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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO NOTIFY ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS OF DECEASED CATS AND DOGS THAT ARE PICKED UP ALONG STATE AND COUNTY ROADWAYS.

1           WHEREAS, pet cats and dogs are an integral part of many  
2 people's lives and it has been reported that approximately sixty  
3 percent of the State's households have at least one cat or dog;  
4 and

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6           WHEREAS, the loss of a pet animal can be a sad experience  
7 for the pet's owner and other people who cared for the pet; and

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9           WHEREAS, not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is  
10 still alive can be traumatic; and

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12           WHEREAS, providing closure for pet owners and other people  
13 who cared for the pet is of deep importance; and

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15           WHEREAS, animals, including pet dogs and cats, are often  
16 killed on state or county roadways and are picked up by the  
17 appropriate state or county agency, such as the refuse division  
18 or road maintenance, for disposal; and

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20           WHEREAS, state and county agencies do not routinely scan  
21 deceased animals for an identifying microchip or take other  
22 steps to ascertain the animals' owners, such as inspecting a tag  
23 worn on the animal's collar for a contact phone number or  
24 address; and

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26           WHEREAS, since January 1, 2022, dog and cat owners have  
27 been required to have a microchip implanted in their pet dog or  
28 cat, and to register the microchip number and the owner's  
29 contact information with a microchip registration company,  
30 pursuant to Act 5, Session Laws of Hawaii, Special Session of  
31 2021; and

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33           WHEREAS, durable microchip scanners cost approximately \$350  
34 and are readily available; and

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1 WHEREAS, nonprofit and volunteer agencies that support pets  
 2 have microchip scanners and are familiar with the process of  
 3 looking up pet owners and their contact information, which is  
 4 one of the main ways that lost pets, turned into pet shelters,  
 5 are reunited with their owners; and

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 7 WHEREAS, there are active social media groups connecting  
 8 lost pets with owners across the State; now, therefore,

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 10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 11 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
 12 Session of 2024, that state and county agencies responsible for  
 13 removing deceased dogs and cats from public roadways are  
 14 requested to check for, scan, and record the microchip of the  
 15 deceased dog or cat, along with the location found, descriptive  
 16 information about the pet, and any contact phone number, name,  
 17 or address shown on the animal's tag or collar; and

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 19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that these state and county agencies  
 20 are requested to timely notify county animal services or animal  
 21 service contractors of the deceased dog or cat, including the  
 22 microchip number, if any, location found, descriptive  
 23 information about the pet, and any contact phone number, name or  
 24 address shown on the pet's tag or collar, and allow those  
 25 entities to use their staff or volunteers to follow up with the  
 26 registered pet owners; and

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 28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 29 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
 30 Agriculture, Deputy Director of the Department of Transportation  
 31 Highways Division, the Mayor of each county, President of the  
 32 Hawaiian Humane Society, Executive Director of the Kauai Humane  
 33 Society, and Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Humane Society.

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OFFERED BY: 

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