PDP JUST EXPERIENCED THIS PROBLEM ON TUESDAY!**

A microchip is the single most effective way to return lost pets to their owners. Many people in the animal rescue community now carry their own microchip scanners. I have a microchip scanner in my truck in case I pick up an animal off the road. When I see posts on social media about found animals, I immediately respond that I have a scanner and am available to help identify the pet. Many, many people do the same. As a result – more and more people are immediately returning found animals directly to their owners and bypassing a trip to animal control. This process is better for the pet and for tax payers! This year – the Hawaiian Humane Society reported that their intake numbers of lost pets on New Years Eve was the lowest it had ever been. This is not because of fewer illegal fireworks or because the Humane Society is doing a better job! It is because social media has transformed our animal rescue community. More and more people are engaged on facebook and other media to help animals.

The BEST way to save lives is to prevent an animal from entering the shelter in the first place!

SB 1387 will help the public return lost pets to their owners. We don't need the archaic animal control model. We just need the animal control contractors to get on the technology bandwagon and use the tools that were created to save lives. Michelson Found Animal registry allows owners to create an account online and update their contact information every time they move. Its all at their finger tips. But HHS still uses a piece of paper that people have to fill out and mail in. Animal

“control” is obsolete. Animal “welfare” is the 21st century model that engages people helping animals in their communities. We are saving lives. And we are saving tax payer money.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HUMANE SOCIETY MICROCHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in all information.
MICROCHIP REGISTRATION

MICROCHIP # _____ DOG CAT OTHER _____

CLINIC WHERE IMPLANTED _____

MALE FEMALE NEUTERED

PET'S NAME _____ AGE _____

WEIGHT _____ COLOR _____

DESCRIPTION / BREED _____


OWNER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

DAY PHONE _____ NIGHT PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I agree to release the information provided here to the Hawaiian Humane Society and that all information is kept confidential

 Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waiālae Ave., Honolulu, HI 96826
946-2187 • fax 955-6034
HawaiiHumane.org

SIGNATURE

DATE

HHS-06/13

PRINT



Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
Supporting SB 1387_SD1 Relating to Microchip Identification
House Committee on Agriculture | March 19, 2021**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to express our organization’s **SUPPORT with amendment for SB 1387_SD1**. This bill would help reunite lost pets with their owners, thus reducing strains on communities and animal control providers, as well as reducing risks to vulnerable wildlife.

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 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

American Bird Conservancy and our members ask you to **please support SB 1387_SD1 with an amendment that changes the bill’s effective date to no later than 2022**.

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.



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

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

Date: March 16, 2021

To: Chair Rep. Mark Hashem
Vice Chair Rep. Amy Perruso
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick
Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in support of SB1387: Relating to Microchip Identification
Friday, Feb. 19, 2021, 10 a.m., Via Videoconference

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

HAWAA'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.

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.

We request an amendment to this bill to ensure its broad definition of cat ownership does not impede the work of cat colony managers. These volunteers do generally microchip cats as they trap them for spay/neuter, but at any given time they can have fertile, unmicrochipped cats in their care, or cats who were spayed/neutered before microchipping was common. We ask the committee to amend this bill by adding the phrase: this measure is not intended to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program.

Mahalo for considering our testimony on this important 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*

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 8:42:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Keawe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose sb1387 sd1

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 10:54:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 12:17:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victoria Anderson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill.

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2021 2:33:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support SB1387.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 11:52:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelsie gibson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I see no negatives with microchipping pets. Cats and dogs can easily escape or runoff and finding their owners can be a hassle and unsuccessful. By microchipping, when a cat or dog is found they could easily be brought to an animal clinic to be scanned and then reunited with their family. Therefore, I fully support this.

SB-1387-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2021 8:03:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/19/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is not Nessasery this is just a wast of money and may be it is time to take this money out of your salaries instead of out of our pockets!!!