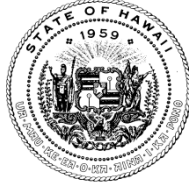


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

STATE OF HAWAI'I | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

LATE

February 6, 2025
10:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Room 430 & Videoconference

S.B. 599
RELATING TO DEAD CATS AND DOGS ON PUBLIC ROADWAY

Senate Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

The Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) supports S.B. 599. This bill requires the department of Transportation or appropriate county department when disposing of a deceased cat or dog found on a public roadway to scan the animal for a microchip, record certain information, and report that information to the appropriate county animal control services or animal contractors.

The HDOT recognizes the importance of notifying pet owners and is committed to enhancing our approach to this issue while maintaining our core mission of roadway safety and maintenance. We are currently in the process of obtaining microchip scanners and will collaborate with local humane societies to facilitate pet owner notifications. Additionally, we will work to implement procedures that balance efficiency, safety, and feasibility.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback and encourage further discussions with key stakeholders, including animal welfare organizations and county agencies, to develop a practical and sustainable approach that aligns with DOT's operational framework.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 4, 2025

To: Chair Sen. Chris Lee
Vice Chair Sen. Lorraine Inouye
and Members of the Committee on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 599: Relating to Transportation
Thursday, Feb. 6, 2025, 3 p.m., Room 224 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 599, which requires the Department of Transportation or appropriate county department when disposing of a deceased cat or dog from a public roadway to scan the animal for a microchip, record certain information, and report that information to the appropriate county animal services or animal service contractors; and appropriates funds.

This measure codifies the will expressed in the last legislative session by HCR171 / HR150, which was approved by this body. The appropriate agencies have struggled to fulfill the requests made in that resolution and Hawaiian Humane is grateful to the bill sponsors for including the funding necessary for state and county agencies to carry out this mandate.

Pets are an integral part of many people's lives and not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive can be traumatic. State and county agencies responsible for clearing dead animals from roadways do not routinely scan deceased animals for an identifying microchip or take other steps to determine ownership, such as inspecting a tag worn on the animal's collar for a contact phone number or address. With an increase in the number of microchipped dogs and cats, resulting from a state law that required them as of January 1, 2022, scanning for chips would be an effective way to provide closure to worried pet owners.

We urge the committee to pass SB 599. Mahalo for your consideration.

Testimony in **Support** of SB599
February 6, 2025

Members of the Senate committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts :

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy.

The Pacific Pet Alliance (PPA) would like to submit testimony for your consideration regarding the appropriation of funds to purchase microchip scanners for State road crews.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully asks this committee to please support SB599 as it would provide State transportation workers the scanners to help identify deceased pets and provide grieving pet owners some closure as to what happened to their cat, dog, or large bird.

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:33:27 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you so much for the opportunity to support SB 599 by Senator Kildani. This is a bill that shows Hawai'i as a compassionate state. If one's pet is killed on the roadway, it is important for the family to have closure. If not, families often search for their beloved pet for months.

Microchip scanners are a tiny expense in comparison to the emotional relief that this bill will bring to family members.

Mahalo for your kind support of SB 599.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 3:58:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 599. As someone who lost one of their cats a few years ago, I can attest how hurtful it is to not know what happened to her. By requiring the Department of Transportation or appropriate county department to scan the animal for a microchip, record certain information, and report that information to the appropriate county animal services or animal service contractors when disposing of a deceased cat or dog from a public roadway, this Bill will go some way in providing closure to those searching for their animals. I strongly support this measure including funding for state and county agencies to carry out the mandate. Thank you.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:05:26 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill to provide a protocol and funding for deceased animals to be identified and return back to their loved ones, which will help provide closure.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:10:14 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB599.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 7:49:53 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

in the public interest to let folks know what happened. Spares further heartbreak.

Hawai'i Kai

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:01:40 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support HB667 so that pet owners who have lost their pets who are now deceased can have closure. Mahalo, Jan Allen

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/4/2025 9:12:39 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 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 and human guardians.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:42:16 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Lee, Vice Chair Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts.

Please vote for SB 599 to support pet owners when their lost pets die on public roadways.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:50:01 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB599.

When a cat or dog dies on a public roadway, it is tragic.

In order for owners to have closure, it is imperative that the Department of Transportation be required to scan for a microchip, so the information can be reported. Without this requirement, people search for years for the pet, never knowing what happened.

I had a friend who lost her cat (it was an indoor cat, very well cared for.) Her whole life, and everyone in her life, and even her community suffered because she spent so much time (months) searching for her cat--putting up posters, ignoring her volunteer work... It was so sad.

Obviously the cat had died, but she had no chance of being notified, and thus she never gave up hope. It was so cruel and sad...

Additionally, funding for state and county agencies to carry out the mandate is desperately needed.

Please pass this important bill!

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

voter and lifelong resident

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:55:44 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eva marie kelnhofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

i support this bill as a pet owner this bill would help give pet parents closure if their pet should get out of there homes and end up being killed and being picked the State Agency dead animal pick up.

Thank you

Eva Marie Kelnhofer

Aiea

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:25:22 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Matsuno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We pet owners are required by law to microchip our pets. It should "not" be the responsibility of those of us in the rescue community, those of us who desperately try to share lost and found pets, or animal advocates to answer calls to go scan deceased animals before they are dumped in the landfill but that is currently the situation on O'ahu. A good universal scanner is as little as \$200 and many of us bought our own scanners to do the job that the DOT should be doing. Pet owners deserve closure. Please continue to move this forward. There is no excuse why this simple protocol can't be followed and this will not add but seconds to their tasks.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:53:02 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important that the Department of Transportation or appropriate county department when disposing of a deceased cat or dog from a public roadway scan the animal for a microchip, record certain information, and report that information to the appropriate county animal services or animal service contractors. All too often that is not done, and the grieving family, seeking their lost pet, never learns what the outcome was.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:32:29 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB599. If a pet is lost and gets killed, the owners would be very grateful to know, and this bill would facilitate that.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI. 96816

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:48:10 AM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of SB599. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-599

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:18:50 PM

Testimony for TCA on 2/6/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Am writing in support of SB599 Relating to Transportation.

A few years back while driving down a residential street in Honolulu I saw the body of a cat, recently run over, which appeared to have been someone's beloved pet. I lifted it up as gently as I could and took it to the Hawaiian Humane Society where I expected they would scan the chip and notify the owner.

Had that been a pet of mine I would seriously need to know what happened to it, and I strongly believe every pet owner is entitled to such information to achieve some peace of mind.

Please help us to make this possible.

Thank you.

**Alice Saul
Hawaii Kai, Honolulu**

Transportation and Culture and the Arts

Representative Chris Lee, Chair

Representative Lorraine R. Inouye, Vice Chair

BILL: SB 599, Relating to Transportation

POSITION: SUPPORT

Hearing Date: Thursday February 6, 2025 at 3:00pm

Time and place of hearing: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Committee Members,

My name is Brittany Ader and I am a resident from Ewa Beach. I am here to express my support for SB 599, which requires the appropriate department to purchase and provide microchip scanning equipment, enforce the department to scan any deceased cats and dogs that is collected from public roadways for microchips, records relevant information, and report it to the appropriate animal service or contractors.

I support this bill because I have three dogs of my own, and an unknown disappearance would make me feel uneasy. Pets hold a disguised super power. A super power that supports an individual mentally and physically through interactions. It has been shown that a pet benefits our health by decreasing levels of cortisol, which is a stress hormone, decreases the feeling of loneliness, boosts our moods, gives us a feeling of social support, and more. Through these interactions, and their unconditional love, pets become a part of our families. And like a loss of a loved human, the cycle or feeling of grief is similar when losing a pet. With providing microchip scanning equipment and enforcing the department's employees to report microchipped deceased cats or dogs that are found on public roads, it will bring pet owners a peace of mind or comfort to know what had happened to their pet and/or allow pet owners to bring their beloved cat or dogs remains or ashes home.

The State of Hawaii has required owners to have their pet microchipped and have it registered to the owners information with the microchip company since January 1, 2022. One of many reasons is to be able to identify ownership. I have worked at a veterinary clinic for almost two years and there have been many occasions where civilians bring a lost cat or dog to be scanned for a microchip. That microchip allowed a lost cat or dog to be reunited with their family. The simple gesture of scanning for a microchip on a deceased cat or dog that is found on the roadway will also allow them to reunite with their family.

Thank you Chair Chris Lee, Vice Chair Lorraine Inouye, and Committee Members for your time and allowing me to share my testimony today. I respectfully ask for your support of SB 599. It is about providing employees of the department with microchip scanning equipment and enforcing those employees to scan a deceased cat or dog for a microchip. So families are able to bring their four-legged family members home.

Mahalo nui loa

Sincerely,

Brittany Ader