

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

680

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14, 2025

RE: H.B. No. 547
H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Culture & Arts, to which was referred H.B. No. 547, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish and appropriate funds into a Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats; and
- (2) Establish various revenue and fundraising sources for the Spay and Neuter Special Fund.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaiian Humane Society; Neighborhood Cats; Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain; Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition; Humane Society of the United States; Cat Friends; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Taxation; Department of the Attorney General; Department of Land and Natural Resources; Department of Budget and Finance; and Tax Foundation of Hawaii.

2025-1799 HB547 HD2 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that the spaying and neutering of free-roaming animals is a popular method used to reduce the free-roaming animal population. Your Committee recognizes that this measure provides a useful strategy to preserve the State's unique biodiversity and protect its wildlife.

Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Finance, should it deliberate on this measure, to consider which department would be the most appropriate to administer the Spay and Neuter Special Fund and lead the efforts of the Advisory Committee in establishing eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the special fund.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Culture & Arts that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 547, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Finance in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 547, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Culture & Arts,



JEANNE KAPELA, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HB 547 HD1		Committee Referral: AGR. CAA, FIN		Date: 2/12/25	
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.					
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)					
CAA Members		Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAPELA, Jeanne (C)		/			
2. KONG, Sam Satoru (VC)		✓			
3. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya		/			
4. LEE, Mike		✓			
5. SAYAMA, Jackson D.		/			
6. REYES ODA, Julie					/
TOTAL (6)		5			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)					
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u><i>Samuel S Kong</i></u>					
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO					