

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)

**TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2837**

**February 11, 2022
1:30 p.m.
Room 224 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 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; and amends Section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF.

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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

To: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair;
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair;
and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Friday, February 11, 2022
Time: 1:30 P.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

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

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2435 for the committee's consideration.

S.B. 2837 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 husband and wife 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 will be able to administer the measure with its current effective date. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2022**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. NO. 2837, RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022 **TIME:** 1:30 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Holly T. Shikada, Attorney General, or
Randall S. Nishiyama, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments on this bill.

This bill establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund (Special Fund) to be administered by the Department of Budget and Finance and allows moneys from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the Special Fund.

While this bill provides funding for the Special Fund, it does not provide an appropriation to permit the expenditure of such moneys from the Special Fund. Article VII, section 5, of the Hawaii State Constitution provides that "[n]o public money shall be expended except pursuant to appropriations made by law." Consequently, without an appropriation to expend moneys from the Special Fund, no moneys can be expended from the Special Fund.

To remedy this constitutional infirmity, we suggest that the following language appropriating moneys out of the Special Fund be added to the bill:

"SECTION . There is appropriated out of the spay and neuter special fund the sum of \$_____ or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of budget and finance."

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2022
1:30 P.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2837
RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2837 relating to spaying and neutering of animals. Senate Bill 2837 establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the 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. The Department of Agriculture defers to Budget and Finance and offers comments.

Taxpayers are currently able to donate funds to any spay neuter provider of their choice such as animal welfare organizations and veterinarians that can provide this service.

The measure allows an advisory committee to determine the criteria and protocols for disbursement of funds. However, no guidelines to assess the progress of the efforts to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats are defined in the measure.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**STONEWALL
CAUCUS**
FORMED IN 2001



THE FIRST CAUCUS OF THE
**DEMOCRATIC PARTY
OF HAWAII**

February 8, 2022

Senate's Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, February 11, 2022 – 1:30 p.m.

RE: Amendment Requested for Senate Bill 2837

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and fellow committee members,

I am writing on behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii (formerly the LGBT Caucus) to request an amendment to Senate Bill 2837. SB 2837 would establish a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

The Stonewall Caucus supports the intent of SB 2837 but is requesting an amendment to recognize that not all married couples in the state of Hawaii are made up of "husband and wife". This has been the case ever since the historic 2013 Special Session that brought marriage equality home to the Aloha State. Legally married couples in our state are now legally made up of a variety of couples, that include but are not limited to: "husband and husband", "wife and wife", "spouse and spouse", "non-binary partner and wife", and on and on.

Here is the amendment the Stonewall Caucus is requesting:

Current language: Page 8, Line 16:

"the case of a joint return of a husband and wife having a state"

Requested amendment: Page 8, Line 16:

"the case of a joint return of a ~~husband and wife~~ married couple having a state"

We hope that you will accept this amendment so the Stonewall Caucus can support this bill outright in future hearings.

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, HB 1610

INTRODUCED BY: SB by RHOADS; HB by NISHIMOTO

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 \$10 for a couple filing a joint return.

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: 2/8/2022



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: February 8, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Clarence Nishihara
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2837:
Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Friday, Feb. 11, 2022, 1:30 p.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 2837, 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 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.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:29:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maui Humane Society	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	Yes

Comments:

Maui Humane Society is in support of SB2837.

Spay/neuter reduces the number of homeless pets and is critical for the management of free-roaming cats. We agree that the free-roaming cat population is too high and that action must be taken to humanely reduce the numbers on all islands. It has been well researched and documented that the only effective way to reduce a free-roaming cat population is through spay/neuter as part of a Trap, Neuter, Release program. Maui Humane Society spay/neutered over 8000 animals last year. Of these, over 3800 were free-roaming community cats, 2300+ were owned pets and the remainder were shelter animals.

Benefits to the State:

- spay/neuter of cats is the only humane method of impacting the free-roaming cat population, long term reduction of population possible**
- it has been researched and well documented that poisoning, shooting, starving free-roaming cats does not/can not eliminate a cat population**
- spay/neuter approach avoids the unavoidable public backlash and outcry that would damage the reputation of Hawaii and impact tourism (this has been documented at a local hotel who attempt to eradicate cats, the backlash from guests was so severe that they now have a feeding station with guests participating in daily feedings)**

Benefits to Pet Owners:

- cost of spay/neuter for owned pets (cats/dogs) at private veterinary clinic is prohibitive for average citizen, between \$250-\$700**
- little to no “access to care opportunities” for pet owners who cannot afford spay/neuter**
- underserved and remote communities do not have access to veterinary care (such as Hana), Maui Humane Society would be able to provide services if funding for additional s/n was available**

Benefits to Humane Societies:

- funding for spay/neuter is no longer available through major grantors as focus is on community access to care**
- MHS currently has no spay/neuter funding in place to maintain low cost services to the public and rates will be increasing**
- statistically, our spay/neuter surgery counts correlate with our shelter intake and Live Release Rate in the following year**
- increased S/N surgeries in a given year have resulted in decreased shelter intake and higher LLR in the following year.**



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

**Adelia Hwang
Operations and Project Manager
Alliance for Contraception in Cats & Dogs**

**Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 10, 2022**

Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chairman Nishihara, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 2837. The Alliance for Contraception in Cats and Dogs (ACC&D) works to advance non-surgical sterilization for cats and dogs. Non-surgical methods of sterilization that are faster, more accessible, and less expensive than surgery will help pets, free-roaming cats, and the people who care about them. We encourage a favorable report on this bill.

This fund will enable more people to have the animals they care for sterilized; this includes pets and free-roaming cats. Achieving a high rate of sterilization is particularly vital for humanely controlling free-roaming cat populations on the islands. This legislation gives taxpayers an easy way to help make sterilization more accessible, which also helps to resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts.

The term “sterilization” includes both surgical as well as non-surgical methods of rendering an animal unable to reproduce. The phrase “spay and neuter” is colloquially used in place of “sterilize,” and for veterinarians this currently means surgically removing an animal’s reproductive organs (typically ovariectomy and castration, respectively). These nuances are important because while surgical sterilization is the only form of permanent sterilization currently available, very promising progress is being made in the field of non-surgical sterilization. A long-time ACC&D collaborator, [Michelson Prize and Grants](#), has funded research on a single-dose injectable sterilant for female cats, and this work has recently shifted from a research-only focus to seeking federal regulatory approval. Because the availability of an FDA-approved non-surgical sterilant for cats will greatly improve the state’s ability to control its free-roaming cat populations effectively and humanely, it is imperative that the fund also support access to non-surgical methods as they become available. For this reason, we respectfully request that the word “surgery” under section (a) be removed to allow for consideration of non-surgical methods under the program. Alternatively, replacing instances of “spay or neuter” with the more precise term “sterilization” would prevent any confusion that non-surgical methods can be considered under the fund.

This issue has recently received attention in Illinois, where [SB 1673](#) was passed last spring amending the state’s Animal Control Act. That legislation replaced references to “spay or neuter” with “sterilize,” ensuring that non-surgical sterilants can be accessed in the same way as surgical sterilization, including contributions to county animal population control funds.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 1:26:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I love this bill! Great idea.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 3:13:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop stealing money from the People. They have more than Enough Money feom there doners.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:23:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Committee,

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of SB 2837.

Investing in spaying and neutering is a sure-fire way to address overpopulation, as shown by states on the mainland (who now have to import pets to meet demand for adoption.) Hawai'i, by contrast, 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.

Furthermore, this bill would support groups who are actively 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 pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation. Finally, it would help low-income and houseless pet owners access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

Please pass SB 2837.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, Taurie Kinoshita, born, raised and lifelong Oahu resident

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 7:09:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, encouraging people to support spay and neutering. Provides humane, effective measures to address unwanted litters.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 5:34:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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 ! Vivian Toellner, Eastside Hawai'i Island

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 8:41:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 9:45:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:26:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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](#) Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals to be heard by the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment on Friday Feb.11.

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 homeless animal guardians to access affordable spay/neuter.

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

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/8/2022 10:52:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2837. Spaying and neutering pet cats and dogs, and free roaming cats is an effective way in reducing the overpopulation of cats and dogs in the State of Hawaii. We need more funds to pay vets to do the surgeries. Since getting a State funding to spay and neutering animals is next to impossible, establishing a spay and neuter special fund by an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund is no brainer.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:14:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of SB2837.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:00:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2837. Spaying and neutering animals is an effective way of establishing population control. So many pet owners do not have the resources to get their pet spayed or neutered, their pets have multiple litters of pups and kittens that are often dumped, abandoned or surrendered leading to larger feral populations. Animal shelters and animal rescues will also have a cost effective way of spaying/neutering adoptable animals so they can find their forever homes. One way to support this program is by establishing a state fund that compassionate individuals can contribute a few cents or a few dollars (analogous to the Hawaii Election Campaign fund).

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:07:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jody Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose funding the neuter and **RELEASE** of cats into the Hawaiian landscape. Feral cats needs to be removed from Hawaii's public lands because they **SPREAD TOXOPLASMOSIS**, they **KILL NATIVE SPECIES**, and releasing them into the wild without vet care is **CRUEL**.

Hawaii Humane Society (bless their intentions) benefits directly **FINANCIALLY** from this program, which **UNDERMINES** the efforts of conservationists to **PROTECT ENDANGERED SPECIES**.

STOP FUNDING THIS! Figure out another way to support the Hawaii Humane Society. Trap and adopt out or shelter feral cats.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:08:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support SB 2837, which allows tax filers to check a box to fund animal spay/neuter in Hawaii. This is a humane way to greatly reduce the over-population of pets.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:35:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of Senate Bill 2837 (SB2937). It is rather obvious that passage of this Bill will benefit our Community of people and our animal friends.

Please support this Bill.

Thank You!



9 February 2022

Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

As an emerging grassroots network striving to bring people together across Oahu's north and windward shores to ensure that the region that we call home is welcoming, inclusive, and supportive of LGBTQ+ individuals, the North Shore Ko'olau Diversity Collective writes in support of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii's request for an amendment to SB2837.

While we too support the bill's intent to establish a spay and neuter special fund and allow funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund, it's important to recognize that not all married couples in Hawai'i are made up of a "husband and wife."

This has been the case since the historic 2013 Special Session that established marriage equality in the Aloha State. Legally married couples in Hawai'i are can now also be legally recognized "husband and husband," wife and wife," spouse and spouse," "non-binary partner and wife," and so on.

We, therefore, support the Stonewall Caucus amendment requesting to change:

Current language on Page 8, Line 16: *"the case of a joint return of a husband and wife having a state"*

To amended language for Page 8, Line 16: *"the case of a joint return of a married couple having a state"*

We hope you will make this simple amendment to ensure that no legally married couples are excluded in Hawai'i State Law.

Mahalo for your attention,

*Joe Wilson, Liz Rago, Michelle Johnson Blimes,
Hao Le, Bethany Berry-Weiss, Kunane Dreier, Torrey Lock*
Organizing Committee



SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 10:15:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chairperson Nishihara and Committee Members Acasio, Fevella and Rhoads.

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

Please support SB 2837. It's my understanding that this bill allows Hawaii taxpayers to easily support spaying and neutering of pet animals and free roaming cats, aids non-profits which rescue and rehome animals, supports groups working to humanely reduce the population of free roaming cats and helps low income individuals with access to spaying and neutering services for their animal companions. I think this bill helps animals, pet owners, non-profits and veterinary clinics. Mahalo to Committee Member Rhoads for introducing this bill.

Mahalo Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chairperson Nishihara and Committee Members Acasio, Fevella and Rhoads for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:03:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beate Neher	Testifying for Petfix Spay and Neuter	Support	No

Comments:

Petfix Spay and Neuter is a 501 (c)3 non-profit organization on the Big Island. We conduct mass spay/neuter clinics in the more underdeveloped areas of the Big Island. In 2020 we altered 1505 animals and in 2021, 2343 animals. Our limitation is the funding. The vets are the only persons being paid. On top of the vet costs we need supplies. Petfix Spay and Neuter is the only organization on the Big Island besides Advocats and Catsnip (both for cats only) who does mass sterilizations.

We cannot solve the problem of pet overpopulation by adoption. Spay and neuter is the only way!

Kiira Baker
91-1083 Kumulipo Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

RE: SB2837

I have been a colony caretaker for over a decade. Just this year alone (2022), I have spayed/neutered 51 community cats with the help of Hawaiian Humane Society and Cat Friends. Without low-cost or free services, TNR would not be possible for someone like me. SB2837 would aide in ensuring the help needed to actively continue these efforts of reducing the free-roaming cat population.

I support establishing a Spay and Neuter Special Fund from income tax check-off designation deposits.

Respectfully,

Kiira Baker

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:26:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bridget Neher	Testifying for PETFIX Spay and Neuter	Support	No

Comments:

PETFIX Spay and Neuter has altered 2,343 animals in 2021. In order to continue free spay/neuter clinics in underdeveloped areas like Ka'u und Puna we urgently need reimbursement by the County. The only way to lower the overpopulation is by conducting mass spay/neuter. Our organization provides professional clinics and is able to conduct 4-5 clinics per month at 45 dogs or 75 cats each, if reimbursement is provided.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:37:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Simpson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Spay neuter clinics are the best way to humanely deal with the cat population on the Island.

There are hundreds of volunteers that help with these programs, helping with the clinics, and bringing in cats from managed colonies. This makes the whole procedure much more affordable.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:41:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill which will help support TNR. TNR is the most effective and humane way to keep the overgrowing numbers of feral cats down. Mahalo.

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 9, 2022

Re: SB2837

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

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

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

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:20:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia F Tucker PsyD	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for hearing my testimony. I am a licensed Clinical Psychologist with a private practice on the Windward side of O'ahu. I strongly support SB2837 as an innovative and positive expansion of ways and means for the public to have a Spay and Neuter Special Fund, benefitting the free-roaming cat population is in the interest of cats, wildlife, the environment. This fund also benefits humans as well as cats and wildlife, in terms of less suffering by means of humane ways that effectively lessen animal overpopulation via spaying and neutering.

Again, this is compassionate as well as innovative Bill and can allow good citizens and compassionate people to give vital resources from citizens for the Special Fund. I also believe it to be good role modeling for our keiki, to learn innovative and humane approaches to complex issues that I would strongly support.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 1:10:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

[SB2837](#) Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

To be heard on Friday, Feb.11, at 1:30 p.m.

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair

Sen. Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Anne Forshey/anneforshey@gmail.com/410-294-0987

I am delighted to voice my support for this creative and innovative approach to help tackle a difficult environmental problem 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 way for our citizens to help with state-wide overpopulation problems and help to create a 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 of SB 2837. I hope we are able to quickly move to put this special fund into practice.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 2:38:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Torun Almer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass SB2837. Thank you.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:01:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa J Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I absolutely support this measure as a humane way of taking care of the free-roaming cat population. There are MANY people and groups who would be willing to help in this humane way of reducing the suffering by reducing reproduction of cat population.

We need more compassion rather than destruction of lives. This is a great method of doing so.

I commend the creators of this bill and the supporters.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:13:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hawaii has more homeless pet animals than families looking to adopt -- unlike some mainland states where spay/neuter programs have eliminated overpopulation of pet animals and free-roaming cats. SB 2837 helps address this problem by establishing a special fund, supported by a voluntary income-tax checkoff, to provide affordable spay/neuter programs for pet animals. There will be no significant cost to the state. I urge your yes vote on this measure.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:15:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ray Sundstrom	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our district of Ka'u, Hawaii Island has a large pet population and scarce resources for reproductive health and humane population control. There is access to veterinary care, for those who can afford it, but for a sizeable portion of the pet-owning population access is out of reach due to lack of funds.

The result of above is pet overpopulation, and a growing problem of abandoned animals adding to a feral community. Packs of homeless dogs are a public safety and public cost concern. Feral cats disrupt the bird population and carry serious diseases.

Ka'u does have quite good spay and neuter services in volunteer organizations like Pet/Fix, staffed by veterinary professionals who provide spay/neuter and health services to pets free of charge to their owners. Their dedication and high quality care deserves funding commensurate to their value to the community.

I speak for many in the community in urging you to pass this legislation.

Aloha,

Ray Sundstrom

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:33:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to get spay/neuter clinics, such as Petfix and others, reimbursed by the County for the services that they provide. There are not enough low cost resources for this service in Hawaii. Vets are all backed up for months and spay/neuter needs to be done in a timely manner. These spay/neuter clinics run by non-profits like Petfix offer free spay/neuter. There are way too many unwanted kittens and puppies on this island and this program is valuable and must be supported.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 3:38:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elise Travis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support Bill SB2837. This bill is very important. It is the only way to solve the situation with all the Feral cats. Please ,for the humane way this bill needs to get passed. It is the Aloha way. It will stop these cats from reproducing once and for all. Thank-you, Elise Travis



February 9, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Clarence Nishihara
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: Testimony in support to SB2837: Relating to the spaying and neutering of animals

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports Senate Bill 2837 and the campaign to increase spay and neuter efforts across Hawai`i. KHS houses around 3,000 animals a year, the majority of which come to the shelter unaltered (not spayed or neutered). With a population of 72,000 people on Kaua`i there are simply not enough homes for Kaua`i's homeless animals.

Last year, KHS took in 700 neonate kittens, those are kittens that were born in 2021. Despite our efforts to spay and neuter thousands of animals a year and hosting programs, such as Greater Good Charities' Good Fix program, that spayed and neutered almost 2,000 cats in a two-week time frame, more is needed.

Financial support toward spay and neuter efforts can help decrease the homeless pet population and free-roaming cat population. The spread of toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*) in the environment could be halted by the spaying and neutering of cats as kittens are at the greatest risk to being infected by the parasite and shedding the parasite into the environment, potentially endangering wildlife.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 2837 as it will allow taxpayers to support an initiative that supports their community, their environment, and saves lives. This bill is to the benefit of pets, free-roaming cats, wildlife, environment, and the residents of Hawai`i. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,

Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 4:31:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Armstrong	Testifying for Love A Cat Charity	Support	No

Comments:

Love A Cat Charity is based in Pearl City (Pacific Palisades) and we operate using a system of foster homes which raise our kittens/moms totally indoors and look for indoor homes for them AFTER they are spayed/neutered. In 2021 we took in 113 kittens (including 3 moms) and all were spayed/neutered before adoption. The cost of this fixing is one of our large expenses. This bill would cover those costs.

Mahalo for considering this awesome bill.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:56:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am submitting written testimony in support of SB2837. Please include free roaming cats as well in this bill. As a resident of Hawaii and an animal lover I think this bill would help immeasurably with the population control of the free roaming cat population. I support this.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 5:18:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cynthia Walsh	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

do it it works

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 6:22:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
barbara steinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

please do help cats with a fund for spay and neuter as it will help greatly with population control of felines in Hawaii. It will be the kind thing to do for all

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 7:27:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hannah Israel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am Hannah Israel, and I live in Captain Cook, Hawaii, 96704. I am writing to strongly support the humane bill 2837. Overpopulation of animals in Hawaii, both pets and free-roaming cats, cause suffering of the individual animals and the people who witness such suffering. I support a spay/neuter fund from optional check-offs on the state income tax form to support the new fund. By providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care, a most humane solution to overpopulation and suffering can be achieved. As the Legislature stated, "humane reduction of the free-roaming cat population is in the interest of cats, wildlife, the environment, and humans." Its a winning solution for all. I salute and thank the Legislature for presenting and considering this most needed bill.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:24:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kat Mashima	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment:

I respectfully write in support of SB 2837 that would establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund from income tax check-off designation deposits.

As a child, I had a habit of befriending stray cats around my childhood home in Nuuanu and taking them in as my own. My mom did not have much money, but she loved the cats too and used her own money to take care of the vet bills and get all our cats fixed. We did it on our own because we loved them and didn't want any more cats on the street to suffer because of the ignorance and irresponsibility of humans.

Now that I am a parent myself, I found myself in a situation where a mother cat hid her kittens in my back yard. If I hadn't gotten help from a friend who was an independent cat rescuer, I would have never known about the Trap Neuter and Release program. She helped me trap the mother and her kittens and I took her to the Humane Society to get fixed under their free-roaming fix program. She's now my outdoor semi-feral and two of her kittens live indoors with me (who I paid my vet to neuter). Her other two kittens went to a responsible foster. I was only able to get her fixed because that was when we could just walk into HHS and they would take us that same day. It was wonderful. It was easy, free, and we didn't mind doing the work of catching the cat and releasing her when ready. My children learned the importance of spaying and neutering your animals thought this. I even helped a friend help get her elderly father's feral cat fixed at HHS through that program also. He said he would not have done it if it was too difficult.

But since then, HHS's program has gotten much more difficult for people like us to use. I can only speculate it is because of the lack of funding for their program, and I understand they need to limit the amount of fixes they do during these times. However, the appointment system is not practical, and deters the everyday people who would have taken in a feral cat/cats for fixing if it was easier to do so. Since then, I have TNRed two more cats with the help of a non-profits who had spaces to neuter the cats because I could not get them to HHS.

I have several friends in the cat rescue community who work independently and care for colonies so they can TNR, care for them, and manage the population. They go out there several nights a week and deal with hostile people who don't understand what they're doing, they get harassed, risk getting assaulted, and sacrifice their personal time and money to help these animals because they love them. Please support SB 2837 and provide more funding for Spay and

Neuter programs for the numerous cat rescuers that need to utilize them so we can significantly reduce the free-roaming cat population in a humane way.

Very Respectfully,

Kat Mashima

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 8:43:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Spay and Neuter is the humane method for animal population management. As appropriate, HB1987 was strongly opposed due to the inhumane method of eradication of cats by poison.

IF the State of Hawaii wants to ensure animal population management, special funds must be appropriated to residents who are committed to spay/neuter but do not have the funds. These funds must be available to citizens and their pets and to colony managers who care for abandoned and stray felines.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:05:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
melissa duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Spay/neuter/release programs have been proven to humanely reduce the stray and feral cat populations in other areas. Many more pet owners would have their pets spayed/neutered if there were programs that were free or low-cost.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:18:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruth Castrigno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live in Kula, Maui and I absolutely support this bill. I believe this will help with the feral cat population, hence saving lives.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:20:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a step in the right direction in curing the population of homeless cats. TRN and spay/neuter is the only proven method in decreasing these populations.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:29:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gabrielle Naughten	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this bill and feel this is the correct path to ensure animal overpopulation is humanly controlled in contrast to SB 1987. Additionally, if any of the state's budget surplus can also be allocated to this endeavor, that would be welcome.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 9:53:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lianne Malterre	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. I am in full support of Bill SB2837 establishing a spay/neuter fund. This funding is desperately needed as a humane way to address overpopulation. Hawai'i needs more animal welfare resources!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 11:50:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Ben-Dayan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Ben-Dayan of Makawao, Maui and I am testifying on behalf of this bill.

As an individual, I have been working hard in my community to help get the stray cats as well as those we rescue and adopt out to all be spayed and neutered and I have first hand experience in how frustrating it can be to get appointments at Maui Humane Society for their affordable spay neuter program. They are at capacity with their current funding and waiting MONTHS for an appointment is a recipe for unwanted pregnancies,

Going to the veterinarians is not always a feasible option for so many as it is often an expense people cannot afford. With that as the only other way to get animals fixed, TOO often, they just don't -- then we get this overcrowding of kittens.

This is a community problem and I truly believe if we all work together, we can get this under control. MOST people do WANT to spay/neuter so we need to help make it possible and within reach for those who cannot afford the bill at the vets offices.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Jennifer Ben-Dayan

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 5:56:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tina Messerschmidt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this bill. It is crucial to control the community cat population, in a humane way. TNR is the most humane way to control population. We cannot end this over population unless we control how they reproduce. Every donation helps the cost and providing another donation option can only open more doors, in turn saving lives.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:11:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane H. Chait	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a long time volunteer with different groups to support the native and endemic wildlife in Hawaii. Cats and dogs are a threat to these populations. Therefore I support efforts to spay and neuter cats and dogs as well as financially assist those residents unable to afford the services. I support this bill.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:39:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katrina Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The service offered with these clinics is necessary and needs to be expanded. The cat populations are out of hand and I've used it personally for our neighborhood. If the program was not in place, the alternatives are way worse. I couldn't take them to the pound because the chance of euthanasia is more than I like, and relocating just puts the problem onto others. We need more funding for more clinics. At this time it's nearly impossible to plan the month long wait in dealing with my current roaming clusters. More funding please!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 7:57:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Miyamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the House Committees & Hawaii State
Senators.
#105,Wailuku,HI 96793. 808-385-
5735.

From: Carol Ann Miyamoto. 1010 Eha St.

Aloha, My name is Carol Miyamoto and I am for the proposed bill SB2837,creating a spay/neuter fund,from optional check offs on the state tax form for residents. When I lived in Maryland in the mid 80's,I had a conversation with a woman from Canada and we spoke of laws on spay & neutering free roaming cats in Canada,she told me that it was manadatory in the providence she lived that every tax payer must pay \$1.00 toward the payment to spay/ neuter free roaming cats on their tax form and that it helped control the feral cat population in her area of Canada. I am excited for the proposed bill SB2837 to be passed,this is a big step in the beginning of reducing the free roaming/ feral cats here on Maui and in our state. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to make positive comments on this proposed bill SB2837 that I am for 100%.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:17:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments: I am in favor of this bill. Let's take the proven and humane path to alleviate suffering for animals, caused initially by humans. In turn, this will have far-reaching pro-environmental effects. Please vote FOR this bill. It's been a long-time coming. Thank you!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:19:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of house bill 2837. I feel that the animals of Hawaii would benefit exponentially from this bill. Affordable spay and neuter programs will help pet owners and encourage people to help with population control of animals, along with reducing the number of animals in our overwhelmed shelters. I also would like to say that our community cats and their caretakers who work tirelessly to help with population control would benefit greatly from this bill. With a funded program it will be possible continue trap neuter release programs that have been proven to humanely reduce cat populations. Aloha, and thank you for voting in favor of this bill.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:25:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Fritz	Testifying for Conflictresolution.com	Support	No

Comments:

Finally, a logical, humane and productive measure geared toward addressing the feline overpopulation. Bravo! I sincerely hope this is only the beginning, but it's a great start! Let's keep up the positive and efficient brain-storming regarding these innocent animals.

I reiterate my offer to sit on and wholly participate in any committee formed to effect solutions to this challenge. This challenge **is** surmountable, and in a humane and sensible manner. We need the **motivation** and **intelligence** and **desire** to accomplish it.

These animals are innocent and powerless: let us help them!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:37:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I'm Jennifer Ho, a resident in Nuuanu, and I support Bill SB2837 to allow a special fund to help spay and neuter animals. This will help reduce the population of unwanted animals on the island, including feral cats. I've seen this work first hand in British Columbia, Canada, where the population of unwanted animals is so small, that people will travel for miles to find a shelter where they can adopt a pet.

Thank you,

Jennifer Ho

808-221-7229

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:50:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members: I am one of the numerous volunteers that regularly feed homeless cats at one of the transfer stations. We trap for spay or neutering those cats that do not have clipped ears. We do this at our own cost but my group is only affecting a tiny part of the population. There are hundreds of thousands of homeless cats throughout our state and the problem is too great for volunteers to be able to make significant headway. This bill would create a fund from resources already subject to collection to be dedicated for the purpose of spay and neutering. One homeless cat can be the source of hundreds of kittens that also add to the problem. This bill provides the resources needed to expedite the process of controlling this population.

I also support amendments to the bill that would change existing statute language of "husband and wife" to "married couples".

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 8:50:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
DARLENE RAYHILL	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My non-profit organization, Good Cat Network, is collaborating with other native species rescue groups to come up with a comprehensive plan to address the feral cat crisis. Funding and dedication to TNRM is one of the most important aspects to this plan.

Below is an excerpt of what a team member has come up with to modify and increase the success of the TNRM process:

We support this bill and thank you for your time.

Mahalo,

Darlene and the Good Cat Network

PRONG 1- TRAPPING

Mission- to create an economy, of sorts, and tangible incentives around the trapping and neutering of feral cats. VETTED, trained, and known trappers would be paid a bounty by the county through GCN per cat for the safe and humane trapping and return to field of feral cats. Presently a few dedicated souls spend countless hours and great sums of their personal money thrashing against the tidal wave of feral animals on this island with little support. MHS has neither the funds or the ability to be the SOLE entity to resolve this issue. Bounties, for better or worse, have proven to be an effective management method for centuries for pest animals.

PRONG 2- NEUTERING

A dedicated on site basic surgical room where paid or volunteer veterinary staff could fall in on and perform MASH style clinics. To start, once a week clinics of 60-80 cats could get the 5000 cat per year bounty goal reached. Ultimately though, to truly solve the crisis, a dedicated faculty must be constructed on the donated land from the county. This facility could also function as GCN

headquarters, storage, intake, foster, and various other functions apart from the surgical clean room. Again, this would be the ultimate DREAM setup with kennels, cages, office space, surgical clean room, etc. this would not be required for the initial phase but an ultimate goal.

PRONG 3- RETURN TO FIELD

In concert with wildlife management professionals, GCN would identify sensitive colony areas and feral cat colonies in dangerous or ecologically unsustainable locations. These colonies would be humanely relocated to county supplied “sanctuary” lands and cared for by volunteers. The low risk colony cats would be returned to the locations they were trapped at and managed by the vetted and educated feeders responsible for those areas. The ultimate goal would, of course, be the elimination of all feral cats on the island of Maui. Accomplished not through euthanasia, but through fixing the ones currently out there, educating the public, and providing permanent FREE EASY ACCESS to sterilization either at MHS or a GCN facility.

PRONG 4- MANAGEMENT

The vetted and educated colony caretakers will continue their tireless work while placing an emphasis on the trapping and neutering of their charged colonies. In concert with this will be the establishment of an “at risk colony sanctuary”. County lands and funds would be needed for the establishment of a safe house for cats unable to be returned to field for either their own safety or the safety of sensitive native ecologies. Startup costs below assume donation/grant of the land and it having basic utilities on site already such as electric and water.... An area of at least five acres would be required to provide enough space for the cats to be separated and secured.

Mr. Chairman and Members:

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.

My wife and I have worked with cat colonies for over 20 years. Therefore, we were saddened to see that the income tax check off for joint returns designated for "husband and wife". All married couples, who pay state income tax, should be able to contribute to this fund. Please add the amendments proposed by the Stonewall Caucus to correct this oversight.

Mahalo on behalf on the kitties and all of the married couples of Hawaii.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:11:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen J McCardel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in support of SB2837 to create a special fund to support spay/neuter services in the state of Hawaii. This fund would help lift the burden currently carried by individuals and nonprofit organizations that are addressing the state's overpopulation of cats and dogs. Access to free or low-cost spay/neuter services is a tremendous hurdle to overcoming the pet overpopulation problem and all of the cultural, social, health, and environmental issues surrounding it. This bill is an important first step to a comprehensive program to deal with the state's pet overpopulation problem.

I hope that once the fund is established, a way for individuals to contribute to the fund through means other than tax refunds will be developed.

Thank you for supporting the spay/neuter efforts of so many caring residents of Hawaii



**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 Agriculture and Environment
February 10, 2022**

Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chairman Nishihara, 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 near 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.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:21:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Luire Kawasaki	Testifying for Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Any additional funds that we receive helps us to continue our programs to humanely treat all animals, provide shelter, food and medical attention and find forever homes for them. In addition it is a convenient way for people to donate to the Humane Society.

Regards,

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:27:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

This proposal would help our island so much. The many volunteers will be even more fired up to help humanely control the cat situation if our local organizations receive more funding.

Mahalo!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 9:31:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen Gridley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill would greatly help with much needed funding to support TNR efforts. Here on Maui it is very expensive to spay or neuter a cat without taking it to the Humane Society, but it can sometimes take a couple months to get an appointment. There are many people trying to help control the feral cat population through TNR here on the island, but we need easier access to low cost spay and neutering. Any funds to help make this an easier process will benefit the cats, other wildlife and people who care about them. Thank you for considering this.



Molokai Humane Society

P.O. Box 1258
Kaunakakai, HI. 96748
(808) 558-0000

3104 Maunaloa Hwy
Hoolehua, HI. 96729
molokaihumanesociety@gmail.com

Thursday February 10, 2022

Aloha Senators Gabbard, Nishihara, and Committee Members,

My name is Hoala Davis, and I am the Executive Director of the Molokai Humane Society. I am writing in support of S.B. No 2837, relating to establishing a spay and neuter fund. There is currently no State funding to support these types of programs, which are critical for properly managing animal overpopulation, free roaming cat populations, and wildlife areas.

Because of the size and isolation of Molokai, we have been able to see and track firsthand the success of targeted spay and neuter programs for population control. We no longer have large feral cat colonies, especially not in protected or wildlife areas. Colonies that do exist are carefully monitored and controlled. The key has been in our ability to offer low-cost sterilization to our residents in an ongoing basis to ensure that there is no overpopulation of cats and dogs.

When we began our targeted programs, the challenge was in educating the Community and encouraging our residents to bring their animals in for spay and neuter. Now our challenge is in the funding of these programs, and this challenge is widespread across the State of Hawaii as well as the Nation. The constant fluctuation of Covid related issues, in the form of employee shortages, medication unavailability, and distribution shortages of critical supplies often leave our budgets in disarray. These have been some of the greatest challenges keeping these services affordable. Now add the limitation of available funds through private donors, foundations, and government agencies. We are always at risk of budget downfalls effecting our ability to effectively provide services to our community.

An established State fund would provide another means of support for these services. In addition, it will provide the opportunity for taxpayers to directly support the programs if they choose to. The advisory committee would be comprised of individuals with direct knowledge of spay and neuter and animal welfare, ensuring that the funding would be properly allocated throughout the State.

This is an opportunity for the entire State of Hawaii to both support and benefit from spay and neuter services. Please support S.B. No 2837 so that we can continue to advocate for and manage the animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Hoala Davis
Executive Director
Molokai Humane Society

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 10:11:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MacKenzie Aries	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is a much more sensible option for both taxpayers and the cats than other bills put forth suggesting poisoning. Spaying and neutering cats is a humane method of population control.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 10:59:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:03:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rod Aries	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Here is the easiest way to handle feral cats...

Establish four feral cat farms, Hilo, Kona, Havi, south Island

Construct barrier proof fences, simple barns and structures. Staff them with maintenance/well-being staff. Capture all feral cats and and bring them to closest cat farm to live out their lives.

Cheapest way, humane.



HAWAII ISLAND
**HUMANE
SOCIETY**

The mission of the Hawaii Island Humane Society
is to prevent cruelty to animals, eliminate pet overpopulation
and enhance the bond between humans and animals.

February 10, 2022

Dear Senator Gabbard and Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Senate Committee on
Agriculture and Environment,

This letter is in support of Bill SB2837 relating to the spaying and neutering of animals.

My name is Lauren Nickerson and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Island
Humane Society.

Hawaii is a state that is plagued by the overpopulation of free-roaming, straying, and
otherwise abandoned or unwanted companion animals. Accidentally or unplanned
breeding of pet animals greatly contributes to high populations in our shelters. Hawaii
Island Humane Society experiences a constant demand for incoming animals, and our
shelters continue to operate at or overcapacity. Rampant breeding of intact, free-roaming
cats is an ongoing issue that affects not only the quality of life for those animals, but also
creates environmental and public health challenges. The reality is that all animal shelters
and animal welfare groups in the state are overrun with animals in our care and constant
requests for continued assistance with free-roaming and companion animals. It is a
continual cycle of need and the demand can exceed the capacity for care. The number
one barrier to addressing these issues identified by local animal welfare groups is
insufficient funding for free or low-fee spay/neuter. The state does not allocate any
resources to address these issues.

Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS) operates solely as a non-profit organization, relying
on donations and grants to fund our operations. HIHS provides weekly low-cost spay and
neuter clinics at both of our locations in Keaau and Kona. In order to keep the cost low for
the community, our services are currently subsidized by donor funds. Government-
provided funding for spay and neuter services would allow us to expand our services and
operations to better serve the people and animals of our community.

We encourage you to consider that "animal issues" are also people issues and that the
overpopulation of animals impacts far more than the animals or the animal welfare
community. Government-funded spay and neuter is necessary to humanely reduce the
number of pets that are either free-roaming or entering animal shelters across the state.

Hawaii Island Humane Society is in support of Bill SB2837.

Lauren Nickerson
Lauren@hihs.org
808-334-3361

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:13:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
katherine florer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill. It is a far better solution than HB1987.

Resprectively,

Katherine Florer

Kailua-Kona, Hi.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:29:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Patton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This is the best idea I've heard in a long time! Cat overpopulation exploded when the shelters closed for covid, and spay-neuter services were hard to come by. Offering Abundant low- and no-cost spay-neuter gets at the heart of the problem. It is the only way to truly solve the problem of free-roaming cats. This is a painless way to fund and increase those services.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:40:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emery Sagucio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The feral animal population on Hawaii Island is rampant and thousands of animals have to be euthanized yearly. Access to spay and neuter programs can help to deter some of those unwanted pregnancies and deaths. Hawaii Island tried not euthanizing animals when Rainbow took over and that was not a success. Sadly the only way to keep animal populations is through prevention like spay and neuter programs and also euthanasia.

February 10, 2022

Re: SB2837 Relating to the Spay and Neutering of animals

Dear Legislature,

I strongly support the above bill. Please consider passing the bill on so we can reduce the feral cat population and also the number animals turned into the local shelter. As a resident and voter in the Mililani district, again please support SB2837.

Mahalo!

Gayle Puou

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:41:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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 spay and neuter 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. Thank you.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 11:50:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Paying taxes is more fun when a little bit is going to something that one truly values.:)

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:01:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chrissey yeaman carbonie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of free spray and neuter clinics. We have such a problem on this island with animals. This is one way to stop it. Very much in support of this bill.



ANIMAL BALANCE

Animal Balance is an NGO that has created humane animal population management programs worldwide. For four years, from 2015-2019, we moved from island to island training the Hawaiian NGOs in the set-up of Mobile Animal Surgical Hospitals (MASH), logistics, and organizational documents.

We also trained techs and vets in high-volume, high-quality spay/neuter (HVHQS) technical skills. We provided each island with over 100 traps and transfer cages. Additionally, we opened a 'SpayPod' on Kaua'i that focused on cat spay/neuter for over a year. In all, we spayed over 6,000 cats and dogs on Oahu, Hawaii, Molokai and Kauai.

In 2019, we brought Dr. Marilyn Cruz, Director of the Agency for Biosecurity for Galapagos (ABG), who are the protectors of biodiversity and bio-security of the Galapagos islands (our 18-year partners in implementing cat/dog population control), to meet with Governor Ige. Dr. Cruz shared with him how we work together on the Galapagos to effectively manage all species, resident, native and those who have arrived since Darwin's time.

Animal Balance fully supports the proposal by the Hawaiian Humane Society to increase the ability for people to spay/neuter community cats in their neighborhoods. It's by working with the community that we will see the cat populations decline. Trap-neuter-return works as long as you have community support and you do!

There is an army of people in the Hawaiian Islands who know how to perform these programs at a very large scale. The Hawaiian Islands need help financially so that people can afford the spay/neuter service. This proposal is a perfect way to obtain those funds fairly.

As a grant writer, I see the changes foundations make in the projects and geographic locations they will fund. It is very hard to be awarded grants for Hawaii as it is assumed that the islands are rich in resources. However, the reality is very different, as it's an expensive place to live.

The pandemic has caused an increase in cat and dog populations globally. All governments are trying to work out how to combat the lack of spay/neuter. This bill could become a model for other governments to emulate.

Animal Balance endorses this bill, as proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:10:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikki Russell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The spay/neuter process for free roaming cats is essential for population control and decreasing the population overall. Assisting the community (private vets/humane societies/rescues) with the cost of spay/neuter surgery will help the state with the overpopulation issue and is an excellent approach. This is the most humane way to preserve our islands and allow the community to help solve the overpopulation problem.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:20:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cherie Okada-Carlson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou, I will keep it brief: PLEASE support SB2837. Along with the animal cruelty, welfare, and treatment concerns that this bill will help allievate, there are ENVIRONMENTAL and ECOLOGICAL considerations. People will revert to poisoning and shooting stray and feral nuisance animals. Poisons left out will damage our ecosystem(s). Feral and stray cats decimate already endangered native and indigenous birds. Toxoplaxmosis from cats at beaches are poisoning our Monk Seals.

This is just one of many articles but a decent introduction to the issue: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/moral-cost-of-cats-180960505/>

Our keiki (and tourists) need to swim at clean beaches not giant litter boxes. Please pass SB2837, it will improve the quality of life for our pet animals, our endangered birds and wildlife, and our State's fragile ecosystems.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:33:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julianna Jochumson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this and would like to see it pass.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:35:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth Mende	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB2837. Several groups caring for the feral cat populations on the Big Island have had much success with TNR programs, as a humane and effective means of feral cat population control. I humbly ask that you please support this bill.

Mahalo,

Beth Mende

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:45:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Weikum	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I live on the island of Maui, in Wailea, and I help manage two cat colonies in addition to having adopted one cat from Maui Humane Society and having rescued another cat from a colony. I'm in support of this bill to help provide more funds for additional spay and neuter surgeries. We need humane help in controlling the cat population and even a small fee can hinder potential adoptions of cats by people who don't have the extra money. There are many people who would help take in and adopt a cat but who cannot afford the surgery. There are also many people who already own a cat who see the fee as a hurdle they can't overcome to to spay/neuter their pet. Please approve this bill which will go a long way toward helping people help animals.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:38:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Frangipane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe Maui is in great need of program that help facilitate spay and neuter including for free roaming cats. I think this bill will help humanely control the cat population on Maui. This is a win for all. Thank you.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:46:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher M Profio	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill is an excellent idea, and the fund is sorely needed. I would contribute to the fund via my state income tax return.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:16:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Evan Webb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this measure for the good of the islands, the human residents, and the animals. Please ensure to include "Free roaming cats" in this measure. Mahalo!

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:16:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy McDavid	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

There is a major problem with feral cat overpopulation in Hawaii. The most humane way to solve this issue is spay and neuter. The more cats that can be spayed and neutered, the more the cat population will start to decline. there are volunteers who work tirelessly on this issue, but there is not enough funding. I personally have been helping a neighbor trap & spay/neuter his feral cat colony of 50+ cats. It is a challenge made even harder by the fact that is is very hard to get affordable spaying and neutering done. there are a few free clinics, such as Petfix, but they are booked months in advance. Meanwhile, my neighbor's cats are multiplying exponentially. If there was affordable spay and neuter available, we could trap the cats & put a stop on his colony multiplying. This bill would make a huge impact to curbing our overpopulation of feral cats. Please consider supporting this bill.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 12:59:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Delana Natividad	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We as a community need to help stop the growing population of animals on the island. It is the responsible thing to do, especially with the amount of people who continue to feed our feral cat population. I would like to encourage and support this bill to be passed.

Strong SUPPORT for SB2837

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Friday, February 22, 2022
1:30PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I strongly support SB2837 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

I don't want poor unknowing animals neglected on their own. This is Hawaii, an island that appreciates all living things. Let's help them as a community for preventative care and to limit unnecessary overpopulation. Many volunteers, and even myself are willing to step up and join in on the and spaying and neutering efforts. It's a small price to pay for such a large reward. Most of all, we are maintaining them and saving many lives too precious to throw away ... they are here too on this island, and we as a community needs to spread the kindness and care to these living and existing beings, just like us!!! Thank you for your support as we strive toward a kinder Hawaii that sets us apart from the rest of the country!! You are making a difference by helping the animals!! Thank you so much!!

Sincerely,

Barbara Tsai

SUPPORT for SB2837

TO: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Friday, February 22, 2022

1:30PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I strongly support SB2837 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. **Please don't kill feral cats which are feral due to no fault of their own. The humane solution is mass spaying/neutering.** This bill will save lives!

States on the mainland that have invested in subsidizing spay/neuter for pet animals have seen a drastic drop in pet overpopulation. Local shelters fly animals to the West Coast to find new homes because demand for pets exceeds the supply. That has not happened in Hawaii. Insufficient access to free or affordable spay/neuter services means there are more animals in need of homes than families looking to adopt across our state.

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 and give this a chance.

Mahalo for your compassion and support for SB2837!

Martha McDermott

I support SB2837

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard, Honorable Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter, but allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. I support SB2837. **A spay/neuter special fund is vital to reduce the number of dogs and cats in Hawaii.**

Lack of access to free or affordable spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population, and also perpetuates the uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats. This leads to more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, which can have tragic consequences.

With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Lisa Thompson

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

1:30 PM
Friday, February 11, 2022
Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members:

Please pass SB2837.

This bill is desperately needed! The sad truth is that there are still many cat lovers who have too many cats because even though they are pets the owners cannot find the money or the time to get them fixed using the current options available. The more available the options the more likely those cats will get fixed. Then even if they get outside they won't be making more babies.

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation lead to animal suffering across our state. We've heard from lawmakers concerned about Free-Roaming cats. I share those concerns. Unchecked breeding by this population degrades the quality of life for innocent animals, increases threats to wildlife and creates nuisance issues for human beings.

I hope lawmakers who are interested in reducing the population of Free-Roaming cats will support this measure. This will benefit the groups who are engaged in this work for the benefit of cats and wildlife.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo!

Martha Randolph

The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

1:30 PM
Friday, February 11, 2022
Room 224 & Videoconference

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members:

Please pass SB2837.

Since the start of the pandemic, I began walking in various neighborhoods for stimulation and exercise. I became overwhelmingly aware of the overpopulation of feral cats and the few kind-hearted people who care for them. I got to know some of these individuals who spend their own money and take time out of their own schedules to feed, give affection, trap, and neuter these animals. More than just being animal lovers, these people are seeing a need not being met in our community and they are taking responsibility themselves. This bill would assist these good-hearted people as well as the great people involved in animal rescue groups. I think there is much more work to be done beyond what this bill proposes but it's a great start toward major progress.

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation lead to animal suffering across our state. We've heard from lawmakers concerned about Free-Roaming cats. I share those concerns. Unchecked breeding by this population degrades the quality of life for innocent animals, increases threats to wildlife and creates nuisance issues for human beings.

I hope lawmakers who are interested in reducing the population of Free-Roaming cats will support this measure. This will benefit the groups who are engaged in this work for the benefit of cats and wildlife.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo!

Asia Fujikake

Support for SB2837

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard, Honorable Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter, but allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. I support SB2837.

Lack of access to free or affordable spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population, and also perpetuates the uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats. This leads to more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, which can have tragic consequences.

TNR is the best and most humane way to help lessen the number of feral cats in the state. This bill will really help towards that goal and help support the great number of people who TNR at their own expense. Mahalo.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Lee Cuccia

Thursday, February 10, 2022

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard, Honorable Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter and allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. I support SB2837.

Lack of access to free or affordable spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population, and also perpetuates the uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats. This leads to more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, which can have tragic consequences.

With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo.

Sincerely,

Hamid Jahanmir

Honolulu, HI 96814

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

1:30 PM
Friday, February 11, 2022
Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members:

Please pass SB2837.

I am an elementary school student living in Honolulu.

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.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo!
Luke Nagasako

Thursday, February 10, 2022

Support for SB2837 SB2837

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 11, 2022

TIME: 1:30 PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Dear Honorable Chair Gabbard, Honorable Vice Chair Nishihara and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter, but allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. **This is a great idea! I totally support this bill**

Lack of access to free or affordable spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population, and also perpetuates the uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats. This leads to more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, which can have tragic consequences.

With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community. Please pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo.

Sincerely,
Linda Groves

Thursday, February 10, 2022

1:30 PM

Friday, February 11, 2022

Room 224 & Videoconference

The Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence Nishihara, Vice Chair

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara and committee members:

Please pass SB2837.

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation lead to animal suffering across our state. We've heard from lawmakers concerned about Free-Roaming cats. I share those concerns. Unchecked breeding by this population degrades the quality of life for innocent animals, increases threats to wildlife and creates nuisance issues for human beings.

I hope lawmakers who are interested in reducing the population of Free-Roaming cats will support this measure. This will benefit the groups who are engaged in this work for the benefit of cats and wildlife.

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo!

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

Hauula, HI 96717

Strong SUPPORT for SB2837

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Friday, February 22, 2022
1:30PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I strongly support SB2837 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

This bill is extremely critical to help control the overpopulation of dogs and cats in Hawaii. I've spent a lot of time during the past four years working with non-profit animal rescues, including Aloha Animal Outreach. AAO connects with the homeless community to help care for their pets or get their animals into rescues to be rehomed. The single biggest limiting factor to help these animals is veterinary care, particularly spaying and neutering them. The cost of providing this service is astronomical for the small non-profits and for those on a limited income, yet we know how imperative it is to fix these animals in order to reduce unwanted litters and medical complications for non-fixed pets. Oahu has a limited number of families able to adopt animals, as well as finite resources to care for the homeless ones. This bill will greatly help the people and animals of Hawaii by reducing the animal population and by giving additional resources to rescues and those with limited income. Otherwise, these animals end up in potentially terrible situations, being abused, abandoned, or neglected and roaming the streets of Oahu. Please vote to pass this important bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,
Christine Johnson

Friday, February 22, 2022

1:30PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and Environment

SB2837 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and members of the committee:

I strongly support SB2837 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

States on the mainland that have invested in subsidizing spay/neuter for pet animals have seen a drastic drop in pet overpopulation. Local shelters fly animals to the West Coast to find new homes because demand for pets exceeds the supply. That has not happened in Hawaii. Insufficient access to free or affordable spay/neuter services means there are more animals in need of homes than families looking to adopt across our state.

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 and give this a chance.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify!

Sincerely,

Hye-Yeon Jang

Testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 2837.

February 11, 2022

1:30 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara and Committee Members,

I strongly support SB2837.

Pets can be at true lifeline for people in crisis. Low-income families struggling to make ends meet, kupuna on fixed incomes, and our homeless residents often have incredibly strong bonds with their pets. But if these pet owners cannot access affordable spay/neuter for their pets, they can become overwhelmed with too many animals.

Hawaii has good-hearted nonprofit groups that want to help these pet owners and animals in need, but sufficient funding is always an obstacle. I think this bill is a reasonable attempt to help these groups at no significant cost to the state. I urge you to give it your support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Torun Almer

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:18:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Duham	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I lead a program at Maui Humane Society called the 4EverPets Program. This program is in place to assist those with financial or other life challenges who want to keep their pets but are facing difficulties that might make them surrender pets if they don't receive assistance.

Overpopulation contributes to these challenges. Spaying and Neutering often does not occur in this community of clients as the cost is seen as high and/or unnecessary. Overpopulation contributes to animal suffering in Hawaii. I concur that spaying and neutering pets are proven ways to reduce pet overpopulation and euthanasia rates. The legislature also finds that the humane reduction of the free-roaming cat population is in the interest of cats, wildlife, the environment, and humans.

Through grants and donations we provide spay/neuter services at low and no cost to community members, and we also practice trapping/spay-neuter/releasing the community cats of the island. However, we cannot keep up with the demand and need using only our own resources. This provides a simple and positive step to create funds to expand this type of programming across the islands. We strongly support this bill and believe it will contribute to the positive well-being of the 'aina, and all of the beings who live here.

Mahalo,

Julie Durham

MSSW Candidate, Veterinary Social Work

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:19:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aimee Pacheco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill that will go a great way in helping to humanely reduce the number of free-roaming cats on our island.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:24:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sherrell Watson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in full support of this bill, providing funds for spaying & neutering animals. Frankly, it is way overdue and I hope this will lead to future bills requiring pet owners to spay/neuter their pets, or purchase a breeding license to help pay for the enforcement of this law. It has been hugely successful in other areas of the country, dramatically reducing the numbers of stray animals, and the need for euthanasia in shelters except in severe medical or behavioral cases.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:25:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:26:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 2837 for the spaying/neutering of free roaming cats. Free roaming cats have the same feelings that all sentient beings do. They are innocent, precious, beautiful living creatures of God. As humans it is up to us to use our common sense and intelligence to treat them with the love and care that all beings deserve. They did not ask to be without a home. Spaying and neutering is the only humane way to control the population and it works to greatly diminish the numbers. The free roaming cat population in Maui is a challenge in part due to the transientness of people - people move and leave their cat, and also many renters have a hard time finding a place to rent that allows cats so sometimes "dump" their cat. And too often, people don't spay or neuter their cat and then they dump the kittens. Please help this difficult situation by passing this bill. Please look into your heart and support this bill. We are all here to help make the world a better place. You are in an important position and can alot of good by passing this bill. Thank you, Eileen McGovern

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:31:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Petra DuPont	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I am in strong support of Bill SB2837.

I am a colony caretaker on Maui, and have been involved in cat related welfare for over 20 years. Before Maui Humane society was able to assist the community with spay/neuter appointments free of charge, I paid for these services including chipping and vaccinating out of my own pocket. It is expensive if you consider all the food and sometimes medical expenses we colony caretakers have to provide with no help from local or state government.

Any help to support this cause and therefore reduce the cat population over time would be so appreciated! In international studies it was shown that TNR (trap/spay/neuter/return and manage) is the **ONLY** method to humanely reduce the unwanted growth of the cat population.

Mahalo and best regards,

Petra DuPont

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 1:46:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Pitcaithley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Ann Pitcaithley

I support SB 2837, It is the only humane solution to controlling the feral cat population in Hawaii.

There are numerous scientific studies from multiple animal organizations Worldwide that endorse Trap Spay and Neuter as the only proven method to reduce the feral cat population. Many of these organizations are tasked with protecting ALL species of animals not just cats.

Trap spay and neuter programs not only stops the breeding cycle, preventing reproduction but allows community cats to continue protecting their established territories.

The ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States and many nonprofit organizations like Neighborhood Cats, Best Friends, Alley Cat, Animal League, Fix Nation, and Greater Good, to name a few who all support Trap Spay and Neuter programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this Senate Bill 2837

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 2:08:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynley Dows	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support ny and every effort made to increase spay/neuter services for pets and community animals. This is a humane and effective way to reduce the population of community animals, in particular community cats. Every pet that enters the state of HAwaii should be required to be spayed or neutered at least until such time that we get a handle on community animals. We need more funds directed toward this effort and more effective participation and management of these efforts. We ned a dedicated and trained team of trap/neuter/release/management to make these efforts more effective. The community has stepped up in a great way but cannot keep up with hte demand with the cost and lmited resources currently available.

Thank you for considering this bioll. It is my hope that it will not only pass but be heavily publicized in an effort to draw more constributions. it is only a start on a path we must dedicate ourselves to in the interest of humane management and reduction of community animals.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 3:40:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Gleason	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you to those who crafted this bill. This is a big step in the right direction. I support this bill wholeheartedly, knowing what benefit it offers to our Maui community (feral) cat population. TNR is the most viable, practical & humane solution to contain the cat population. This bill offers a very practical way people can support TNR. It also brings greater awareness to the problem, as well as the solution. Way to go Maui County. Mahalo

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 4:00:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paula Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Paula Miller and I am a resident of Ninole, on the Hamakua Coast of the Big Island.

I strongly urge you to support SB2837 to financially support the organizations that provide free or low cost spay and neuter services to community cats in Hawaii, and in particular on the Big Island.

I am a fervent supporter of Trap-Neuter-Return (or TNR) because it is the only humane and effective approach to community cats.

Community cats, also called feral cats, are unowned cats who live outdoors. Animal control's outdated approach to community cats has been to catch cats and bring them to a shelter where they will be killed because they are not socialized to people and therefore unadoptable.

Catching and killing cats creates an endless, expensive cycle of cruelty that wastes taxpayers' money. Removing cats from an area is futile because it results in population increases as an influx of new, unsterilized cats move into the same area to take advantage of available resources and reproduce. This well-documented natural phenomenon is known as the "vacuum effect." Rather than continue to kill healthy animals year after year at our expense, it's time for Hawaii to consider Trap-Neuter-Return.

TNR effectively stabilizes the community cat population because it stops the breeding cycle. During TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (which shows they've been part of a TNR program), and returned to their outdoor homes. TNR makes community cats healthier because they are vaccinated, and the stresses and behaviors associated with mating stop.

Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. It's time for the cats and residents of Hawaii to experience the long-term benefits of TNR firsthand.

I urge you to support TNR in our community and to support SB2837.

Mahalo,

Paula Miller

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 4:02:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gary Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the funding of spaying and neutering services in the State of Hawaii and especially on Hawaii Island. This will help reduce the population of feral animals and their devastating impact on the local environment and indigenous animal populations.

Please fund and support this effort as best you can.

Mahalo,

Gary Miller, Ninole, Hamakua Coast, Hawaii Island



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

February 9 2022

To: The Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hearing: Friday, Feb.11, at 1:30 p.m.

Concerning: Bill 2837

Title: RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.
Report Title: Spay and Neuter Special Fund; Income Check-off
Description: Establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

Position: Strong support

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Committee members,

The environmental committee strongly supports this bill as a major step towards reducing the overall cat population in the state.

Currently too many cat lovers cannot afford to get their pets spayed or cannot accommodate the current available schedule for taking advantage of the Humane Society's free spaying service. The State needs more spay clinics and more flexible or mobile clinics to address this issue.

Sadly they city and county of Honolulu (for example) continue to reduce the funds they offer the Humane society and have few if any funds for the other pet organizations who have the veterinarians available to perform spay services for free or supported costs.

Animal lovers do not approve of poisoning feral cats even though there is a need to reduce those populations and keep them from reproducing. This measure will provide the funds to establish more spaying locations and hours so more pet owners and feral colony minders can get more animals fixed. It may also help colony minders to capture more animals who may have been abandoned pets and who are suitable for being adopted.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:46:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sarah haynes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Haiku Maui/Hawaii. I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. We work so hard to reduce the population and we need help. We need more spay and neuter, and we need the community cats included in the funding please. Aloha!

Sarah Haynes

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/10/2022 6:50:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jamaica aquino	Testifying for Maui humane society	Support	No

Comments:

Spaying and neutering animals are beneficial to everyone. It helps prevent unwanted puppies and kittens. There would be less homeless animals. With cat population being a major problem, it would be kept under control. Our pets will live longer and we can help prevent uterine infections, breast tumors, prostate cancer and other illnesses. Having the availability of funds would make the job of spaying and neutering our animals a much smoother process.

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:00:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mark jung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill SB283 as long as it includes monies for TNR (trap-neuter-return). This can help a lot to get the community cat (free-roaming) population under better control. I would be more than happy to allocate \$5 from my taxes to help fund TNR programs on Maui.

Thank you,

Mark Jung

Makawao, Maui, HI

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:57:26 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

February 10, 2022

RE: I SUPPORT SB2837

Aloha Committee Members:

My name is Laurie Pottish. I am a registered voter & resident of Maui for thirty six years. I strongly support SB 2837 & want to thank Senator Rhoades for introducing it. Spay/ Neuter is the only proven method for reducing the cat population which is what we ALL want to accomplish. Funding is needed especially for the free roaming cats of all Islands. I sincerely hope we will see more legislation that will provide more funding which is desperately needed if we are to solve this problem in a humane & effective manner.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Sincerely,

Laurie Pottish

2892 Iwalani St

Makawao, Hi 96768

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 6:08:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cindy Jung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support bill SB2837 assuming it will provide funds for spaying/neutering our community cats (free-roaming/feral). These monies can really help to get the population of community cats under control. If this bill passes I will absolutely check the box to give \$5 to this fund (assuming it covers TNR {trap-neuter-return}).

Thanks,

Cindy Jung

Makawao, Maui, HI

SB-2837

Submitted on: 2/11/2022 9:43:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/11/2022 1:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jody Reale	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support any public action that uses proven, effective, humane, and safe methods for managing wild animal populations, and thus am writing to express my support for SB2837. I urge the senate to also consider other humane methods for managing wild or feral animal populations, as it's been shown in other island locales that spay/neutering and euthanasia alone are inadequate for decreasing populations that have risen to unmanagable levels. Thank you.



February 10, 2022

Hawaii Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Via web form: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

RE: SB 2837 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Chairman Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

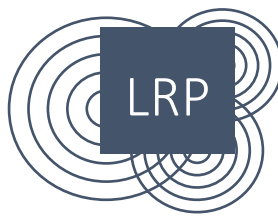
Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters. On behalf of Best Friends and our many supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands, we urge the strong support of members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment for SB 2837.

This important legislation is a wonderful start to create sustainable funding for spaying and neutering of companion animals on the Hawaiian Islands. Since the start of the pandemic, precautions put into place have created many issues relative to companion animals and one of the larger issues is access to spaying and neutering. Legislation like SB 2837 can be a step toward easing those issues relative to access and getting dogs and cats in Hawaii back on track in reducing the population of stray animals.

We urge your strong support for SB 2837 today in committee and ask that you urge your colleagues in the Senate to support this important legislation as it hopefully makes its way toward passage. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important bill.

Respectfully

Richard Angelo, Jr.
Legislative Attorney
Best Friends Animal Society
richarda@bestfriends.org



Date: February 11, 2022

Submitted By: Laura Peterson, Molokai resident, teacher, and board member of the Molokai Humane Society

RE: Testimony in strong support of [SB2837](#): RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

If you come to the beautiful, rural island of Molokai, you will be astounded by the beauty and the simple, laid-back lifestyle. It is truly a place that reflects Hawaii as it was many years ago. If you look a little closer, it is sometimes a shocking discovery to see the inequity in animal services between this island and the island of Maui, for example.

There is one animal control officer that has access to a county kennel and no fulltime veterinarian. There are no emergency services, and no adoption facilities. Feral cat colonies can be seen all over the island, and it is unfortunately not uncommon to find litters of puppies and full-grown dogs, abandoned.

Our laws such as this one that will allow the island to control its cat and dog populations in a humane manner, need to model compassion. If our laws model compassion towards animals, then our communities will model compassion, then our families, then our children. It is that simple.

Molokai Humane Society (MoHS) is the sole provider of animal care on-island. Our purpose is that we are “committed to building humane and caring bonds between the people and animals of Molokai.” I urge you to pass [SB2837](#), as a Molokai resident, a teacher, a MoHS board member, and a human being.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Laura Peterson

Laura Peterson

PO Box 482136, 46 Iliahi Place Kaunakakai, HI, 96748
Phone: (808) 658-6001