

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. No. 1023, Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment, Transportation and Culture and the Arts, and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

DATE: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

Chairs Gabbard, Lee, and Wakai, Vice-Chairs Richards, III, Inouye, and Chang, and Committee Members:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding S.B. 1023 for your consideration.

Section 2 of S.B. 1023 establishes a new "Spay and Neuter Special Fund." Section 3 amends chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to establish a source of funding through a new income "check-off" option, allowing taxpayers to designate refund deposits for the program. Individual taxpayers with a refund of \$5 or more, or joint married taxpayers with a refund of \$10 or more, may designate \$5, or \$5 per person, respectively, to be deposited into the special fund.

The bill authorizes the director of taxation to revise tax return forms. As with other existing check-off boxes, if no initial designation was chosen, taxpayers will be allowed to amend a return to choose a designation within 20 months and ten days after the due date for the original return for that taxable year. A designation is nonrevocable once made.

This measure is applicable for tax years beginning after July 1, 2025, with Section 3 pertinent to the check-off boxes being effective for taxable years beginning

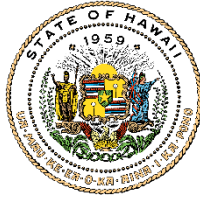
after December 31, 2024. DOTAX can administer Section 3 of the measure with the current effective date.

If adopted, DOTAX requests that the proposed check-off option proposed in Section 3 be added as a new subsection to section 235-102.5, HRS, which already authorizes other “check-off” options for income tax purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



**STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA**

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
DAWN N.S. CHANG
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT,
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS, AND
ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 5, 2025
01:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1023
RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS**

Senate Bill 1023 establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats, and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments.**

Feral cats are a significant threat to Hawai'i's endangered forest birds, seabirds, and other native species. The Department is mandated to protect and manage Hawai'i's natural resources, including its native bird populations, and trap-neuter-return (TNR) has not been shown to be an effective method to reduce feral cat populations.

The Department controls invasive predators in sensitive habitats. Reducing pet overpopulation and free-roaming cats would benefit both cats and wildlife. If a spay and neuter program could decrease the number of unwanted animals, it would benefit wildlife populations. Still, the Department does not know if this program would be effective.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

DAWN CHANG
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SHARON HURD
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KATHLEEN HO, D.Env
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

PARWINDER GREWAL, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

MARY ALICE EVANS
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DEXTER KISHIDA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Chelsea Arnott, HISC Coordinator on behalf of
HISC Co-Chair Sharon Hurd and Co-Chair Dawn N.S. Chang

Senate Committees on AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS; AND ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

1:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 and Via Videoconference

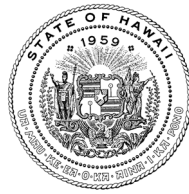
In consideration of SENATE BILL 1023 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Senate Bill 1023 Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund. **The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (Council) supports this measure**, as feral cats are known threat to Hawaii's endangered forest birds, wildlife, and human health.

2024 was the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry & Wildlife' year of the forest bird "*Makahiki o Nā Manu Nahele*". As part of the Forestry & Wildlife's efforts they informed the public that 24 of Hawaii's 26 remaining native birds are endangered and that Non-native introduced mammalian predators such as cats negatively impact native bird populations across the Hawaiian Islands and contribute to species' decline. Forest birds are particularly vulnerable to predators, and some are ground nesting species. The Council informs that Feral cats are one of the most devastating predators of Hawaii's unique wildlife. In addition to preying on birds, feral cats also spread a potentially lethal parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*) that contaminates terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments and has been shown to negatively impact birds and mammals, including humans.

The Council supports this bill's establishment of a \$50,000 Special Fund, supplemented by revenues from tax donations, the creation of a spay & neuter license plate, and charitable donations.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
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
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT,
TRANSPORTATION AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS, AND ENERGY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 1023

February 5, 2025
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 1023 does the following: 1) establishes the 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; 2) establishes an advisory committee to assist B&F in establishing SNSF disbursement eligibility criteria and procedures; 3) allows taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF; 4) requires the Directors of Finance for the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui to design and issue a special number plate for registered motor vehicle owners supporting the SNSF; 5) appropriates \$50,000 in general funds for both FY 26 and FY 27 for deposit into the SNSF; and 6) appropriates \$50,000 in special funds out of the SNSF for both FY 26 and FY 27 for the purposes of 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 as these subject areas are outside of the purview of the department. Further, with the ongoing statewide financial management replacement project, B&F staff are fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work; therefore, additional staff and funding would be necessary to administer the SNSF.

B&F recommends that funds be appropriated directly to the counties instead because they have historically been responsible for animal control functions. The counties can then allocate these funds to entities best able to perform the desired services.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

735 Bishop Street, Suite 417

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME TAX; Spay and Neuter Special Fund, Income Tax Check Off

BILL NUMBER: HB 547, SB 1023

INTRODUCED BY: HB by GARRETT, AMATO, CHUN, GARCIA, GRANDINETTI, IWAMOTO, KAHALOA, KAPELA, KILA, KITAGAWA, LEE, M., LOWEN, MARTEN, MATSUMOTO, MIYAKE, MORIKAWA, OLDS, PERRUSO, POEPOE, REYES ODA, SOUZA, TAKAYAMA, TAKENOUCI, TARNAS, TODD; SB by LEE, C., RHOADS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 143, HRS, to establish a spay and neuter special fund ("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.

Section 3 of the measure adds a new section 235-____, HRS, to allow an income tax check-off for \$5 to be deposited into the Fund, or for a joint return each spouse may designate \$5.

Adds a new section 249____, HRS, providing special number plates for motor vehicles supporting the spay and neuter special Fund. Fees charged for the plates will be deposited into the Fund established by this measure.

An appropriation out of the general fund of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 shall be deposited into the special Fund.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2025; provided Section 3 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

STAFF COMMENTS: This bill creates a new special fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats. The fund is fed by legislative appropriations, \$5 State income tax refund designations, and fees from special license number plates. The fund is to be administered by the Department of Budget and Finance.

Special funds are pots of money that exist for a specific purpose and largely bypass the legislative appropriation process. The existence of hundreds of these special funds has often confounded those who seek answers to simple questions like "How much money does the State have?"

Our Legislature is supposed to be the steward of all state moneys, but special funds make it very easy to lose track of where the money is and how it is being spent. Departments are supposed to tell the Legislature if they have special funds and how much is in them, but let's just say they don't

always. Recently, in Report No. 20-01, the State Auditor took DBEDT to task for failing to report \$6.5 million in non-general fund moneys. DBEDT's response? Just that they'll "take corrective action." Not even a "Whoops! We screwed up and promise to do better next time!" This followed closely on the heels of Report No. 19-16, where the Auditor found that \$1.04 million in non-general fund moneys administered by the Attorney General wasn't reported. That department responded that they "shall establish procedures to assure required reports are issued." Is it any wonder that it's getting harder and harder to follow the money and rein in government spending?

Perhaps as the result of the foregoing concerns, the Legislature has itself established criteria for when a special fund may be maintained (HRS section 37-52.3). The criteria for a special fund are:

(1) Serves a need, as demonstrated by:

(A) The purpose of the program to be supported by the fund;

(B) The scope of the program, including financial information on fees to be charged, sources of projected revenue, and costs; and

(C) An explanation of why the program cannot be implemented successfully under the general fund appropriation process;

(2) Reflects a clear nexus between the benefits sought and charges made upon the program users or beneficiaries or a clear link between the program and the sources of revenue, as opposed to serving primarily as a means to provide the program or users with an automatic means of support that is removed from the normal budget and appropriation process;

(3) Provides an appropriate means of financing for the program or activity that is used only when essential to the successful operation of the program or activity; and

(4) Demonstrates the capacity to be financially self-sustaining.

Of these, at least two of the criteria are violated because there is no nexus between the purpose (reducing the feral cat population) and the source of revenue (income tax checkoffs and license plate fees), and because there is no indication that the proposed fund can be financially self-sustaining. Establishing this special fund is inappropriate, as is the proposed method of financing the fund.

Additionally, in the long run the cost of administering the income tax 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.

Digested: 2/3/2025



**Testimony in Support of SB 1023
Relating to the spaying and neutering of animals**

**House Committee on Agriculture and Environment
February 5, 2025**

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, supports passage of SB 1023 and the creation of a Spay and Neuter Special Fund to expand access to vital spay/neuter resources for both pets and free-roaming cats and tackle the challenges of overpopulation in the state.

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.

This bill creates an opportunity to help many people and animals across the state. The HSUS encourages a favorable report on SB 1023.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 3, 2025

To: Chairs Sens. Mike Gabbard, Chris Lee and Glenn Wakai
Vice Chairs Sens. Tim Richards, Lorraine Inouye and Stanley Chang
and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment;
Transportation and Culture and the Arts; and Energy and
Intergovernmental Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 1023:
Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, 1 p.m., Room 224 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 1023, which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of Free-Roaming cats and authorizes various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

This measure is designed to address an urgent need in our community. We have more pet animals than families adopting pets. Puppies, which were historically rare among the wide range of animals to be found at local shelters, are now regularly being surrendered entire litters at a time. Economic challenges and housing insecurity force families to give up beloved pets. The Hawaiian Humane Society is at the forefront of taking a multifaceted, community centered approach to these issues and one undeniable need is for greater access to low-fee and no-fee spay neuter services.

Due to their costs of doing business, private veterinary clinics are no longer able to provide low-cost spay neuter at the levels they once did. Local nonprofits have stepped up to help, but they are under resourced. This bill is designed to help them help our communities.

Convenient and affordable access to spay/neuter is the best way to prevent pet overpopulation. Due to business costs, the number of clinics offering low-fee spay



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

neuter on O'ahu has fallen from more than 20 to five. One of them, Hawaiian Humane's Ginny Tiu Community Spay/Neuter Center in Mō'ili'ili, is regularly booked four months in advance. Our Spay/Neuter Center in 'Ewa Beach has yet to open due to lack of staffing and inadequate funding.

Decades of education around the importance of spay/neuter for improving the health and longevity of animals, reducing nuisance behaviors and curbing pet overpopulation have borne fruit. Demand for services at our community spay/neuter center since its opening in 2018 suggests that most people want to do the right thing for their pets. In a 2024 survey of O'ahu households, 81 percent of pet dogs were reported to be spayed/neutered, as were 68 percent of pet cats. Of those who reported their pets were not spayed/neutered, 30 percent of cat owners and 17 percent of dog owners said it was because the cost was too high.

If we are going to reduce the suffering caused by pet overpopulation, better access to affordable spay/neuter services is needed statewide. We have nonprofits in place eager to do that work with funding support.

The ability to offer no-fee spay/neuter for Free-Roaming cats has had incredible impact on O'ahu. According to the 2024 survey conducted for Hawaiian Humane by Ward Research, the spay/neuter rate for Free-Roaming cats jumped from 38 percent in 2018 to 70 percent in 2024 according to the residents who feed cats they do not consider to be their own. Over those six years, the City and County of Honolulu invested resources into the Feline Fix program, which allows participating clinics to offer no-fee spay/neuter for Free-Roaming cat caregivers. The spay/neuter fund created by this bill could enable similar progress across our state.

There is a clear public interest in reducing the number of unwanted pets and the population of Free-Roaming cats. It is time for the state to join the counties and private donors in supporting this work. Please pass SB1023 and support the organizations working tirelessly to curb overpopulation.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:05:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Holowach	Testifying for Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary	Support	In Person

Comments:

We at Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary are strong advocates for Spay/Neuter as a way to reduce the overpopulation of free-roaming cats. Cats threaten native species and must be controlled to reduce that threat. TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage) is the best way we have at this time to protect both the cats and the wildlife.

We appreciate your efforts to create this bill and support it wholeheartedly. This is needed all over the state and will make a difference. Cat colony caregivers and veterinarians agree that this will help. We need the financial resources to do it and a bill like this will help greatly.

Mahalo nui loa!

Holly Holowach

Founder/President

Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:03:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly support !



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

2/4/2025

Concerning SB1023 The Spaying and Neutering of Animals,

Dear Chairs and Committee Members,

The Environmental Caucus strongly supports all efforts to encourage and /or enforce spaying and neutering of pets and supervised feral populations to limit the increasing number of feral cats and dogs in Hawaii. Tragically so many of the animals started out as pets, but are subsequently abandoned in the wild when they become old enough to mate. There are many reasons why this happens. However one way to help is to make getting a pet spayed/neutered really affordable.

I have adopted 3 feral cats in 20 years, and was able to get them spayed by a subsidized mobile program and via the Humane Society for \$25 - \$50 or for free. I was able to find homes for 2, and one stayed with me. I have seen neighborhoods transformed by aggressive spay/neuter programs, but those transformations need to be ongoing every year or two. The same neighborhoods which were transformed several years ago are again over run with semi feral animals.

Unmanaged feral populations and abandoned pets, or uncertified animal breeders who do not follow responsible breeder practices cause the dangers to local wild life. Anyone who has ever managed a group of animals can tell you that if they are fixed and fed regularly, they rarely go looking for wild animals to kill.

Please help us fund these projects for everyone's benefit.

Sincerely

Martha E Randolph
Environmental Caucus of the DPH
SCC Representative

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:57:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lise Peterson	Testifying for Catsnip,Advocats	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

very much support this.Too busy to write anymore because I am volunerring at spay clinic

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:10:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Anderson	Testifying for Kohala Animal Relocation and Education Service (KARES)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Establishing a fund for spay and neuter surgeries is crucial. On the Big Island of Hawaii, our nonprofit animal welfare organization, Kohala Animal Relocation and Education Service (KARES) has achieved a total of 7,783 dog and cat procedure from 2011 to 2024. In 2024 we neutered 500 pets, all at no cost to their owners. The cost to us for pass-through veterinary fees has been almost \$600,000 over the past 12 years. We have had to raise these funds through private and corporate grants.....expending a tremendous amount of time writing these proposal. We have been grateful for the approximate amount of 25% support from the County of Hawaii WaiWai grants. Our volunteers could do so much more to control the overpopulation of pets on the island if we had access to funding, rather than writing grants.

A tremendous amount of progress has been made to date by KARES and other spay/neuter organizations. Please pass this bill and help us to continue the humane control of the pet populations....both owned and community, or free-roaming dogs and cats,.

Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:52:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Partlow	Testifying for Action 4 Animals Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am vice president of Action 4 Animals Hawaii, a cat and dog rescue and adoption organization based on the East side of Hawaii island. I have volunteered with high volume spay/neuter clinics for 12 years, and have seen how desperate people are to have readily available sterilization services for their pets and community cats. Our group of 35 volunteers strongly supports SB1023. If the goal is to reduce the overpopulation of cats and dogs in the state, then the only effective and humane solution is to spay and neuter both pets and strays in high numbers. At high volume spay clinics, multiple veterinarians can sterilize 200-300 cats or 100 dogs each day. This is much more preferable to giving vouchers to local vets who might do 6-7 surgeries a day, charging 10 times the fee per animal. When it's time to disburse the funds allocated by this bill, please contact PetFix Hawaii, they have this down to a science, and can advise you on the procedures.

When people go to great effort to trap community cats, those in their neighborhood or the ones living behind a shopping center or in a park, they need to know they can return those cats to the same place after the surgery. This is the cats' home, the place they are familiar with, and there is NO other place for them to go! Please be sure to maintain that option in this bill.

We are strongly urging you to pass this bill, and remove some of the pressure from rescue organizations that are doing this work with volunteers and tiny budgets. When cat colonies are spayed/neutered/vaccinated and maintained, there is much less tendency to predate on the birds and mammals in their area, as well, and disease declines as well.

Thank you for your attention, we are so looking forward to passage of SB1023!

4 February 2025
BIISC
23 E Kawili St
Hilo, HI 96771
biisc@hawaii.edu



Attn: Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment, Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, and Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
RE: SB1023

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Lee, and Wakai, Vice Chairs Richards, Inouye, and Chang, and Members of the Committees,

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee would like to express strong support for SB1023, which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund. In Hawai‘i, as in many other island environments, cats are a very destructive invasive species that pose a significant threat to our native wildlife. Many of our native endangered animals, found nowhere else in the world but here, are directly threatened by the presence of cats on the landscape. Cats prey on vulnerable native birds and spread diseases like toxoplasmosis, which has already contributed to the deaths of several nēnē and Hawaiian monk seals.

On Hawai‘i Island, many low-income and working-class families would greatly benefit from improved access to spay/neuter surgery for their family pets. Pet overpopulation has been a severe issue on our island for decades. Thanks to the good work of Hawai‘i Island Humane Society (HIHS) and other animal welfare organizations, the demand for spay/neuter has increased, but unfortunately, the supply has not.

We believe that the key to ending the problem of unwanted cats is to “turn off the tap” – stop the flow at its source, sterilizing all pet cats and dogs and encouraging that these domestic pets remain where they belong, in a household. Establishing the Spay and Neuter Special Fund as outlined in SB1023 will play a vital role in humanely addressing this issue and reducing the number of free-roaming cats, thereby protecting both our native wildlife and our communities.

We urge you to support SB1023 in order to protect native wildlife in Hawai‘i and help address the urgent issue of pet overpopulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Franny Kinslow Brewer
Program Manager
fbrewer@hawaii.edu
(808) 933-3340

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:37:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT BILL SB 1023 FOR ALL CATS: PETS, FREE ROAMING, ABANDONED-STRAY COLONY CATS AND FERAL CATS. No restrictions, PLEASE. Mahalo.

#1 cause of extinction of Native Birds is the disease-carrying mosquito.

#2 cause of extinction of Native Birds is loss of habitat due to over-development, pollution

Let;s ensure Native Birds survive and cats too. They keep down the rat population.

1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii

2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.

Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:20:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Neher	Testifying for PETFIX Spay & Neuter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need continuing funds to perform free spay/neuter clinics in areas of Hawai'i Island where it's most needed - Puna and Ka'u. In 2024 we performed 5,097 surgeries and prevented the birth of thousands of cats and dogs. Please help us help the communities!

Thank you.

Bridget Neher

Founder/Treasurer PETFIX Spay & Neuter

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:58:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelley Dunbar	Testifying for Director, Maui Humane Society Board of Directors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter programs are key to addressing the serious problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii. The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put these procedures out of reach for many of your pet owning constituents. Greater access to affordable spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.

In addition, all of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

Furthermore, by investing in spay and neuter - a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations - these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

SB1023 provides a sustainable funding mechanism to expand access to spay and neuter services, ensuring that more pet owners and community cat caregivers can prevent unwanted litters. By establishing a special fund dedicated to this purpose, Hawaii will join other states that have successfully implemented similar measures, leading to fewer animals entering shelters, reduced euthanasia rates, and better outcomes for pets, wildlife, and communities alike.

Grant funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited, so state support is badly needed.

Please support SB1023, a critical step toward addressing pet overpopulation in a humane and effective manner. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:34:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debi Buck	Testifying for The Haven Cat Sanctuary Company	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Government,

Hawai‘i is facing a critical challenge with its growing free-roaming cat population. Without intervention, this issue will continue to escalate, leading to unnecessary suffering for animals, strain on local resources, and ongoing conflicts between animal welfare efforts and environmental concerns. While euthanasia has been used in some areas as a method of population control, research and experience have shown that it is both ineffective and inhumane. The most responsible, ethical, and sustainable solution is to establish and fund a statewide spay and neuter program.

Why Spay and Neuter is Essential

1. **Prevents Unnecessary Suffering** – Free-roaming cats reproduce at an exponential rate. Without intervention, thousands of kittens are born into conditions of starvation, disease, and predation. A proactive spay and neuter approach prevents these animals from being born into hardship in the first place.
2. **Long-Term Cost Savings** – While euthanasia may appear to be a short-term fix, it does not stop the cycle of reproduction. Removing cats from an area creates a "vacuum effect," where new, unsterilized cats move in and repopulate. This leads to ongoing taxpayer-funded euthanasia efforts that provide no permanent solution. Spay and neuter programs, on the other hand, are a one-time investment per cat, reducing overall costs for animal control and shelters in the long run.
3. **Aligns with Hawai‘i’s Commitment to Ethical and Sustainable Practices** – Hawai‘i has long been a leader in environmental conservation and ethical stewardship. Implementing humane population control measures aligns with these values and demonstrates a commitment to coexistence with all of Hawai‘i’s inhabitants.
4. **Addresses Public Health and Safety** – Unsterilized cats contribute to public health concerns, including the spread of diseases such as toxoplasmosis and feline leukemia. Spaying and neutering significantly reduce these risks by decreasing mating behaviors, territorial aggression, and disease transmission.
5. **Protects Native Wildlife Without Inhumane Measures** – While concerns have been raised about the impact of free-roaming cats on native wildlife, mass euthanasia is not an effective solution. A targeted, well-funded spay and neuter program is a responsible approach that reduces predation risks over time without resorting to lethal methods.

A Call for Legislative Action

We urge the Hawai‘i State Government to allocate funding and resources toward a comprehensive Spay and Neuter Fund. By investing in sterilization programs—including Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) initiatives, community partnerships, and accessible low-cost spay/neuter services—we can effectively reduce the free-roaming cat population in a humane and fiscally responsible manner.

Failing to implement statewide policies to enable a Spay and Neuter fund, results in the continuation of the severe overpopulation of free-roaming cats. Euthanasia should not be considered an option. Euthanasia is both ineffective and inhumane. The local rescues and sanctuaries do everything they can to spay and neuter as many cats as possible. However, there is not enough of us, we are all over full, and the costs of these procedures are prohibitive and funding for spay neuter surgeries from private foundations is severely limited. Spaying and neutering is proven to be an effective way to control overpopulation.

We respectfully request your leadership and support in making this solution a reality. Thank you for taking the time to carefully consider this matter.

Sincerely,

Debi Buck

The Haven Cat Sanctuary

debi@cathavenhawaii.org

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:33:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa wheeler	Testifying for Petfix	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is essential! We volunteers at all spay/neuter clinics KNOW the numbers we see of unwanted animals that need to be neutered to help the huge population control needed...we free clinics do not have the funds needed to do MORE than we are! Petfix managed over 5000 animals last year (2024), an incredible feat frankly, working with dedicated vets and volunteers all over the island! PLEASE pass this bill!!

Melissa Wheeler, volunteer with Petfix and Kares for over 10 years!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:51:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Testifying for Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORTS** funding for spaying and neutering cats. Young cats can spread toxoplasmosis, which can be fatal to endangered monk seals and other marine mammals.

Please pass funding for spaying and neutering cats.

Mahalo!

Hawaii Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:59:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
leslie farnel	Testifying for For Forgotten Felines	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For decades pet owners and non profits as well as good Samaritans have had their hands tied with regards to controlling unwanted feline populations by humane spay neuter methods due to lack of funding, staff or facilities. This bill provides one important step in solving this issue. The community is ready to step forward and capture the felines and bring them in for surgery assuming the spots exist for them to do that. Please pass this very important measure to control populations and end suffering.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 10:46:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1023 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals, has the same language as HB547, and will be heard by a joint meeting of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment; Transportation and Culture and the Arts; and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs on Feb 5.

We beg to support this Bill too.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:12:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sarah haynes	Testifying for Kitty Charm Farm	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of the spay and neuter bill. Since Covid shutdown, the population explosion has been overwhelming. It's been proven that euthanizing does not end up solving the problem, the only thing that has proven to work is spay and neuter.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:52:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Testifying for Maui Humane Society, Director MHS	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Board of Maui Humane Society, and Founder of Lāna`i Cat Sanctuary, I urge the Legislature to pass SB1023 and take this critical step toward addressing pet overpopulation in a humane and effective manner.

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Grant funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:54:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Garlinghouse	Testifying for Abaykitties	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of SB1023. I wish I could support it and would shout it from the rooftops and all over social media, if I could, but I can't. Not the way it's set up now.

The creation of a spay/neuter fund is a dream come true. The cost of veterinary care continues to rise and for many makes it financially impossible for them to spay/neuter their pets. Organizations providing free or low cost options are overwhelmed and underfunded with long waiting lists. Thus creating unwanted litter after litter, not just kittens, puppies too.

Many of those unwanted kittens end up abandoned on our streets, in our parks and shopping shopping centers. Joining the thousands of other cats and kittens abandoned by owners who can no longer care for them, who can't find housing with pets, who are moving out of state.....pick the reason, there are a multitude. All resulting in tens of thousands of unwanted cats and kittens statewide, many still reproducing. Statewide there are not enough homes for all of the unwanted. Especially on the lesser populated outer islands, and especially if they're not socialized cats, resulting in homeless colonies of community cats cared for by tireless volunteers.

TNRM, trap, neuter, return and manage/maintain, is the only humane way to stop the population growth in these free roaming community cat colonies. Thousands of volunteers statewide give their time, blood, sweat and tears along with thousands and thousands of dollars to get these free roaming cats spayed and neutered, to stop the population growth. Yes, adopters are found for as many as possible and they become pets, but there are those that have to be returned to their "homes", the property they came from. A spay/neuter fund that supports surgery for not only pets but also these free roaming cats returned to property would be a game changer for stopping population growth. Organizations providing these free surgery clinics could afford to do more clinics meaning more cats not making babies. As it is, grants and private donations are hard to come by and these spay/neuter organizations struggle to operate. A special fund would allow them to continue to make a difference in our communities by stopping the free roaming community cat population from growing.

Recent legislation, HB364, touted its merits of tackling the free roaming cat issue. That it would help reduce the population of free roaming cats. That a spay/neuter fund would be created to pay for it, SB1023. But what it glossed over is that this special spay/neuter fund cannot be used for

free roaming cats being released back to their homes. It can only be used for free roaming cats who are then being placed in homes, shelters or sanctuaries.

So are colony managers to only spay/neuter the few cats or kittens that they can get into foster/adoption programs ? Just leave the non adoptable ones in the wild to continue to reproduce? We don't have sanctuaries or shelters for all of the unwanted to live out their lives. We can usually find fosters/adopters for kittens, but rarely adults. What's the plan for them, mass round ups and killing ? How does this make sense ? How will this be governed? Will organizations that offer spay/neuter services free of charge to community cat colony managers as well as pet owners not be eligible for much needed funds at all because they provide this much needed service to homeless community cats?

I would wholeheartedly support SB1023 if amendments were made that this special spay/neuter fund be available not only for the spaying and neutering of pets and free roaming animals being placed in homes, shelters or sanctuaries, but also for free roaming animals being returned to their environments.

Every cat needs access to free or low cost spay/neuter services, regardless of their housing situation.

Please make amendments to the creation of the special spay/neuter fund to allow funds to be used for animals being returned to their environment.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Dawn Garlinghouse, Director

Abaykitties

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:29:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Please support SB1023. I volunteer for Hawaiian Humane Society and for Catfriends, both of which offer low-cost spay/neutering of free-roaming cats. A recent survey of Oahu residents by the Humane Society found that the vast majority of those surveyed support TNR (trap/neuter/return) and spaying/neutering of unowned cats. This has been shown to be the most effective way to control the free-roaming cat population. It works much better than killing these cats. Every female cat that is spayed prevents 1000 cats from being born in the next ten years. And because TNR controls the cat population, it benefits wildlife. However, at present there is a shortage of appointments for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Funding is part of the problem, and this bill would address that.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI. 96816

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:24:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Holowach	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

The number of free-roaming, un-neutered cats across our State is like a slow-moving tsunami, which is overwhelming the people and agencies who care enough to attack the problem. Funding for neutering is our best weapon to slow down the deluge. Spaying and neutering are medical procedures which need trained veterinarians to perform them, and there is a necessary cost to any medical procedure. Funding from the State is the best way to act to neutralize the crisis that free-roaming ferals have become. SB1023 is an excellent beginning to get to a solution.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 2:56:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Trusel	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I support SB1023. There are too many feral cats roaming our public parks and island locations. It is sad and inhumane for the cats but also a nuisance to our local population as well as island tourism. SB1023 is a desperately needed measure to bring down the overpopulation of feral cats

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:11:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Vivian S. Toellner, from the eastside of the Island of Hawai'i. Funds are needed for the free / low cost Spay Neuter Clinics held by volunteer nonprofits here on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Having volunteered at **over 100** cat clinics in the Puna community, I know this is a wise use of our tax dollars. Just this past Sunday, PetFix Big Island fixed 160 cat. Yes, there are that many cats, clearly the community wants and benefits from this service.

I too love our native birds and animals and want us to increase their safety with this spay neuter bill. Hopefully people will understand how spay neutering is the most cost effective and publicly supported method to reduce feline numbers. If other methods, such as round up and kill worked, we would not be discussing this problem today.

I am so pleased to see that this bill includes Trap Neuter Return Managed - TNRM cats, and addresses only the humane reduction of the pet population. However, the \$50,000 of State funds in the bill is woefully low. Each high-volume low cost spay neuter clinic in Hawaii needs this \$50,000. I plead for that figure to be raised to \$500,000 to make a real difference now! The problem grows exponentially the longer we wait.

Please support the humane reduction in animal overpopulation. The veterinarians, vet techs, volunteers, pet owners, TNRM caretakers, all are supporting spay/neuter with their long hours of community work and donations.

Also, I would like to see the Bill to stipulate that volunteer 501c3 nonprofits that provide no cost / low cost spay/neuter services are the organizations eligible for these funds. As most veterinary businesses charge well over \$200 for just one spay!

The Veterinary advisory board representative needs to be an experienced high volume sterilization surgeon. I would also like to see the advisory committee include an active spay neuter advocate from each island. Either as a voting or nonvoting member and without expense reimbursement. These people truly have an **ACTIVE INTEREST** in the humane method of animal overpopulation here in Hawaii.

The reimbursement of advisory committee members should be limited to a low percentage, to ensure the funds are truly used as intended. The annual report and other information should be public information and easily available.

Special number plate design should be kept simple. A paw print with the words "Spay Neuter" is enough and no design fee paid. Are these fundraising fees in line with the other special license plates offered by the State? Again, keep expenses low so funds are spent on spay neuter surgeries.

With additional funding and a few changes, as mentioned, this Bill would be great for Hawaii. Please realize the magnitude of this problem. We need to spay neuter every cat we can get our hands on. This is no joke, so please do not euthanize this bill. I urge you to support this bill with amendments.

Most Sincerely, thank you for your time and Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:26:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Aikawa, MD	Testifying for Vice-Chairperson, Maui Humane Society Board of Directors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of SB1023 for the following reasons:

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available services. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method that decreases animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Grant funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become extremely limited, therefore State support is badly needed.

Sincerely, Judith Aikawa, MD,
Vice-Chairperson, Maui Humane Society Board of Directors

SB-1023

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 5:47:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support anything we can do to assist in spay/neutering of our pets. We should not rely on all donated funds. I would buy a special license plate to fund this.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 5:55:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HELP THEM

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 6:43:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of this bill. Stray cats are a big nuisance and they are a danger to public health...fleas and feces around. Please pass this bill to help reduce the number of pet overpopulation. Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 4:00:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Gabbard, Vice Chair Senator Richards and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment, Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts, and Chair Senator Wakai, Vice Chair Senator Chang and Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs.

Please vote for SB 1023, which I strongly support, to reduce the overpopulation of pets and free-roaming cats.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:15:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill which will create a a special Spay and Neuter Fund to provide spay and neutering servies that will help address the overpopulation of Hawaii's stray animal overpopulation. Please support this bill

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 11:11:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators Gabbard, Lee, Wakai, and associated committees,

My name is Andrew Evans and I work in conservation, habitat restoration, and the protection of native and endangered species on the windward side of O'ahu. As one of many conservation professionals in our community, I urge you to support SB1023 and continue to pursue the efforts to address the issue of free-roaming cats and other invasive predators on our islands.

We've already lost so many species of our endemic and unique flightless birds over the history of our islands and their settlement. Hard-to-imagine birds like toothed ducks, stilt owls, rails, kiwi-looking ibises, and geese all used to fill our ecosystems with their unique roles. What few native lowland birds we have left are still under pressing threat by loss of habitat, degradation of habitat via invasive species and human use, but most of all the persisting threat of predators. Each report of a predated bird or chick is a gut-punch to our conservation community. New Zealand, which has similarly unique and vulnerable bird biodiversity has recently made bold legislation to completely eliminate wild non-native mammals, and we need to follow suit. This bill will put us on that necessary path.

I urge you to pass SB1023 and give Hawai'i a bold move in favor of its indigenous inhabitants.

Thank you for your time and your continued efforts,

Andrew Evans

SB-1023

Submitted on: 1/31/2025 10:31:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill that will help Hawaii's animals.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 5:38:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB1023.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/1/2025 10:44:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uilani Naipo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this much needed measure.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 8:29:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Parr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are cat & kitten colony feeders, TRAPPERS, & returning them to the Park with assistance by the Maui Humane Society, only WHEN... there are Appts for TNR spay and neutering. Have been for over 3 years at Keopuolani Park. This colony has been in existence actively for about 17 years. One very active Maui resident lady maintained all the cat's there by trapping, vaccinating, and religiously feeding over 500 plus cats DAILY FOR 17 YEARS. SHE has since had to quit due to her health and age. This colony has significantly been reduced in size in this last 3-4 years. Approximately down to 160 plus cats. Most of them ear tips spayed/neutered, vaccinated, cared for, or put down because of aging, significant health issues, wounds etc. There are still many more felines to catch and fix. Due to super limited vets at Maui Humane Society and lack of appts for Spay/Neuter. There are so many other colonies with the exact same issues. We as caretakers, do all of this at or (own costs), pet foods, donations to Maui Humane Society, vaccination costs for each cat/kitten. And the trips daily to feed and water these fixed animals, all at our own costs. Many of us are older ON FIXED INCOMES. SO it is very difficult to maintain and reduce the size of cat colonies. Still people drop off unwanted pets cats and their kittens, thinking we will feed them. But that's not all that we do. The public just does not understand that cat colonies will in 5-6 years reduce the population with human care. But this human care responsibility does not come at no cost. It personally costs us (on social security and savings) over 400 dollars a month. The community should finally kick in and assist with the problem of Maui community's cat's over population. It's every resident's problem. We help to reduce the feral cat population, while some people add to the problem. If irradiating cats is in your official minds, well know, that the rat and mice population will take over. Our community is not going to like that. So please help our Community with feline funding. Is been neglected for way too many years. And that is the PROBLEM!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 12:38:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of the Maui community I see many cats. Some are fed by registered feeders and some are not. It has been a mission of mine and many others to trap intact cats and take them to MHS for free sterilization. However, MHS is completely overwhelmed with requests and can only sterilize a fraction of those seeking appointments; in fact, when they post a monthly calendar of availability it is usually filled within a number of hours. This does not help our feral cat population. Additionally, there are people within the community who use these cats for target practice or other downright abusive behaviors for their own entertainment. The need for this funding is long overdue. With the cat community's diligent effort, funding will allow these animals to get sterilized in other vet's offices, alleviating the burden on MHS.

Please pass this bill and give these animals a chance to stay alive and thrive. When the cats get sterilized, it saves the islands from overpopulation over time, eventually ending the problem.

Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:57:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in very strong support of SB1023.

A Spay and Neuter Special Fund is the only humane answer to reducing pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats.

Allowing grants to organizations that spay/neuter pet animals and/or Free-Roaming cats, supports the critical goal of reducing overpopulation across the board.

Please pass this crucial measure and its companion, HB547.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 11:54:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayne Tamaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live on the island of Maui and there are many feral cats colonies that are being managed by dedicated caretakers. We/they know the importance of having all the cats in their colony spayed and neutered in order to control the population. The Maui Humane Society is unable to provide an adequate number of appointments to TNR the cats in the community. It is almost impossible to get an appointment.

It is my hope that thru the passage of this bill that there will be funds for all islands to have a program that will allow for more services to stay and neuter the community cats at a more effective rate than what we have now.

Please consider passing this important bill, thank you.

Respectfully submitted by Jayme Tamaki.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 9:55:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Van der Auwera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this! I have feral cats that need to be fixed asap before there are more kittens. We need to fix this problem on Maui.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:32:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB1023 provides much-needed tools to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats. Specifically, it closes a gap in state law to provide money for spay/neuter programs for both pet and feral cats. The expanded programs will reduce the need to euthanize unwanted cats and will protect native birds from attack by free-roaming cats. Both the Hawaiian Humane Society and the Hawaii Animal Welfare association strongly support this commonsense measure. I urge the committee to do the same and advance this bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:39:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary J Mooers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1023. My grandson got attacked by a ferrel cat that was in our trash when he took out the trash. They are out here propogating and exploding population in our neighborhood, spreading disease with their feces. It is unsafe to walk my legal, licensed dog while these strays are spraying their smells on our property.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:52:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morrison C Huston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote yes on SB1023 to support spay/neuter funding for MHS. They need to hire more high volume veterinarians immediately and are desperate for more operating room staff. They need the funding to support increased wages for the specialized medical personel required for this work. Thank you

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:19:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joann Perillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I live in Wailuku and I am not only strongly urging but I am begging you to take the responsible stance of funding the neutering program that is long overdue on this island. Not only is this a matter of humane conditions for the overpopulated feral cat problem but also a potential public health concern. With the various infections such as the avian flu, it is only a matter of time before such a flu jumps to other species and with the sheer numbers of feral cats here this could present an overwhelming health pandemic for the residents of Hawaii. I beg you to be proactive and pass this funding bill because it is irresponsible to assume that the Maui Humane Society is capable of handling this alone.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:39:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ute K Finch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo for the opportunity to give my testimony in support of this bill.

I am one of the many community cat caretakers who provide volunteer services in keeping down the cat population in the islands.

Yes...you have a FREE work force out there who are willing to do the trapping to control the over population. Help us by providing low cost spay/neuter services.

We ALL want the same thing...reduce the feral cats in the islands. We'll do the manual labor...we are asking for your financial support to get the rest of the job done.

Kind regards,

Ute K. Finch

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

February 5, 2025

Senate Committee on AEN, TCA, and EIG
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Submission

Re: Support for SB 1023

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Lee and Wakai and members of the committees,

My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am writing to support Senate Bill 1023 which:

- Establishes a statewide special fund for pet population control with multiple funding sources; and
- Forms an advisory committee to manage the fund; and
- Harnesses the commitment of volunteers across the state who are willing to trap cats for spay/neuter services; and
- Aims to reduce pet overpopulation and the number of Free-Roaming cats statewide.

I am also concerned about what could happen if this bill is not adopted, such as continued pet population growth, higher euthanasia rates, and Increased strain on animal welfare resources.

As a long-time Hawaiian Humane Society volunteer and board member, and a resident of Oahu, I believe that this bill would be an important step forward for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 1023.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:09:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trudi Vetter	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The feral cat population on Oahu is out of control. The situation is detrimental to cats and people. It's both a humane as well as a "quality of life" issue. Any measure that makes it easier and more efficient to spay/neuter feral cats is a huge step forward. PLEASE pass the bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:17:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karen bret harte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need funds for spading of cats and dogs as it is cruel to euthenize them due to overpopulation. Also to save the birds.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 12:36:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a person who works in the veterinary field, and am involved heavily in animal rescue, I strongly support this bill. We have all seen that the community feels strongly about caring for and helping our houseless animals. The state needs to provide funding for spay and neuter services for the community. With each cat fixed, 100 are not born, and the dog situation is getting worse as well. If people have the ability to spay and neuter animals we can make a huge dent in the animal overpopultsion. Thank you, Kelli Medeiros

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:21:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan kissel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been heavily involved in TNR for the past 10 years and it has significantly helped in the reduction of community cats on Maui! We need more funding to help more of the community continue especially peoples pets as well as community cats! The state needs to allow funding for more spay and neuter services to help with the overpopulation of animals on the island. Resources now seem to be very limited and people are struggling with their animals and we do not need anymore unwanted dogs, and cats so please help, thank you!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 1:25:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylannah Spradlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in complete and enthusiastic support of this bill, however i'd like you folks to clarify what will be done with the animals spayed and removed from their colony. Will they be set free again? I'm referring to feral/free roaming strays. Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:20:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Appler	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please provide funds for the spay and neuter effort to reduce the Feral cats on Maui and other islands. Maui currently has people caring for wild colonies and trapping to spay and neuter the arriving strays. Most of this effort is done out of pocket by individuals and their supporters. Maui Humane society helps when they can but it still costs these individuals money from their own pockets since not all services are free, but are at a reduced price. Appointments are hard to get, the need is overwhelming. As an individual who knows people who care for these colonies, I donate my money with no expectation of anything in return, just to help these folks working tirelessly out there in the fields. I've done fund raisers through my art, donating my time and artwork to help the cause. The situation is beyond our control and ability to help. Please provide this assistance to the community so we can reduce the feral population humanely. Thank you for listening, Diane Snoey Appler, Kihei, Hawaii.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 2:49:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sarah bumpus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for spaying and neutering of feral cats is desperately needed. The volume of animals overwhelms the currently available resources (humane society, rescue organizations) and often individuals that cannot afford it are paying themselves for spay neuter services to try to control population in their own neighborhoods. I strongly encourage you to support this funding.

Thanks Sarah Bumpus

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:06:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Gurewitsch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators!

Please forgive my informality, due to great haste--but I did not want to miss my opportunity to speak up in whole-hearted support of this bill. My wife and I have been full-time Maui residents for 14 years. The other members of our immediate island ohana are four cats--and when we lose one to disease or old age, we instantly get another from the animal shelter, which is always overflowing. It breaks our hearts to think how few, proportionally, can be assigned to loving forever homes. We love feral colonies, too, but it is terrible stewardship of the aina to let them proliferate unchecked. Neutering and spaying and humane. The process benefits island wildlife and prevents suffering of kittens for which there are no homes. Please pass this bill.

Matthew Gurewitsch

Kihei, HI

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 3:36:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support of grants to organizations that spay/neuter pet animals and/or Free-Roaming cats, supporting the critical goal of reducing overpopulation

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 4:19:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Park	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pls. pass SB1023. We need funding to have our stray cat population kept in check. I'm on colony feeding for the Rusty Cat Collective in Wailea. We try very hard to keep our colonies down but we need your help with funding for the spay/neutering these animals need so as to keep the colonies at more of a minimum. We all talk about conserving our bird population, well, take care of the cat population and our bird population will benefit as well. I'm a renter in a property in Kihei. Few landlords allow pets in a rental hence further exasperating the over-population problem with our cat problem. We volunteers do what we can to help these animal to the degree we are able. We give our time, resources and care to these animals. Is it too much to ask that you help us help them and our community as a whole? Please. In the name for those that cannot speak for themselves, help us be the good guardians of these animals and our island. Mahalo. Sincerely yours -

Wendy Park

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:04:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Lloyd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1023 to create a spay/neuter fund for feral animals. Sadly, many animals are left to fend for themselves when families move away or cannot find pet-friendly rental accomodation. Our animal shelters are overburdened by the unsustainable volume of incoming pets, which means the difference between life and death for an animal, and continuing to provide services for our community.

Creating a spay/neuter fund would provide much-needed financial support for shelters and veterinarian clinics to curb overpopulation and do what's pono.

Thank you for your consideration for SB1023.

Joan Lloyd

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:20:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui is in desperate need of more funding and more options for getting their cats & dogs fixed. The over population problem of unfixed cats & dogs has grown exponentially as a result of the Wildfires of August 2023. Maui Humane Society has not been able to provide as many surgeries as the community needs. Time is of the essence here as each day that passes more kittens & puppies are born. I strongly support this bill and hope it can be implemented as quickly as possible.

Laurie Pottish

Makawao, HI 96768

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 5:55:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to add my very strong support for SB 1023 by Sen. Lee, which creates a spay and neuter fund for pets and free-roaming cats. Since the revenue comes from the sale of special license plates and from state income tax check-off, the fund is voluntary.

The state has a cat overpopulation problem. I am currently fostering cats in lower Puna, working as a volunteer with Action4Animals on Big Island. Our model is adoption as the optimal outcome for abandoned cats and kittens. All the animals we foster are spayed or neutered prior to adoption. We depend on the medical services that organizations like PetFix and Good Karma provide for us, so that we can match people and pets without running the risk of adding to cat overpopulation.

SB 1023 would be a great benefit for the environment, for neighborhoods, and for the cats themselves.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:34:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Forsythe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:14:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christin Greenland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1023

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 6:48:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Malina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1023

Thank you!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:23:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen McGovern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I beg you to create a fund for spaying/neutering of cats especially. It is absolutely heartbreaking how many cats have been left unspayed or neutered and then the pregnant cat dumped at a park or empty field... and the kittens born in the wild... the poor mom cat left to fend for itself to find food and water while nursing 6 baby kittens who then will remain wild and within 4 months likely get pregnant themselves having another 6 kittens... We have to do better to prevent so much suffering. The animals are completely innocent. Many people procrastinate getting their pet spayed or neutered because the cost is just too overwhelming so they stay in denial of the consequences until it's too late and the sad cycle begins. Often the kittens will be dumped at a park once they are weaned but the human still doesn't get the female cat fixed for the same reason- cost... Many volunteers try to get the unfixed dumped cats and kittens fixed but there are almost no appointments at the MHS. Next- There is also the problem with people leaving the island and dumping their cat and I ask that we also create funds for a program to ship cats to places on the mainland that don't have these cat overpopulation problems and want more cats to adopt out. Thank you for your work in making Hawaii better and a more humane place. Eileen McGovern

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:44:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Royelen Lee Boykie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony and support of SB 1023

I'm going to make it quick. You know the situation is dire with regards to the animals on Hawai'i Island.

Spaying and neutering is essential to the human population, the quality of life of our residents and the care and tending of our animal family..

We have too many beautiful cats and dogs without homes Not to make the issue a priority..

Establishing a fund to enable greater compassionate animal fixing is essential..

Please b SB1023.

Mahalo.

Royelen Lee Boykie

Kea'au, HI

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:23:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:00:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teki Vickers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this effort to reduce our domestic cat and dog populations, both ferals and as pets.

Such population reduction efforts help preserve our native wildlife as well as reduce suffering by these animals we as humans domesticated and abandoned.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:11:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Peters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:01:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Lockman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this passing - Maui Humane Society needs more help spaying and neutering cats. I have multiple times attempted to schedule appointments to bring in community cats, only to be told "this month is already full". Thank you for help in making this Bill pass.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:33:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Gleason	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to include my support of this bill for state funding for spay/neuter services. As a long time colony caretaker, along with many others, we have tried our best within our own financial means and time constraints, to see that all of our colony cats receive spay/neuter services. We are often faced with limited spay/neuter facilities which make it difficult to often get appointments in a timely way. State funding for more spay/neuter clinics is essential to get ever closer to our goal of humanely decreasing and stabilizing the cat populations of the islands. Mahalo

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:13:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy vail	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is the only way to address the prolific breeding of feral animals. We especially have a huge problem with cats and toxoplasmosis. Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of this bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 7:35:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melissa duncan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of east Hawaii County I have witnessed the lack of any state funded spay/neuter programs first hand. The stray and feral cat and dog population is nearly out of control. I have taken no less than 40 animals to be altered via free or low cost clinics. These organizations struggle to stay afloat. The state needs to step up and offer much needed funding for spay/neuter and TNR programs.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:40:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachelle MacKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

- Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawai'i

- The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.

- All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

- Spay and neuter is a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations so additional funding for these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

- Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

Concerned citizen that works in the veterinary field
Rachelle MacKenzie

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:54:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian lin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:14:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Salas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All of the animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:08:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Richardson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The high cost of spay/neuter services and the long term inaccessibility to them has made it impossible for me to help reduce the over population of feral cats in my neighborhoods as a cat-trapper on Maui. The humane society is so backed up, for years now, that I have been unable to schedule appointments for spay/neuter services and have stopped trapping altogether.

The overpopulation problem has skyrocketed. There are new feral colonies growing in every corner of the island. AND by adopting a couple ferals, my housing choices have been greatly reduced since most rentals here are "no pets allowed." AND most veterinary services for pets, (my adopted ferals) are very steep and mainly out of reach. You stand to pay between \$500 and \$800 for a spay at a local vet here. This is a huge block to responsibly having pets at all. With allocated funding now, we can save tax payer dollars in the future by rounding up all the ferals we can and getting them spayed and neutered so that when they reach life-span, the colonies will eventually die off. Please help! Our endangered birds and the thousands of homeless kittens going rogue are counting on us.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:46:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alicia morrier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would be a major victory to prohibit our feral cat population from skyrocketing any further.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:32:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Magnuson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Upon moving to the Big Island almost 5 years ago we adopted 3 cats intentionally, we had no idea how many we would acquire for free! We now have 10 and that doesn't include our outside ones! We used to call them strays, now they're our outside cats. We have utilized PetFix to get as many fixed, chipped and treated as we can and are still actively doing so because they just keep showing up. We don't have a heart to turn them away, it's not their fault. It's ours, as the people! The over population is overwhelming and extremely sad, we need more help to get this under control. There aren't enough resources being supported. Please, please help and pass this bill, it's the right thing to do for the animals and this island. Thank you!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:10:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Greentree	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter is the most effective method of mitigating Hawaii's dog and cat overpopulation problem. But adequate funds are essential to support this. SB1023 is a path forward.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:06:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Royston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:03:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Starlyne Estrada-Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimonial: The Vital Need for Spay and Neuter Clinic Funding

As a dedicated member of my community and a firm believer in responsible pet care, I strongly advocate for increased funding for spay and neuter clinics. These clinics are not just a convenience, they are a necessity.

Uncontrolled pet overpopulation leads to overcrowded shelters, increased euthanasia rates, and stray animals suffering on the streets. Many families want to do the right thing but struggle with the financial burden of veterinary procedures. By investing in accessible and affordable spay and neuter services, we can prevent unwanted litters, reduce the number of homeless animals, and ease the strain on already overwhelmed shelters.

Beyond population control, spaying and neutering also promote healthier pets. These procedures help prevent certain cancers and infections, reduce aggressive behaviors, and contribute to overall well-being. Additionally, communities that prioritize these services experience fewer animal control issues, leading to safer and more compassionate neighborhoods.

The cost of inaction is far greater than the investment in these clinics. By funding spay and neuter programs, we are not only saving animal lives but also creating a more humane and sustainable future for our communities. I urge local leaders and policymakers to recognize the urgency of this issue and take the necessary steps to ensure that every pet owner has access to these essential services.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:47:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
F Cheryl Polikapu-Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Funding is so important for the spay and Neutering program for cats and dogs. Our neighborhood is getting overwhelmed with stray cats they really need to be fixed so that their reproduction slows down or stops. So thankful for the private clinics that is being put on but it is not enough.

Mahalo

Cheryl Polikapu-Medeiros

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:16:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Barbatra Frazier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Hawaii Legislators, I urge you to pass this very important bill. As a foster parent member of the group A4A on the Big Island, I am very familiar with the overpopulation issue. We see feral homeless cats all over the island. The only moral solution to this issue is to try to spay and neuter as many of these beautiful and innocent little creatures as possible. Their predicament is not their fault, but the fault of human beings. The very least we can do as a society is to invest in humanely reducing the population. This can only be done by spay/neuter. There are many small groups who do this work on the Big Island, but they can't do it all. Please provide funding so that this work can continue and thrive.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:57:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lydia Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a veterinarian who sees firsthand the effects of feral cat overpopulation, I care deeply about the welfare of these animals and strongly support the establishment of a Spay and Neuter Special Fund. Furthermore, the feeding of feral and stray cats that have not been sterilized should be made illegal, as this contributes hugely to overpopulation. The food that is set out for these feral cats also contributes to other invasive species such as mongoose. Fines assessed on those violating these laws can be used to support the spay/neuter fund.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:59:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janet rugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 11:45:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Kohout	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of the spaying/neutering funds for cats on Maui. The humane society (MHS) is often lacking appointments to spay /neuter cats for stray cats and pets. Private vets are increasingly costly (\$300-\$500+ for spay/neuter) and private citizens are not able to afford this. This lack of resources and funding is creating an overpopulation of animals that ultimately end up suffering needlessly. Thank you for your consideration and support of passing this bill. It is the only humane way to help curb the overpopulation of animals on Maui.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:37:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucretia Worster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spy and neuter is the only true way to control dog and cat population.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:32:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Earle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is such an important step in bringing compassion to the feral animals together with the protection of the environment and native species. It's important to be proactive about this situation as it also results in abuse and neglect of so many animals.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:40:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurel Shepherd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to provide much needed funds to control animal overpopulation and alleviate our over crowded shelters. Spay and neuter for pets is prohibitively expensive for residents. TNR of feral cats is a proven humane way to control feral cat population. Funds available for this purpose are much needed and will be put to good use.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:48:12 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shari dicks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter is a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations so additional funding for these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:53:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANNE KLOFT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill for the spay and neuter fund to reduce the overpopulation of free-roaming cats. This fund is desperately needed by community members like me who are trying to be pono and neuter free-roaming cats in my community. I had successfully neutered all the cats that came through my property through the Maui Humane Society which offers free community cat neutering services. When two small groups of cats appeared at my public school where I teach, I began trapping and neutering those cats. However, since July, 2024 it has become extremely difficult to get an appointment at the Humane Society for free spay/neuter services. As a working person, raising a family I cannot afford the fees a vet charges to spay/neuter a cat-- hundreds of dollars per cat. Every month, I check the website on the day the Humane Society opens up the scheduling for the next month and every month, the appointments are taken within a few minutes. There are new cats at my home and school that I would like to catch and have neutered but at this time cannot due to lack of funds.

With funding from this bill, my hope would be that I could continue to help reduce the amount of free-roaming cats on Mau by trapping and neutering cats in my community.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:05:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandria Siwecki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Maui needs a spay neuter program on the island to control the animal population.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:51:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeanie Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a long time Maui resident. I have pets of my own, and have volunteered with Maui Humsne Society for 22 years, helping every week in spay/ neuter surgery recovery, as well as fostering hundreds of cats and kittens. I feed some of my cats outside, which tends to attract strays and ferals, who I then trap and bring in to be spayed or neutered. There has been a huge increase in the number of wandering cats and fewer surgery appointments available. The situation has gotten to be critical and more funding is needed to support spay and neuter programs, which is the only solution to this problem. I urge you to vote yes on this vital bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:30:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Jagow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would make significant impact on Hawaii's overwhelmingly high pet population. It is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness.

All the shelters asked rescues in Hawaii, especially in big island, are consistently overcrowded. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Even those who have the funds to pay have significant issues getting an appointment because there are not enough clinics available to support the need.

Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed and would help tremendously.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 5:32:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Horton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill.

Kevin Horton

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:10:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michell Verduzco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. It is imperative we have your support to try and limit the incredible number of animals being born without a chance getting a loving family simply due to the necessary resources for spay/neuter programs here on the Big Island. I urge you to pass this initiative.
Mahalo

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:48:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help us in our attempt to try to reduce the exponential "multiplication" of the cat overpopulation on our island. This is an absolutely essential necessity for the well-being of our community.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:11:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lino Yoshikawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am in support for the funding of the spay/neuter to combat the overpopulation of cat colonies. There are so many parks with an influx of cats and it is getting out of hand for community members to pay out of pocket to help these cats. Although I love cats, there is no way that our island and community can help the cat population if it keeps growing in the way it is now.

It is also my understanding that the Maui Humane Society is over capacity and has been asking the community for help, but if that doesn't work they may need to start euthanizing some animals. In a perfect world we shouldn't have to kill innocent animals, so I would like for the issue to be tackled from the stages before the animals are taking to shelters such as Maui Humane Society.

Mahalo

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:22:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ryan Barthel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1023.

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:27:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette samson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support 100%. Please pass it!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:37:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am part of a small group that cares for cats dropped off/abandoned at resort properties. We feed and, as funds allow, spay and neuter these cats. Most of these cats are very comfortable around humans, indicating that they may have been pets before being abandoned. Some of them arrive, unfortunately, with injuries. To provide for a fund that ensures their numbers are kept as low as possible is an excellent idea. The only caveat I would suggest is that the fund refer to the cats being safely returned, after their recovery from surgery, to the area where they were trapped or picked up. That way, it is made explicit that these animals are not to subsequently be somehow transferred to/provided for exploitation practices, such as the abominable use of "bait cats" in the horrific practice of dog fighting.

Mahalo Nui Loa for adding these caveats to the proposal.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 10:50:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynley Dows	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Additional funding for spay and neuter of pets and free roaming cats is desperately needed. The price of private veterinary services is completely out of reach for the majority of animal lovers in Maui. I, as a community member involved in trapping, neutering, releasing and managing or rehoming free roaming cats am going broke trying to have a positive impact on this community issue. The Maui Humane society is a positive force but an inadequate one to make the massive impact, the optimal numbers of spay/neuter services that are needed. This amount of funding will not solve the problem but it will move the needle in the right direction. It is unfair that the financial and personal burden of spaying/neutering free roaming cats falls to a tiny percentage of the County of Maui residents, the few that dedicate tens of hours a week to reducing overpopulation

It is essential that these funds get into the hands of pet owners to prevent the possibility of pets breeding. Keep in mind that due to our housing situation, many pets later become free roaming animals.

It is essential to get money in the hands of free roaming cat adopters, those community members that take it on themselves to adopt, feed, and socialize free roaming cats so they can afford to spay/neuter them to eliminate more breeding.

It is critical to get money to the rescues that trap, socialize and rehome free roaming cats and kittens. It is unacceptable to expect these rescues, private or non-profit, to foot the bill to make these positive impacts on our community tragedy.

Please vote yes on this bill and the associated bills that offer fundraising toward this end. Please keep looking for ways to make spay/neuter services affordable. Think about giving a tax break or tax incentive to Veterinary practices for performing a minimum number of spay/neuter services for free or under \$100/ animal each month.

In addition to spay/ neuter payment, compensate community members for their trap/soay/neuter costs and time by offering a payment per animal or a voucher per animal for a local store that sells pet supplies. You cannot even begin to imagine the funds we exhaust for traps, towels, food, vaccines, basic animal meds, veterinary care to ensure we don't release sick animals, food, containers, chip readers, lights, carts, etc.

We need more funding to address this community-wide issue. Try sit in your yard overnight in the dark. Every once in a while light up a bright flashlight to see just how many sets of eyes of free roaming cats cross your yard at night.

Please, please vote yes.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:22:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Polakow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:06:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Shishido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please pass SB1023

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:49:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
January Asbury	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- My neighbor and I have trapped and spayed/neutered 28 cats in our neighborhood just this past year. It's costly and stressful as our facilities are over burden and at capacity to manage the problem. We both have rescued 4 cats each that are now our pets. There are loud cat fights nightly with the wild cats starving and living on the streets. Please help this problem. -Spay and neuter is a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations so additional funding for these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

- Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:29:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members

Here on Maui we are in great need of support of actions to increase pet "fixing." Our open shelter, MHS, is at the breaking point due a series of events over past few year. All mitigation continues, but the root cause is too many cats & dogs. Please pass this bill Mahalo

Mike Moran Kihei Maui

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:33:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Gowron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter funding is essential to continue to move forward to reduce the feral cat populations on all islands. These animals do not deserve to be culled; the reality of spay/neuter is that in a natural span of time, with mass spay/neuter efforts, the population will diminish.

For those animals that may not be considered true ferals - perhaps a small group of semi-ferals living on the property of a private residence, being fed/managed/looked after by individuals - the cost of bringing a cat to a vet can run into hundreds of dollars. Equally, in many areas (I'm on the Big Island, so am referencing Hawi, Ocean View, Kau district as examples), there are simply no professional veterinary services even available.

Add to this growing economic considerations for our kupuna, it's simply cost-prohibitive for most to address more than one-two cats at best.

Mass kill is NOT an option. Again, these animals have not asked or sought out this life; it's evolved through economic and environmental issues. We, as the humans, must take the next step and support and promote the need for spay and neuter. While local nonprofits are doing their best (Action4 Animals, PETFIX Spay and Neuter, etc on the Big Island as examples), they merely scratch the surface; PETFIX Spay and Neuter managed to spay/neuter more than 5,000 animals in 2024, with modest donations and state/county funding. While 5,000 is great, it's a drop in the overflowing bucket.

Please make the right and best choice--fund this Bill and move forward helping the animals in need, the people that try to support them, and the environment. Mahalo nui loa.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:58:30 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Lautee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawaii should absolutely spay or neuter and release the stray cats. This Bill is here because it's a known problem and needs to be humanely addressed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:08:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Bergmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is essential to controlling the reproduction of feral cats throughout Hawaii, especially here on the island of Hawaii. Without the appropriation of money, the problem will just continue, unresolved. The cost of spay/neutering at private vet practices is prohibitive even for owners of pets, nevermind for those who seek to control reproduction in feral cat populations. The constant influx of animals into the shelter or rescue systems is overwhelming, leading to the destruction of many animals. The best, most cost effective and humane response is to control reproduction in the first place, and funding by the state makes this possible.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:04:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Alstrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an advocate for the welfare of animals, especially cats, on our islands I know that it is imperative to provide free or low cost spay/neuter services to our communities. This is the first step to eliminating the overpopulation issue that we are experiencing. I urge you to pass this measure and to insure that we can continue to provide trap/neuter//return//maintain services to our hardworking animal advocates. Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:16:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heleena Oliveira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii

- The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.

- All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

- Spay and neuter is a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations so additional funding for these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

- Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:54:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Jane Finnell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a vital measure for the health of our wildlife population as well as our domestic animal population. Please pass this measure!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:21:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been participating in trap and release of feral cats for about 2 1/2 years. I've done about 40 in my little two street neighborhood. I'm able to do this because of organizations who offer free neutering services. if not for them, the feral cat population on our two streets would be in the hundreds, if not more. Having the funds to continue, this efforts is crucial both for the health of the communities and the health of the cats.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:29:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Corrales	Testifying for James Campbell High's Sabers4Animals Club	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Kris Corrales, and I am honored to represent James Campbell High School's animal advocacy club, Sabers4Animals, as its President and Founder. Our club, composed of approximately 70 dedicated students, is passionate about animal welfare and actively engaged in efforts to support and care for animals in our community. We stand in strong support of HB547, which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to help reduce pet overpopulation and manage the reproduction of free-roaming cats.

At James Campbell High School and our neighboring 'Ilima Intermediate School, we have our own population of free-roaming cats that we work diligently to care for and manage. However, maintaining stable and healthy populations through responsible spaying and neutering efforts requires financial support and resources. This bill provides essential funding and grants to organizations that offer these services, directly benefiting schools like ours and communities across Hawaii.

By investing in spay and neuter programs, HB547 takes a proactive approach to addressing pet overpopulation and improving animal welfare statewide. Alongside the Hawaii Animal Welfare Association, which represents the largest animal welfare organizations in each county, we urge you to support this measure and its companion, SB1023.

-- Sabers4Animals Club and Officers

@sabers4animals &jchssabers4animals@gmail.com

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 8:05:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hal McDougal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/3/2025 9:09:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Velvet Replogle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this bill. I feel very strongly about the animal over population on our island. For the last year I have volunteered at a spay neuter clinic and donated money to the program because I feel so strongly about it. Please pass this bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:10:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Taguiped	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.

- Spay and neuter is a proven and humane method to reduce the free-roaming cat populations so additional funding for these efforts will mitigate their impact on native wildlife and public spaces.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:13:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stong strong support. Thank you.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:29:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Mehling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a 1000 hour a year volunteer at the Maui Humane Society in the vet dept helping with spay and neuter. Money to reduce the existing population by having additional funding to spay and neuter is vital. Reducing the feral cat population humanely by attrition does work. The existing populations are healthier and don't keep expanding. Further, resources are slim and being able to assist community members in doing this work is a win win. I strongly support this bill and would only like to see it amended to increase the funding.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:28:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lela Kalama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

i am in support of SB1023. The cost off spay and neuter is way to expensive at the vet. Which leads to overpopulation of owned and stray animals. A alternative option is in great need. It is also imperative that stray animals that are sterilized need to be returned to where they were captured from. Please pass this bill.

mahalo

Lela Kalama

Keaau, HI

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:59:00 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Johansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:23:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
linda willaby	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1023 because there needs to be free or affordable spay/neuter to address the problem of pet overpopulation. All Hawaii animal intake shelters are full and overflowing. It is a real crisis and private non profits cannot handle all of the abandoned and surrendered animals and people seeking affordable spay/neuter for their pets. It would also help in solving the number of dumped and feral animals here in Hawaii.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:41:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Zuziak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to create a special fund for spay/neuter to help reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats (the most humane approach to population control).

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:01:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Muramatsu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass along

I am writing to support Hawaii Senate bill 1023 to provide a spay and neuter special fund. . We are overrun by increasing numbers of feral cats in Hawai'i. The population control of cats will make our state safer and healthier for cats, people and our native birds and animals who are disappearing and have disappeared at an alarming rate. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:15:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Bartlow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This special fund is necessary to help control pet overpopulation.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:09:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonella Scolpini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Spay/neutering has become unaffordable, costing \$400-600 per pet. So many pet owners do not do it which contributes to our overpopulation of dogs and cats in Maui.

The Humane Society is very overburdened with too many animals coming in daily. There are limited adopters, as finding housing with a pet is difficult, so we must control the pet population by helping all pet owners spay/neuter their animals.

The high cost needs to be subsidized by the government or find a way to offer free spay/neuter service.

Antonella Scolpini

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:27:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Zuziak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:27:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spaying/neutering is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, one of the main causes of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii. The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats. All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities. While funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:31:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Cheromcka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators

Mahalo for those who drafted and submitted this bill for a vote. We here on Maui are struggling with an immense feral cat population, very limited support for the many volunteers who feed, vaccinate and neuter these guys at their own expense and a HUGE shortage of affordable neutering opportunities for both ferals and pets. I remember the old SNIP certificates that were once available at libraries which enabled local families to get both their own pets and ferals neutered affordably. Population control is the only humane way out of this mess. Please vote to support SB1023 and help us dig our way out of this feral cat nightmare. Mahalo Victoria Cheromcka

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:34:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Patterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii. The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats. All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities. Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:35:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanishka Agarwal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:41:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Mizuno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support bill SB1023 regarding the spay and neuter of animals. Hawaii is experiencing an overpopulation crisis of dogs and cats, particularly feral cats, and providing affordable spay and neuter services is crucial to encouraging pet owners to sterilize their animals and helping to control the feral animal population in our communities. Spay and neuter programs serve the best interests of the state by gradually reducing populations and promoting animal welfare. Feral cats that are trapped, neutered, and released should be returned to their original location. Spay and neuter is the only ethical and long-term solution to this issue.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:05:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Pitcaithley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in strong support of SB1023. The single most important thing that we can do to save cats and dogs from all the suffering and death that their overpopulation causes is to spay and neuter them. Ultimately, spay and neuter reduce human-animal conflict, reduces shelter intake, and relieves the burden on animal shelters to euthanize unwanted pets.

Pet abandonment is rampant in Maui. People are dumping their unwanted dogs in the street and dumping their unfixed cats in cat colonies. Pet abandonment first started during COVID and then escalated following the Lahaina fires. Many residents have left Maui, leaving their unfixed pets behind because they were unable to find affordable housing particularly ones that allow pets. Maui Humane Society shelter has been at over capacity since August 2023 after the Lahaina fires. They are short staffed in their spay and neuter clinics and it is nearly impossible to get an appointment for spay and neuter.

Our state government could make it easier for licensed vets licensed in other states to practice in Hawaii; vets from the mainland could, for example, come to Hawaii for a few months on vacation and work in spay neuter clinics. According to the Hawaii Veterinarian Medical Association, vets from other states must take a licensing exam in order to practice in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important matter

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 10:51:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola Weza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this SB1023

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:48:09 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg "Pu'uwai Aloha" Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Introduction

1. **Who Am I.** My name is Greg “Pu’uwai Aloha” Baker, a resident of 23 plus years of the Big Island of Hawai’i, Puna district, in Kalapana & Kaimu. I am a very lucky ha’ole mainlander who became close friend of Punaikeoneone Keli’iho’omalua and his father, Uncle Robert Keli’iho’omalua and the entire extended ohana that included the following; Ka’awaloa, Kealoha, Kuahiwinui, Kahaloa, Quihano, Ku’uamo’o, Kaho’okaulana, and more (and yes, I know how to say these names too which is a bit of work to master).

My love for everything that is Hawa’i’ has grown during my time here and over the past five years my awareness of the challenges our community cats and dogs face is both tragic and deeply sad. I choose to make a difference by using my developed critical thinking from having a degree in Accounting and an MBA in Healthcare spending the past ten years in corporate finance. I combine my love and passion for helping these animals with a strong foundation in science-based decision making and best practice approaches. I am deeply involved in the cat and dog rescue community and volunteer at the MASH Spay and Neuter clinics across the island. And excited to complete a program certificate in Cat Population Management in a few weeks from the University of the Pacific taught by a leader in the nationwide Cat community.

1. I am testifying in support of the measure, HB547 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals.

Content

Please note that the Spay & Neuter of Animals, specifically cats and dogs is the foundation of any and all activities engaged to reduce their populations. All other efforts, no matter how amazing, will not create the success needed without it.

Let's use the example of Cats...

Owned pet cats are the SOURCE of all community (feral, stray, dumped, etc.) cats.

To reduce the community cat population you need to increase the number of owned cats that are fixed (see <https://www.communitycatspodcast.com/cat-pyramid> for more details).

Trap - Neuter (and Spay) - Vaccinate - Return (TNVR or TNR for short) of community cat colonies that push for 100% fix rate have consistently shown to reduce the average cat population by an order of magnitude compared to Culling (killing a portion of community cats from time to time) or Mass Kills (attempting to kill most all of the cats in an area).

Additionally;

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii**
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.**
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.**
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.**

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:42:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support SB1023. Hawai'i absolutely needs the creation of a special fund to spay and neuter pets.

Pet overpopulation is a statewide problem but especially so here on the Big Island. I personally know many people who volunteer their time and energy through various groups who help rescue abandoned pets and hold spay and neuter events. Without exception all of these grass roots organizations are chronically underfunded and overwhelmed by the ever increasing number of animals needing help.

The high cost of spay/neuter puts this increasingly out of reach for Hawai'i residents, especially those in economically disadvantaged areas. Of course, the sad result is even more unwanted and abandoned pets left to reproduce and continue the cycle.

Private funding sources cannot adequately meet the critical need for more accessible spay/neuter here in Hawai'i. We urgently need a state fund to address this pressing issue and it will be money well spent.

Please support SB1023 for the good of Hawai'i's pets, people and the 'aina.

Me ke aloha,

Malia M

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:06:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the Committee Chair and all Committee Members: My name is Barbara Cigainero and I live on the Big Island of Hawaii in Keaau. I am actively involved in the rescue of cats/kittens. When we trap cats that are part of colonies, we struggle to find available spay/neuter spots so that we can stop the spread of homeless kittens. The demand for this service far exceeds the availability of service. We must stop the spread of homeless animals by having free, spay and neuter service readily available for families who need the service but cannot afford the cost of a regular vet. I strongly support the passage of SB 1023. Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:12:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott hertrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is a major problem with spay/neuter procedures on the island . The cost and availability are out of reach of most locals. Please support this bill , mahalo

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:18:04 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a seasoned TNRM person since moving to Hawaii in 1969.

We do not have Rabies, predators or harsh weather in Hawaii plus limited pet friendly housing.

Cats control rodents, and when fed by caretakers they do not hunt birds for food...

We desperately need funding to control overpopulation.

Our unique geography requires constant attention.

Tourists are amazed at our well maintained colonies...

Private pets plus free roaming colony cats must be spay/neutered to prevent population increase.

Please pass this bill to allow continuing the progress we have made exhibiting ALOHA,

and educating those concerned of the neccessity to pursue free spay/neuter surgeries.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:29:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tania Chong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1023 to humanely reduce the overpopulation of cats.

Downtown Honolulu

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:40:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danica Ann Barretto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:43:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pauline Fiene	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a volunteer at the Maui Humane Society for the past several years I see how dire the pet overpopulation situation is. Caring for all the animals is a monumental task. Trying to keep all the animals mentally and physically healthy is unbelievably hard work – there's no standing around and chit chatting – but they are working against a never-ending stream of animals coming in. Their assessment is that the pet reproduction needs to be significantly reduced right away. Please vote yes on this bill.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 11:51:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Avella	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think neutering is important and should be done for many animals on island. There is too many animals on island around because of over population. Neutering is the best solution to help with this. I used to volunteer for a cat sanctuary after the fires and we made sure to neuter all cats to avoid adding to the already high population because we knew it was important to help with the problem ahead of time as much as possible.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:46:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jahzara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is essential for all cats and dogs on island. Heres why:

- 1) Spay/neuter is major part to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawai'i
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:15:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Roselle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter is the best way to address companion animal overpopulation in Hawaii. I strongly support this bill. I urge its passage.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:23:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Desai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many homeless cats on Maui. There must be a spay and neutering program available to the public. It is vital to control the breeding of feral cats. I have trapped 3 cats for the TNR program.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:23:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Briden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB1023.

As a colony caretaker I know how difficult it is to get an appointment to spay/neuter here on Maui. It not a lack of interested parties to help in the process of fixing these poor abandoned, oftentimes dumped pets, rather a lack of available community resources.

Again, I am in support of SB1023.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 12:33:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Weikum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. I feed a small cat colony and I also know of many other people on the island of Maui who feed cat colonies and take care of the animals. Being able to get cats spayed or neutered at the Maui Humane Society is an incredible resource and the populations would be unmanageable without this. It is challenging enough as a cat colony caretaker to feed the animals every day out of pocket and to have to pay hundreds of dollars to spay or neuter each intact animal would be impossible for the average person. It is already difficult enough to be able to trap the animals as this can be physically challenging and not everyone is able to do it. Maui Humane Society is also overwhelmed and understaffed and doesn't have enough resources and appointments can be hard to come by. Having other opportunities for free or low-cost spay and neuter appointments would be such a great help.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:02:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy McDavid	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of state funding for spay and neuter. it is an absolute necessity & long past due. private funding has shrunk & is not nearly enough to provide the needed spay and neuter clinics. Our islands are flooded with unwanted dogs and cats. The best solution is for the most people to spay and neuter as possible. the cost at the vets is unaffordable for most people, so there must be free options for people to be able to do it. We also need free options for the people who volunteer their time to TNR (trap neuter release) community cats. These cats need to all be fixed & released to where they came from. this resource is desperately needed, just to start dealing with our islands massive animal overpopulation. Please please provide state funding!!

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 4:03:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Tauchert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every single animal rescue and shelter on the Big Island is constantly overwhelmed with intakes, many arriving having not been previously spayed or neutered. There is not one answer to the problem here, but funding set aside for affordable if not free spay & neuter is definitely needed. The state needs to support the existing volunteer and donation run clinics that are trying to make a dent in the number of animals that are suffering as strays or spend months if not years with the rescues and shelters, instead of a loving home, or are being euthanized. Our residents that open their hearts and homes to a rescue from one of these organizations or shelters, or take in a stray that the organizations or shelters could not take in themselves because they are full, need to be supported with free spay and neuter available in a timely manner, to break the cycle.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 6:58:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry E Restivo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Maui urgently needs assistance in addressing the overwhelming cat and dog populations. I fully support SB1023 and setting aside funds for this cause, but it's essential that an oversight committee is put in place to monitor how the money is spent, ensuring it's strictly used for spaying and neutering efforts.

1. The Maui Society received over \$24 million in donations for recovery efforts following the Lahaina fires. However, they have significantly reduced their spay and neuter programs, even for animals in Lahaina.
2. Hawai'i has very strict rabies protocols for imported pets. I believe the state should also require all dogs and cats to be spayed or neutered before they are allowed entry.
3. All breeding of dogs and cats in the state should be prohibited unless a permit (per litter) is obtained from the county, granted only after thorough inspections and proper veterinary evaluations.
4. Hawai'i Humane societies should be mandated to publicly disclose their finances, including all donations received. A specific percentage of those funds should be allocated to spay and neuter programs.
5. The state should allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to come in and assist with large-scale spay and neuter clinics.

Thank you for taking the time to advocate for those who cannot speak for themselves.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:59:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB1023! Thank you, Jan Allen

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 8:53:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jennifer schneider	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I support this bill for the following reasons:

- 1) Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of prolific breeding, a root cause of pet and free-roaming cat overpopulation and animal homelessness in Hawaii
- 2) The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put spay/neuter surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed for both owned pets and free-roaming cats.
- 3) All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets and free-roaming cats is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
- 4) Funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. State support is badly needed.

Thank You, Mahalo nui.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:34:05 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Simpson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state needs to support spay and neuter of cats in Hawaii. This is the only way to have the people who are volunteering to help with this situation buy in. Any sort of eridacation process would be lengthy and meet with much opposition. Spaying and neutering is a more cost effective method and can be done without an eridaction (like a poison) that you know will have unintended consequences to Hawaiian wildlife.

You must allow TNR cats to be brought in as well, these are the ones that are causing most of the probelms, and without TNR cats being allowed those populations will continue to increase.

Working with the volunteers that are already working so hard on this issue is much easier than trying to have the state deal with it.

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/2/2025 4:25:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane Inoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Agriculture and Environment (AEN), Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCN), and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIC)

Subject: Senate Bill (S.B.) 1023 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Hearing Date: February 5, 2025

My name is Duane Inoue, and I am a concerned citizen, testifying against S.B. 1023, as written.

The bill will establish the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

Did the State determine how much it will cost to reduce pet overpopulation and high reproduction of free-roaming cats? Did the State determine how much funds will be created by each funding stream to alleviate the problem?

Please note that bill only creates Spay and Neuter Special Fund of \$50,000 for fiscal year 2025-2026 and \$50,000 for fiscal year 2026-2027. I feel strongly that these funding amounts are woefully inadequate to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats. I doubt that the other fundraising sources (i.e., Income check-off or special number plates) will be enough to make any impact.

I think that S.B. 1023 needs to be revised to increase the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to a more reasonable amount. For example, it could be increased to at least \$500,000 envisioned in H.B. 364 (Relating to Animal Control) and associated S.B., albeit I do NOT agree with H.B. 364 proposed cat breeding permit requirement.

Duane Inoue

95-214 Paeheu Pl, Mililani, HI. 96789

(808) 372-1162

February 2, 2025

Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts
Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

RE: SB1023, Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Dear Senate Committees,

As a practicing veterinarian in Hawaii dedicated to animal health and conservation of native wildlife, I am writing to express my opposition to SB 1023 as written. While I am grateful for the support of so many legislators in desiring to address our animal overpopulation crisis and reduce the free-roaming cat population, I am concerned that use of these special funds for popular “trap-neuter-release” (TNR) programs will be ineffective in reducing these populations and protecting native wildlife.

While there are conflicting published studies and data regarding the effectiveness of TNR programs, most scientific reviews and mathematical models of population growth support the conclusion that TNR is ineffective in decreasing free-roaming populations in real world situations. The failure of this approach is multifactorial: high breeding frequency and large litter sizes, lower actual rates of trapping and sterilization than necessary to stop population growth, overabundance of food provided to free-roaming colonies, and continual abandonment of unwanted pet cats. Any successful population reduction with TNR programs has been attributed primarily to concurrent adoption and/or euthanasia of over 50% of the estimated colony population.

Multiple national and international organizations do not support TNR as an effective method of managing free-roaming cat populations, including the American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians, the National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians, the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council, The Wildlife Society, the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, PETA, and the American Bird Conservancy.

The negative health impacts of free-roaming cats on native wildlife are especially poignant in Hawaii due to our unique native biodiversity that is threatened by increasing environmental pressures. Native birds such as honeycreepers, nene, and alala, and marine mammals such as monk seals and spinner dolphins are increasingly at risk from either direct predation or indirect spread of disease such as toxoplasmosis which is only spread by infected cats.

Additionally, free-roaming cat colonies are often afflicted with infectious diseases such as upper respiratory viruses, leukemia and immunodeficiency viruses, internal and external parasites, and ringworm, which lead to chronic health issues and poor quality of life for affected animals. TNR programs do not focus on finding permanent homes for cats or improving the quality of life for cats that are re-released, and can inadvertently increase cat abandonment rather than encouraging responsible pet ownership or surrender of unwanted pets to shelter or rescue groups.

As there are multiple introduced bills regarding spay/neuter special funds before the legislature this session, I ask that you strongly consider amending this bill with language from HB 364 to ensure public funds are used toward effective sterilization and population control programs that restrict re-release of sterilized animals. Without clear guidelines on how these funds will be used, please OPPOSE SB 1023 as written. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM

SB-1023

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 1:48:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/5/2025 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carita Inoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairs Agriculture and Environment (AEN), Transportation and Culture and the Arts (TCN), and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs (EIC)

Subject: Senate Bill (S.B.) 1023 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Hearing Date: February 5, 2025

My name is Carita Inoue, and I am a concerned citizen, testifying against S.B. 1023, as written.

The bill will establish the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

The purpose of proposed bill is to reduce “pet overpopulation”. However, para 143-B(4)(b), adds “including free-roaming cat population”, which could imply that “special funds” could be used for spay/neuter of “non cat” species. If the purpose of the bill is to reduce cat population, it should specify that funds be used only for that purpose only. The use of these funds for spay/neuter of dogs, rabbits, etc., will not reduce the free-roaming cat population.

I Recommend that language be revised to specify that special fund be used only for reduction of “pet overpopulation” in cats only. If the intent, is to use the funds to spay/neuter other pets, the bill should clearly state that fact.

Carita Inoue

95-214 Paeheu Pl, Mililani, HI. 96789

(808) 808 (778-3055)