

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
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To: The Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair;
The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Wednesday, February 23, 2022
Time: 10:05 A.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

Re: S.B. 2837, S.D. 1, Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2837, S.D. 1, for the committee's consideration.

S.B. 2837, S.D. 1, amends section 235-102.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add a new check-off box on individual tax returns authorizing taxpayers whose state income tax refund is at least \$5 to designate \$5 of that refund to be deposited into a new spay and neuter special fund. In the case of a joint return of a married couple having a state income tax refund of \$10 or more, each spouse would be allowed to designate that \$5 be deposited into the special fund. As with other existing check-off boxes, if no designation was made on the original tax return when filed, a designation may be made by the individual on an amended return filed within twenty months and ten days after the due date for the original return for that taxable year. A designation once made, whether by an original or amended return, may not be revoked. The change would apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

The Department notes that the Committee on Agriculture and Environment amended the previous version of this measure to replace references in the check-off box statute from "husband and wife" to "married couple" with respect to joint return income tax filings. The Department appreciates this change and requests that it remain intact.

The Department will be able to administer the measure with its current effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2837, S.D. 1

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) opposes this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2837, S.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 143, HRS, to establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund (SNSF) within B&F to finance spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats; amends Section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the SNSF in FY 23.

B&F strongly believes that it is not the appropriate agency to administer the SNSF and its related program functions. B&F does not possess the required subject-matter expertise on spaying and neutering animals or any other related veterinary services which do not fall under the purview of the department. Further, with the start of the statewide financial management replacement project in March, B&F staff will be fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 11:30:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Golojuch Jr	Testifying for Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai'i's oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2837 SD1.

We are happy to support this bill now that it has been amended to recognize all married couples.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Check-off for Spay and Neuter Special Fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 2837 SD1

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 143, HRS, to establish a spay and neuter special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be expended to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats by providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care; provided that the uses and expenditures of moneys in the special fund shall follow the eligibility criteria established by a new advisory committee created by the bill.

Amends section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow an income tax check-off for \$5 to be deposited into the new special fund, or for a joint return each spouse may designate \$5..

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon Approval, provided that section 3 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

STAFF COMMENTS: In the long run, the cost of administering the checkoff merely siphons resources that should otherwise be used for providing needed public services.

If lawmakers believe certain programs are of great importance, then they can prioritize those programs through the appropriations process. With the Hawaii tax burden already so heavy, why should taxpayers turn any more of their hard-earned dollars over to government? What lawmakers also do not recognize is that by creating these checkoffs, they add to the cost of administering the law, a cost which steals funds from other programs including those enumerated for a checkoff designation.

Instead of further clouding the financial picture of the state, all earmarked funds and the programs they underwrite should be brought back to the general fund table so that lawmakers can properly exercise their oversight responsibility, including measuring the needs of those programs against all the other pressing needs of the state. Only then will lawmakers and taxpayers be able to set proper funding priorities.

Digested: 2/19/2022

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 1:42:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	No

Comments:

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain would like to support SB2837 SD1 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals to be heard by the Senate Committee on Senate Committee on Ways and Means on Feb.23.

We join with Hawaiian Humane in strongly supporting the Bill which establishes a special fund for the spay/neuter of companion cats and dogs and free-roaming cats, and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

We understand that Hawai'i has more homeless companion animals than families looking to adopt, so it is vitally important to address overpopulation by a comprehensive spay/neuter campaign. It would also support the excellent groups you have on the islands who are working to humanely reduce the population of free-roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.

The bill would aid nonprofits that rescue and rehome animals by funding pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the animals they adopt out are not contributing to overpopulation.

It would also help low-income and houseless animal guardians to access affordable spay/neuter.

This measure would help the animals and all sectors of your society, and Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain begs to support the motion.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:32:31 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	No

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 supports SB2837. Please pass.

Mike Golojuch, Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:41:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Caldwell	Testifying for A4A	Support	No

Comments:

My group supports 2837 to fund spay neuter clinics. The more clinics that can be funded, the fewer cats will give birth, thereby decreasing the cat population. Everyone understands there are too many cats, but the only humane way to do population control is through spay/neuter. Many people do not have money to pay regular vet fees for this. Using free or low cost clinics like Petfix and Good Karma allows them to be responsible pet owners and to also help those who try to control cat colonies. If you truly want an initial step to help cat population control, please support this bill and please make sure a large part of the money will go to free or low cost clinics that have been trying to help for a long time but are running out of funds.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: February 21, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Sen. Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2837, SD1:
Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, 10:05 a.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 2837, SD1, which establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation are persistent issues in Hawaii and efforts to reduce the resulting suffering through low- and no-fee spay/neuter receive no state funding. Rather than competing for general fund resources, this measure would allow compassionate state taxpayers to support a dedicated Spay/Neuter Fund by reducing the size of any income tax refund due. This low-barrier way to contribute to an unmet need could make a world of difference for the nonprofit groups and veterinarians on the frontlines of animal welfare in our state.

The Hawaiian Humane Society welcomed more than 10,700 cats and dogs to our Mō'ili'ili campus in FY2021, including entire litters of puppies and kittens in need of homes. We flew 96 cats and 6 dogs to the mainland for adoption to make room for more animals to get help here at home. This struggle is repeated in every county in our state and has inspired a community of nonprofits to spring up to help, but they need resources to do their work.

We are a member of the Hawaii Animal Welfare Association, which includes the largest animal welfare organizations in each county, and the Oahu Animal Welfare Alliance, which is a broad consortium of entities devoted to animal welfare on the island including businesses, nonprofits and veterinary professionals. Both groups have identified increased access to no-fee or low-fee spay/neuter as one of the greatest unmet needs to better care of our state's animals and to assist struggling pet owners.

If established, this fund would provide help for:

- Low-income pet owners who want to prevent unplanned breeding of their pets
- Houseless pet owners who need to have their animals spayed/neutered to qualify for transitional or supported permanent housing
- 501c3 animal rescues who want to spay/neuter pets prior to adoption so they are not contributing to pet overpopulation
- 501c3 Free-Roaming cat management groups who aim to trap and spay/neuter hundreds or even thousands of cats annually to prevent continued breeding

States that have invested significant resources in no-fee or low-fee spay/neuter have seen drops in pet overpopulation. That is why Hawai'i groups are able to transfer animals to states like Washington, California, Arizona and Colorado for adoption. But it would be far easier on our animals and our pet-loving residents to tackle this issue right here at home.

Spay/neuter improves animal health and wellbeing, and saves lives.

We urge you to pass SB 2837, SD1, and allow Hawai'i taxpayers to help people and animals in need. Mahalo for your time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

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 21, 2022

Re: SB2837 SD1

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Cats, a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, to express our **strong support** for SB2837 SD1.

Our organization is involved hands-on in the overpopulation of free-roaming cats on Maui. We assist community members with trapping their colony cats and bringing them to veterinary clinics for spay/neuter. The births of many thousands of kittens have been prevented as a result, but more is needed. Access and affordability remain significant obstacles to caretakers of free-roaming cats and many pet owners when it comes to spay/neuter services.

The proposed spay/neuter fund, financed voluntarily through income tax checkoffs, would be a big step forward in solving Hawaii's cat overpopulation at little economic cost to the State. Fewer cats on the landscape not only advances the mission of the animal welfare community, it also means a lower threat to native species and reduced public health concerns. It is a win-win solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for considering our views,



Bryan Kortis

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:04:42 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

The animal population of unowned dogs and cats has exploded.

Spay and Neuter with Trap/Neuter/Return are the only humane methods of animal overpopulation of pet species.



**Testimony in Support of SB 2837
Relating to the spaying and neutering of animals**

**Danielle Bays
Senior Analyst, Cat Protection and Policy
The Humane Society of the United States**

**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 23, 2022**

Chairman Dela Cruz, Vice Chairman Keith-Agaran, members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, supports passage of SB 2837.

This legislation is good for the people and animals of Hawaii. There is broad interest in helping companion animals and, by extension, the people who care for them. This legislation would create an opportunity for Hawaii taxpayers to do just that, voluntarily contributing funds to provide needed sterilization and veterinary care to cats and dogs in need.

When such veterinary services are made accessible and costs are subsidized, sterilization rates will increase. The truth is that most people want to do the right thing and are not ideologically opposed to sterilization but simply lack the resources to do so. This is particularly true for those who find themselves caring for a large number of free-roaming cats. Unable to get enough of the cats sterilized in a timely manner, the cats continue to reproduce, making the goal of reducing the population even more of a challenge. When funding is made available to cover the cost of sterilization, organizations which deliver these services to communities can be more effective in their outreach efforts. Not only will this prevent many surplus animal births and deaths but also lowers the cost of animal care and control in the future, reduce public health concerns and decrease threats to wildlife and the environment.

There is an urgent need for practical and effective solutions to the challenges associated with the presence of cats outdoors. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to managing cats in the environment, but with determination, innovation, and collaboration, we can implement and sustain effective programs to humanely resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts.

More innovative programs such as this fund are needed to effectively manage animal populations in the state. The HSUS encourages the state to continue such forward-thinking and embrace opportunities as they arise, such as the development of a safe and effective nonsurgical sterilant for cats and dogs. Such a sterilant is anticipated to be available in the future, greatly increasing the number of cats who could be sterilized in a short period of time. With this in mind, we respectfully ask that the word "surgery" under section (a) be deleted to clearly allow for consideration of nonsurgical methods under the program. We also ask the committee to consider replacing the term "spay and neuter" with "sterilize" for the same reasons. We believe this will prevent any confusion in the future and avoid revising the law in a future legislative session to update the terms.

This bill creates an opportunity to help many people and animals across the state. The HSUS encourages a favorable report on SB 2837.



Bringing back the birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Opposition to SB 2837_SD1 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Senate Committee on Ways and Means | February 23, 2022**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **opposition to SB 2837_SD1 and to suggest amendments.**

Although American Bird Conservancy supports the sterilization of domestic cats, the potential use of the funds collected as part of this bill for programs that would trap, sterilize, and then release unowned cats to the landscape is cause for great concern. The use of public funds for such programs would cause tremendous harm for Hawai'i's people and wildlife. **Cats, whether sterilized or not, continue to attack and kill Threatened and Endangered birds, spread infectious parasites and diseases, and contribute to public nuisances.**

Cats are among the world's most harmful invasive species and instinctive predators that have contributed to the extinction of two endemic Hawaiian species, the Lāna'i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and the decline of countless others. Sadly, Hawai'i is already the bird extinction capital of the world, and **the continued presence of cats on the landscape only increases the likelihood of future extinctions.** Research has repeatedly shown that cats are a [major threat to Hawai'i's unique birds](#), such as 'A'o (Newell's Shearwater) and 'U'au (Hawaiian Petrel), two species which have experienced [94% and 78% population declines](#), respectively.

Cats can also carry a large number of infectious parasites and diseases. Toxoplasmosis, caused by infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, is another cat-transmitted disease of significant concern. The parasite **can only complete its life cycle in a cat**, and a single cat can excrete up to hundreds of millions of *T. gondii* eggs (called "oocysts") into the environment via its feces. These oocysts remain infectious for months to years and can infect any bird or mammal. Infection in people can cause miscarriages, fetal deformities, blindness, organ failure, and death and has also been linked to neurodegenerative diseases. This parasite is the reason women are told to avoid changing cat litter while pregnant, but **cats roaming the landscape, whether sterilized or not, turn the entire environment, including beach parks, gardens, and nature preserves, into one giant, contaminated litterbox.**

Scientific studies in Hawai'i have shown that feral cats contribute to widespread environmental *T. gondii* contamination, and this contamination is dangerous for people and wildlife. For example, researchers found that [three of four feral cat colonies on O'ahu were actively excreting *T. gondii* oocysts](#). On Kaua'i, scientists found the parasite "at nearly every sampled site" but observed [higher coastal contamination at beach parks and harbors](#), which has serious implications for public health because of the increased likelihood of human exposure. Infections in wildlife further underscore the widespread and dangerous consequences of human exposures. *T. gondii* infections have been identified [in Nēnē \(Hawaiian Goose\) from Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i](#), and *T. gondii* infections in 'Alalā (Hawaiian Crow) pose a [significant risk to](#)



Bringing back the birds

[this species' conservation](#). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that toxoplasmosis is also a [leading threat to the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals](#).

Supporting programs that purposely release cats, regardless of their sterilization status, to the landscape contributes to environmental *T. gondii* contamination and puts people and wildlife at risk.

Consequently, we ask that you please consider **two amendments** to this bill:

1. To prevent the release of unowned cats to the landscape, **limit the use of funds exclusively to sterilizations for owned cats.**
2. Should an advisory committee continue to be needed, **include a representative from the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife** to ensure that actions will not put Hawai'i's vulnerable wildlife at risk.

With these amendments, American Bird Conservancy could support SB 2837_SD1. As it is, however, this bill has the potential to facilitate ongoing harms caused by at-large cats and to filter precious public resources toward a program that will only contribute to ongoing harms to Hawai'i's people and wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Grant Sizemore, M.S., CWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.
Hawai'i Program Director

Suggested Amendments to SB 2837_SD1

Page 1

15 §143-_____ Spay and neuter special fund. (a) There is
16 established the spay and neuter special fund to be administered

Page 2

1 by the department of budget and finance. Moneys received by the
2 department from:

3 (1) State income tax refund designations to the special
4 fund pursuant to section 235-102.5(e); and
5 (2) Appropriations or other moneys made available,
6 shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned
7 or accrued on moneys deposited in the special fund shall become
8 part of the special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be
9 expended to reduce the pet overpopulation and the reproduction of
10 **owned**, free-roaming cats by providing spaying and neutering surgery
11 and associated veterinary care; provided that the uses and
12 expenditures of moneys in the special fund shall **only apply to owned**
13 **cats and** the eligibility criteria established by the advisory committee
14 established under subsection (b).

15 (b) There is established an advisory committee to assist
16 the department of budget and finance in establishing the
17 eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the
18 special fund. The advisory committee shall include the
19 following:

20 (1) One representative from the department of budget and
21 finance;

Page 3

1 (2) **One representative from the department of land and**
2 **natural resources division of forestry and wildlife;**
3 ~~(23)~~ One representative from the Hawaii Animal Welfare
4 Association or its successor organization, who shall
5 be invited to participate;
6 ~~(34)~~ One representative from the Hawaii Veterinary Medical
7 Association, who shall be invited to participate;
8 ~~(45)~~ One member from a Hawaii-based private non-profit
9 animal welfare organization, who shall be invited to
10 participate; and
11 ~~(56)~~ Two members from the general public, who shall be
12 invited to participate.



13 Members of the advisory committee shall be selected by the
14 director of finance, who shall also select a chairperson from
15 among the members. All members of the advisory committee shall
16 be residents of the State and shall serve three-year terms. All
17 members shall have an active interest in humanely reducing the pet
18 overpopulation and the number of free-roaming cats in the State.
19 (c) The advisory committee shall submit an annual report
20 to the director of finance, in a form prescribed by the
21 director, identifying the total amount of funds that were

Page 4

1 disbursed from the special fund in the previous fiscal year and
2 the amount of funds to be carried over to the next fiscal year.
3 The advisory committee shall submit the report to the director
4 within ninety days from the close of each fiscal year.
5 (d) The members of the advisory committee shall serve
6 without pay but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
7 necessary expenses, including travel expenses incurred in
8 carrying out their duties.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 10:39:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cathy Goeggel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

ARH strongly supports SB2837

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 1:47:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eileen McKee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of SB2837.

Mahalo,

Eileen McKee

Kihei

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2022 9:41:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Feral cats present an existential threat to Hawaii's native wildlife. SB2837 will not solve the problem, but will at least show that the State of Hawaii recognizes there is a problem, and is making a small step to address it. As such, I support SB2837

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:10:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes, I support this bill ! Aloha, I am an Animal Advocate, especially for cats !

Aloha, I do have some ideas about the use & distribution of funds, I hope the advisory committee to be appointed (?) considers these points :

- Agree to use grant funds for LOW COST / NO COST spay/neuter surgeries of owned or community dogs & cats in Hawai'i, allocated to each island by some fair method.
- Use the funds to INCREASE the total number of spay/neuter surgeries performed or subsidized.
- Agree to provide a public final report on how funds were used, including: Financial accounting of funds, Written results of project, etc.
- Target areas with restricted access to low cost spay/neuter surgery.
- Target communities with high euthanasia rates.
- Can provide the highest number of spay/neuter surgeries for the lowest cost.

Mahalo for presenting this humane proactive bill and allowing testimony !

Most Sincerely, Vivian Toellner, Eastside Hawai'i Island

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:38:28 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please give people who are not aware of an option to support, the chance to do so.

Please support this bill.

Mahalo

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:24:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Wayne Niide	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2837 SD1.

There are several important reasons I support this Bill.

- Investing in spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation as shown by states on the mainland that now have to import pet animals to meet the demand for adoption. Hawai'i, on the other hand, has more homeless pet animals than families looking to adopt.
- This bill allows compassionate Hawai'i taxpayers an easy way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and Free-Roaming cats at no significant cost to the state.
- This measure would support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.
- Nonprofits who rescue and rehome animals often struggle to fund pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation.
- Many low-income and houseless pet owners struggle to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

Per the support of the aforementioned we are humanely addressing the rights of our animal species, owners and stakeholders.

Thank you!

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:55:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelly Esmeralda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this legislation. I currently do spay and neuter of community cats and find it increasingly hard to access via cost or availability. I believe in curbing cat over population by responsibly utilizing spay and neuter. This is the most humane resolution. Mahalo for your kokua. Shelly

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:16:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melinda Mosiman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a resident of Kihei, Maui, Hawaii, and I support this bill. I am a lover of all kinds of animals and believe that easy, affordable access to spay and neuter programs is key to reducing the population of homeless cats. These spay/neuter programs should be available to both pets and free-roaming but are often cost-prohibitive. I support this idea to make it easy for Hawaii residents to contribute to a fund that would help extend spay/neuter services across the islands.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 7:29:34 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judy Sweatland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a rescuer and caregiver to community cats on the Big Island, I feel it is extremely important to allow all spay/neuter opportunities at a low or free cost to all residents. My husband and I pay out of our own pocket to sterilize all cats we rescue. Our state badly needs spay/neuter availability to all, especially in view of overpopulation of cats. Please pass this important bill to reduce Hawaii's cat population.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 10:03:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill would support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.

It would also aid nonprofits that rescue and rehome animals by funding pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation.

Better yet it would help low-income and houseless pet owners access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

I urge you to pass this bill in support of our companion animals.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 10:23:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Vinz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI and I support the SB2837. Please approve this bill.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 10:35:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marla Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a volunteer for Abay Kitties, a 501c3 100% volunteer and donation dependent organization created to eliminate the overpopulation of feral cats at Anaehoomalu Bay and The Waikoloa Resort area. We use a trap, neuter, spay, return and maintain program to prevent new litters. We provide fresh water and food 365 days a year as well as any necessary medical care so our kitties, many of whom are seniors, can live out their lives in peace and good health. To continue the work of TNRM to control Hawaii's homeless cat population, we need help! Thank you.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 12:30:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donni Corrow-Sanchez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill which allows for the creation of a spay/neuter fund to alter pets and free-roaming cats so that they cannot breed. This will benefit all animals, including native wildlife by significantly and humanely reducing the number of cats.

Mahalo.

Donni Corrow-Sanchez Lahaina, Maui

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:57:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Holzgrove	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

All funding needs to be given to many non profit organizations who are already holding free or low cost spay/neuter clinics. Organizations like:

AdvoCats Hawaii

CatSnip Hawaii

Good Karma Spay and Neuter

Hui Pono Holoholona

Petfix Spay and Neuter

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:33:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lori Luchette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:06:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea L W Fruggiero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in support of Bill SB 2837 SD1. When feral animals are released into the wild not only are the birds in the area endangered but disease and parasites are more prevalent endangering pets and children as well. There are a number of organizations who are already providing discounted or free spay/neuter services in areas that are known to have a feral cat/animal population. To continue their work is paramount to this situation. Funding, when available should definitely help to defray their costs as well. Here are a few of those organizations:

[AdvoCATS Hawaii](#)

[CatSnip Hawaii](#)

[Good Karma Spay and Neuter Clinic](#)

[Hui Pono Holoholona](#)

[Petfix Spay and Neuter](#)

Sincerely,

Andrea L W Fruggiero

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:12:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dawn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

It is important to start funding humane ways to treat the feral cat population. Several locations have adopted the TNR program and the studies show it works if done correctly. At this time I do not think there is any reason to not move forward on trying this program.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:32:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill.

Our feral cat population is a very big problem for them as well as some of our endemic species.

This bill will help to get in the right direction by making people aware that they can help. Our non-profits need the help financially.

Please support this bill. Mahalo

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:51:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill **MUST** be bill passed to reduce the animal population in our State! There are over 300,000 homeless cats in Hawaii. They are homeless because non caring stupid residents do not get them neutered! Many of these horrible people discard their cats and leave them on the street to live and reproduce.

This **MUST** stop if we are going to reduce the population of cats!

Dogs are a great problem too. Many suffer the same fate as the cats, dumped on the street by people, to live and reproduce.

These domestic animals suffer greatly because the sick owners do not care about their lives and the burden for our population of residents in Hawaii.

Since the dumb people do not care if the animal lives or dies the only way to effectively reduce the homeless animal populaton is to to spay and neuter **ALL** of them.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:07:50 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
linda willaby	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because a fund to pay for cat sterilizations is desperately needed. Private citizens and rescues organizations are overwhelmed by the number of feral and domesticated cats. Veterinarians have a two month waiting time for an appointment. Unchecked breeding is a threat to wildlife and a nuisance. We need funding for free/low cost spay/neuter clinics. I definitely want to be able to use part of my tax refund to pay for this.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:32:23 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pat Flynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2837.

Pat Flynn

Kailua Kona, HI

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:39:22 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber Hudnall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please pass this bill. This will be a great help to our animal overcrowding problem. Thank you so much!

Mahalo,

Amber Hudnall

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:51:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Margie Gillman-Wolfe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support S/N and the people and organizations that have been in the trenches doing the work. Advocats in Kona have been struggling for over 20 years! Over 25,000 cats with little help or recognition. Please start doing the right thing. Be Pono act with Aloha.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:01:02 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kayo Nordholm	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha!

As a resident of Hawaii County, I support SB2837 as the spay and neuter option for controlling feral animals is a just and humane cause.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:12:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn McLaren Dewey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of the feral cat populations in this beautiful area. I support this bill and hope that you will too! I have witnessed the kindness of the various individuals and agencies caring for these animal populations. Their intentions and work in the field are remarkable. Please help make sure these efforts are successful and sustainable by supporting SB2837.

Thank you again!!

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:13:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elna Nagasako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members,

My son, Luke, and I support SB2837. Allowing interested Hawaii residents an easy way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and free-roaming cats is a critical step toward compassionately addressing pet animal overpopulation. Support of spay/neuter programs will both benefit pet animals and protect native wildlife. Importantly, this bill allows increased funding without significant cost to the state.

Luke (elementary school student) adds: “I think that spaying and neutering cats is important because then it doesn’t continue the overpopulation of cats. I care about that because that will cause less destruction of native wildlife and will also have cats not be born without a home.”

We urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo!

Elna & Luke Nagasako

Makiki

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:23:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are in strong support of this bill which establishes a spay and neuter special fund for the spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs and free-roaming cats which allows funds from an easy income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund by compassionate individuals to address overpopulation and support non-profits and volunteers who do the work.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:37:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kurt Shanaman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholly ask for your support for these bills.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 2:10:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeanne Alford	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Legislators,

Please consider this bill as the most humane and sensible way of controlling our feral cat population. I've been an advocate for decades on Hawaii island and have been caring for a 7-cat feral colony for over 10 years. The same 7 cats! All were trapped, neutered and released back to the area they call home. They can't multiply and they don't allow newcomers in. TNR works.

I do this out of my own pocket. We have many non-profit organizations here that provide free or low cost spay/neuter clinics. The entire island (and state) would benefit by allocating funds to these folks:

AdvoCATS Hawaii, CatSnip Hawaii, Good Karma Spay & Neuter Clinic, Hui Pono Holoholona, Petflix Spay & Neuter.

It would serve to greatly reduce our over population of feral cats. It's been proven.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Alford

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 2:47:20 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
janice palma-glennie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha,

our state needs more sensible, humane options for limiting unwanted pet populations.

please use your integrity to pass this and hb1610 if it comes by your desk.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:04:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill. It will help animals in Hawaii.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:10:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maria Leonardi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I recently wrote in opposition of HB 1987 with several reasons enclosed, the biggest being the lack of funding and support for existing local initiatives that could go a long way to controlling feral cat populations on our islands. We as a state are drastically behind other regions in the U.S. in supporting animal rescue groups and this does not need to be the case.

I write in support of SB 2837 as funding existing clinics is one strategy to control our stray and feral populations without first going to the extreme of extermination. Only funding existing spay/neuter clinics will not be enough in the long run, but this is a step in the right direction of supporting our existing animal rescue groups.

Best wishes,
Maria Leonardi

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:08:31 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe that the check box to deposit to a special fund for neutering and spaying of pets and free-roaming cats is important to taxpayers.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:20:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson , Vice Chairperson and Committee Members.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support SB 2837 SD 1 relating to spaying and neutering of animals. It's my understanding that this bill will allow Hawaii taxpayers an easy way to support spaying and neutering of pet animals and free roaming cats. This bill would help groups working to reduce the population of free roaming cats, nonprofits working to rescue and rehome animals, and low income pet owners to access affordable spaying and neutering for their animal companions.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:28:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pat Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Last week we the people overwhelmingly were opposed to the eradication of feral cats. To protect our fragile environment, what we do need is free spaying and neutering, to encourage people to spay and neuter their pet cats and also ferals. This is the only solution. If you knew how hard dedicated people work, at their own expense, to trap, neuter and release cats, there is no doubt you will wish to approve this bill. Please support our fragile island and prevent the suffering of thousands of unborn animals by voting yes on this bill! It is the only humane solution to a manmade problem.

Thank you! We count on you to vote for this bill!

Patty Johnson

Volcano

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:15:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
CHERYL ALCANTARA	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Cheryl from Lahaina, Maui County. Thank you for the opportunity in having my testimony be read and heard. Bill SB2837 referring to spay and neuter special fund is a more realistic solution and is humane than eradicating or exterminating free-roaming cats. Having this as an option for Hawaii citizens on their tax refund form makes it accessible and simple. To donate \$2.00 or more of their state tax refund to help manage free-roaming cats is a step forward in the right direction. Currently, there are Hawaii residents, visitors, vet facilities, and animal shelters who voluntarily give their time, energy, and donations, to care for and manage free-roaming cats in the community. We always say it would be another level if everyone in our neighborhood participated in helping our free-roaming cats get spayed and neutered. With Bill SB2837, I think we can do it. If everyone does their part even in the smallest ways such as donating \$2 a year to the spay and neuter special fund, that in itself goes a long way for the future.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:26:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of bill SB2837 SD1.

Mahalo,

Susan Eubank

Diamond Head

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 5:39:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop stilling our Money!!!

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:48:40 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support!

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 7:19:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this important bill for our island animal welfare! Mahalo, JW

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:48:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need more spay and neuter funding for animals for the State of Hawaii to combat the overpopulation of free roaming cats, dogs and cats in the State. I support SB2837 SD1.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:08:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KIMI ABBOTT-JACKSON	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. It is the most humane way to deal with over population of cats on the island.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:26:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Jacobs, DAC.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii Island needs funding for cats to be spayed/neutered to help manage the feral cat population humanely. I respectfully ask that any funding be given to the many non profit organizations who are already holding free or low cost spay/neuter clinics such as:

AdvoCATS Hawaii

CatSnip Hawaii

Good Karma Spay and Neuter Clinic

Hui Pono Holoholona

Petfix Spay and Neuter

Thank you for your consideration.

Becky Jacobs, DAC.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:59:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Sharp	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for taking up this wonderful cause and the best option for truly achieving a long term solution. With regards to Bill SB2798 and all it encompasses, I am in full favor, especially of taxpayer/state funded spay and neuter programs to help combat the suffering of feral cats and the awful lives they may suffer due to a lack of reproductive and veterinary care. This is the best method proven to help stop the cycle of ferals and is the most effect as well as humane. SPAY AND ESPECIALLY NEUTERING all that can be brought in, the humanely caught, voluntarily by pet owners, found unaltered cats and dogs, etc...its a huge win for all of the community. This bill is a great start. This is the way to help curb this sad situation in a humane way, by letting the reproductive cycles die down, letting colonies die off naturally without having to resort to brutal and inhumane killing of them, and it helps the community as a whole to have better access to spaying and neutering their own pets which is so key to the objective being accomplished.

This is the right thing, and it has been proven to be the most effective long term. Please do the right thing. Please pass SB2798 and help...not hinder the effort to get control for the sake and best welfare of the animals and humans alike. It makes for the healthiest human/pet/feral/ecosystem outcome.

Thank you!

Jennifer Sharp

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:14:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tracy Zuziak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

While in support of this bill, there needs to be clear discussion on how and to whom the funds would be disbursed. Funding needs to be given to the many non-profit organizations who are already holding free or low cost spay/neuter clinics across the state. Including, but not limited to: AdvoCATS Hawai'i, CatSnip Hawai'i, Good Karma Spay & Neuter Clinic, Hui Pono Holoholona, and Petfix Spay & Neuter.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 5:37:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Zuziak	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Mahalo for considering this humane approach to controlling the feral cat population.

The Zuziak family

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:21:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2837, SD1 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To be heard on **Wednesday, Feb.23, at 10:05 a.m.**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz

Chair Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

I am delighted to voice my support for this creative and innovative approach to help tackle a difficult environmental issue in this state. I appreciate the senator’s efforts to promote and favorably review this proposal and encourage all to continue to continue to “think outside of the box” for solutions to help our families, wildlife, and pets.

The establishment of a spay and neuter special fund for pet cats and dogs and free-roaming/homeless cats, will provide one additional avenue for our citizens to help with state-wide overpopulation and help to create safer, more healthy parks, beaches, and neighborhoods.

I believe this fund will aid pet owners, nonprofits, veterinary clinics and animals across our islands by supporting pre-adoption spay/neuter for the pets they adopt (adopt out) as well as help low-income and houseless pet owners access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

I encourage the idea of giving compassionate Hawai‘i taxpayers a simple way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and free-roaming cats at no significant cost to the state. Most citizens of our beautiful state want to “malama our aina” wherever possible - this provides all citizens with another route to do well and contribute.

Mahalo for your careful consideration and support of SB 2837 SD1. I hope we are able to quickly move to put this special fund into practice.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:51:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I urge your support for creating a fund to help with the spay and neutering of animals in Hawaii. This is a humane and proven effective approach to reducing the number of homeless animals.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:44:00 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
alicia morrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a very smart, acceptable way to prevent overpopulation of our island animals here in Hawaii!! I am in favor of this bill.

mahalo,

Alicia Morrier

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:05:05 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christin Greenland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The pet overpopulation problem on the Big Island is out of control. I support any effort to fund spay and neuter for Hawaii's pets and feral cats. I would also like to see more education of young people about spay and neuter and proper animal care. There are many organizations that are already helping to control the pet population through spay and neuter programs. Please consider funding these programs which are already successful by supporting Hui Pono Holoholona, Good Karma Spay and Neuter, Advocats Hawaii Catsnip Hawaii, Petfix Spay and Neuter and Aloha Ilio among others. Thank you.

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:41:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Frances Pueo	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I, Frances Pueo support SB2837. Hui Pono Holoholona, a 501c3 nonprofit, all volunteer feline spay and neuter organization since 2007 has raised monies from shirt sales, yard sales, fund raisers, donations, qualified for local and national grants, and still fall short to cover all the expense and request for our spay and neuter service.

We as well as other spay and neuter animal organizations are doing a remarkable service in educating the importance to prevent unwanted litter births, and providing direct solution via Spay and Neuter service. Thousands of volunteers across these islands are involved with multitude type of spay and neuter services. Actively getting others on board, hands on for mash type spay and neuter clinics, reaching out to feline colony feeders by helping to trap, and or transport felines to designated appointments.

We are in need of more veterinarians (shortage State wide for decades), and additional funding to cover the spay and neuter cost. The cost factor depends on species, gender, in heat, and health, and discounts provided by Veterinarians. Presently Hui Pono Holoholona is utilizing Dr. Kris Henricks at Good Karma Spay and Neuter Clinic. Dr. Henricks is a Spay and neuter specialist for dogs and cats, and by volume can provide this service at a much lower cost than at other veterinarian facilities. Yet, even with this discount, we run short to cover all the request.

It's time for this "Aloha" State to live up what "Aloha" is about and partner-up by taking responsibility with the rest of our community by allocating funds to address that we want a non-kill State for our dogs and cats with the most efficient, humane, and scientifically proven method is to spay and neuter.

1. proven the monthly and yearly euthanasia Humane Society stats for over 10 years show a drastic decline from over 14,000 to roughly around 6,000 and still declining, largely because of the availability in providing low cost, no cost spay and neuter.

We've proven low cost/no cost spay and neuter is the key to decrease animal overpopulation. The decline in euthanasia numbers proves we are on the most effective humane control in preventing unwanted litter births. State monies is needed to further funds in support for spay/neuter.

Respectfully Yours

Frances Pueo President (808) 769-1128

Hui Pono Holoholona/PAWS

P.O. Box 943, Mt. View Hi 96771

LATE

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 12:48:31 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexandra Bernstein	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha - Please, please fund SB 2837. The non-profit organizations that til now do the work of trapping to fix & release can do more if you give them the funding. The more the cats are fixed, the less cat waste will be on the beaches, the less food will be available for mongooses, the less feral disease will spreading around various species.

Personally, we have a retaining wall backing up to a ravine, populated by feral cats & the occasional pig /donkey. Sometimes the cats use my lower terrace as a litter box. For me I am not worried - I know to not wear outside shoes in the house. But it is still a health issue, more so when the mouse and rat population grows, as it does seasonally.

Mahalo

Alexandra Bernstein

LATE

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:07:34 PM
Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony in support of SB2837 which will establish a spay and neuter fund in Hawaii, funded in part by income tax check off. This is a much needed idea and I totally support the concept.

I work with a group in Puna which practices trap, spay/neuter, release at the Keaau transfer station. We also check the cats for lost and abandoned pets and pull out any adoptable cats to find them homes. We also try to provide medical care for those that need it and remove any cats that can't be helped.

Over-population of homeless cats is a serious problem. The best possible solution is a statewide effort to encourage spay and neuter programs. This fund will be a tremendous asset.

LATE

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 2:55:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support.

LATE

SB-2837-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:28:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2022 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

dear Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,

I am in strong support of SB2837 SD1. We must do all we can to support Spay/neuter, a proven, effective, and humane way to reduce animal over population, which is a community problem. We must find humane solutions and this is one of the most effective ones. We must remove obstacles that would prevent them from getting sterilized, which most times, is the lack of funding.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration and for the opportunity to testify.

aloha,

Ginny Tiu, East Oahu