

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Wednesday, February 16, 2021
9:16 AM
State Capitol, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1387
RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION**

Senate Bill 1387 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) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that 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 therefore in the best interest of Hawaii's wildlife that lost or stray pet animals be reunited with their owners as quickly as possible so they do not continue to roam loose and negatively impact wildlife and wreak havoc on seabird and endangered waterbird nesting areas. If lost and stray animals can be more quickly and efficiently reunited with their owners, such impacts could be significantly reduced.

Microchips are affordable, unobtrusive, permanent, and relatively easy to obtain and register, making identifying owners relatively easy, as long as microchip registries are managed properly.

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



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
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 16, 2021

Aloha Chair Rhoads 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.

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 animals are immediately returning found animals directly to their owner 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

TESTIMONY

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii
c/o 1658 Liholiho St #205
Honolulu, HI 96822

RE: SB1387 to be heard on Tuesday February 16, at 9:16AM via video conference

Oppose

To the Senate Committee on Judiciary

The decision to put microchips into one's dog or cat should be left to the owner and not mandated by the state. You have not made a strong enough case to do something that has never been required in the past. It will cost citizens time and money while enriching some corporate interests who are apparently promoting this.

Very Truly Yours;



Tracy Ryan
Chair. The Libertarian Party of Hawaii



Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
Supporting SB 1387 Relating to Microchip Identification
Senate Committee on Judiciary | February 16, 2021**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to express our organization’s **SUPPORT for SB 1387**. 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 (*Felis catus*) 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 appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments and ask you to **please support SB 1387**.

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

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 3:56:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2021 9:16:00 AM

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

Comments:

You do not have the right to impose the we have to cip any thing just because you say so. This would be a Violation of the Consitution and you can be charged with Violating your Oath of Office. Witch you can be removed from Office and charged with a Feloney and this goes for anyone who signs this Bill!!

SB-1387

Submitted on: 2/11/2021 4:44:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2021 9:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this effort because I believe it will lead to a reduction in the number of feral and uncared for animals in Hawaii. This is a win-win situation for humane animal treatment and for native wildlife like birds and seals. As a conservation biologist I know the impact that feral cats have on native ecosystems in Hawaii, and responsible pet ownership is critical if we are to prevent species extinction.

Regards,

Jason Gregg

SB-1387

Submitted on: 2/12/2021 2:19:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2021 9:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
helen raine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is important in reducing the number of feral cats on the landscape, and is an important component to reducing the deaths of endangered birds. I would like to register my support.

SB-1387

Submitted on: 2/13/2021 10:35:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/16/2021 9:16:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rae Okawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this measure as it is a step in the right direction towards responsible pet ownership. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

LATE



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

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

Date: Feb. 12, 2021

To: Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick
Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies

RE: Testimony in support of SB1387: Relating to Microchip Identification
Tuesday, Feb. 16, 2021, 9:16 a.m., Via Videoconference

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

HAWA'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.

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*



LATE

Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: SB 1387 (Relating to Microchip Identification)

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Committee Members,

Best Friends Animal Society provides this testimony **in opposition to SB 1387**, scheduled to be heard before your Committee on Tuesday, February 16 at 9:16 am. While we commend the bill sponsors efforts to improve the lives of cats and dogs in Hawaii, along with the people who care for them, the unintended negative consequences of the bill as proposed will impact animal control providers, animal welfare organizations and residents across the islands.

Best Friends is a national animal welfare organization which works nationwide toward a mission to stop the unnecessary killing of dogs and cats in our animal shelters. Further, Best Friends has invested monetary and other resources in the success of animal shelters throughout Hawaii. As such, the potential, likely unintended, negative impact of SB 1387, as proposed, is a cause for concern. I will briefly outline a few of our primary concerns.

Microchipping of cats and dogs, as the bill mentions, is a best practice in animal sheltering and should be a goal that is generally supported in the industry. However, as proposed, SB 1387 creates an unfunded mandate which would place all burdens of such benefits on the local animal control providers, humane societies, and ultimately residents of the islands. With financial struggles common across local governments and residents across the islands, placing such requirements on low-income and financially challenged pet owners will likely undermine the goals of SB 1387. Even in the situations where animal control providers and humane societies are able to comply with the requirements of SB 1387, the costs are likely to be passed along to the ultimate pet owners, potentially reducing adoptions.

SB 1387 also creates a new definition of “owner” in statute which is overly broad and will create numerous unintended consequences for animals that are not considered pets. Further, local governments, following their statutory guidance already in place, have created programs in their communities that address cats and dogs which are not considered pets which would be irreparably damaged by the adoption of SB 1387 as currently drafted.

These current unintended consequences which will be created by SB 1387 as proposed, will needlessly place immeasurable burdens upon local animal control providers, humane societies and citizens alike. Not to mention the cats and dogs which are cared for by all of those impacted.



While we oppose SB 1387 as currently proposed, we stand firmly ready to offer our expertise and assistance to the bill sponsors in order to craft amendments which would avoid the negative impacts that we have mentioned. While we applaud the efforts to the bill sponsors' attempt to better the lives of cats and dogs in Hawaii, along with the people that care for them, we have to OPPOSE SB 1387 as currently presented. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important matter.

Very truly yours,

Richard C. Angelo, Jr., Esq.
Legislative Attorney



Neighborhood Cats

LATE

the community cat experts!

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa Labrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

February 16, 2021

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: SB1387 (Relating to Microchip Identification)

Neighborhood Cats wishes to express our **opposition as currently drafted** to SB1387 (Relating to Microchip Identification).

Neighborhood Cats is an animal welfare nonprofit which focuses on reducing overpopulation of cats through spay/neuter and other progressive management approaches. Since 2016, we have operated a chapter on Maui. In addition, we operate hands-on programs in New York City and New Jersey, and administer education and advocacy programs nationally.

We support SB1387's policy goal of microchipping all cats and dogs, but believe as currently drafted, the bill could inadvertently suppress efforts to manage populations of stray cats. The problem is the bill defines "ownership" in a manner that is overly broad and would include cats normally considered unowned.

Volunteers throughout communities in Hawaii contribute their own time and funds to spay and neuter stray cats, greatly helping control their numbers. Normally these citizen volunteers microchip the cats at the time the animals undergo spay/neuter surgery. However, at any one time, the caretakers may be managing cats not yet fixed, and new unaltered cats may arrive.

We respectfully recommend the Committee expressly limit the scope of SB1387 to traditional pets by including language that the statute is not intended to apply to participants in designated population management programs or animals cared for as part of such programs.

Thank you for considering our views,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director