

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

MARCH 18, 2022
9:00 A.M.
VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2837 SD2
RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 2837, SD2 relating to spaying and neutering of animals. Senate Bill 2837, SD2 establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be expended to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats by providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care. The Department of Agriculture defers to Budget and Finance and offers comments.

The measure allows an advisory committee created by this measure, to determine the criteria and protocols for disbursement of funds. That committee is directed to prioritize funding to organizations that specialize in trap-neuter-release practices. Less restrictive criteria would increase availability to low-income pet owners. In addition, no guidelines to assess the progress of the efforts to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats are defined in the measure.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2837, S.D. 2

March 18, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) opposes this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2837, S.D. 2, adds a new section to Chapter 143, HRS, to:

1) establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund (SNSF) within B&F to finance spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats; 2) establish an advisory committee to assist B&F in establishing SNSF disbursement eligibility criteria and procedures; and 3) set membership and reporting requirements for the advisory committee. The bill also amends Section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 to be deposited into the SNSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the SNSF for B&F in FY 23 to establish the SNSF and allow income tax refund contributions to be deposited into the SNSF.

B&F strongly believes that it is not the appropriate agency to administer the SNSF and its related program functions. B&F does not possess the required subject-matter expertise on spaying and neutering animals or any other related

veterinary services which do not fall under the purview of the department. Further, with the start of the statewide financial management replacement project in March, B&F staff will be fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work; therefore, additional staff and funding would be necessary to administer the SNSF.

B&F also notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

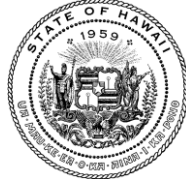
- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN M.D.
LT. GOVERNOR



ISAAC W. CHOY
DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

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

To: The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair;
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair;
and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture

From: Isaac W. Choy, Director
Department of Taxation

Date: Friday, March 18, 2022
Time: 9:00 A.M.
Place: Via Video Conference, State Capitol

Re: S.B. 2837, S.D. 2, Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

The Department of Taxation (Department) offers the following comments on S.B. 2837, S.D. 2, for the committee's consideration.

S.B. 2837, S.D. 2, amends section 235-102.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to add a new check-off box on individual tax returns authorizing taxpayers whose state income tax refund is at least \$5 to designate \$5 of that refund to be deposited into a new spay and neuter special fund. In the case of a joint return of a married couple having a state income tax refund of \$10 or more, each spouse would be allowed to designate that \$5 be deposited into the special fund. As with other existing check-off boxes, if no designation was made on the original tax return when filed, a designation may be made by the individual on an amended return filed within twenty months and ten days after the due date for the original return for that taxable year. A designation once made, whether by an original or amended return, may not be revoked. This measure has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050 with Section 3 applying to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

The Department notes that the Committee on Agriculture and Environment amended the initial version of this measure to replace references in the check-off box statute from "husband and wife" to "married couple" with respect to joint return income tax filings. Furthermore, the Committee on Ways and Means amended the S.D. 1 version of this bill to further clarify that priority for administration of the special fund shall be given to organizations that specialize in trap-neuter-release practices. The Department appreciates these changes and request that they remain intact.

Assuming that a functional defective date is inserted, the Department is able to administer this measure for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022 as currently written. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

TAX FOUNDATION OF HAWAII

126 Queen Street, Suite 305

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Tel. 536-4587

SUBJECT: INCOME, Check-off for Spay and Neuter Special Fund

BILL NUMBER: SB 2837 SD2

INTRODUCED BY: Senate Committee on Way & Means

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: Establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

SYNOPSIS: Adds a new section to chapter 143, HRS, to establish a spay and neuter special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be expended to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats by providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care; provided that the uses and expenditures of moneys in the special fund shall follow the eligibility criteria established by a new advisory committee created by the bill.

Amends section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow an income tax check-off for \$5 to be deposited into the new special fund, or for a joint return each spouse may designate \$5.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2050; provided that section 3 shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021 and Part 3 shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

STAFF COMMENTS: In the long run, the cost of administering the checkoff merely siphons resources that should otherwise be used for providing needed public services.

If lawmakers believe certain programs are of great importance, then they can prioritize those programs through the appropriations process. With the Hawaii tax burden already so heavy, why should taxpayers turn any more of their hard-earned dollars over to government? What lawmakers also do not recognize is that by creating these checkoffs, they add to the cost of administering the law, a cost which steals funds from other programs including those enumerated for a checkoff designation.

Instead of further clouding the financial picture of the state, all earmarked funds and the programs they underwrite should be brought back to the general fund table so that lawmakers can properly exercise their oversight responsibility, including measuring the needs of those programs against all the other pressing needs of the state. Only then will lawmakers and taxpayers be able to set proper funding priorities.

Digested: 3/16/2022

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:35:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Golojuch Jr	Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

The Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai‘i (formerly the LGBT Caucus) Hawai‘i’s oldest and largest policy and political LGBTQIA+ focused organization fully supports SB 2837 SD 2.

We hope you all will support this important piece of legislation.

Mahalo nui loa,

Michael Golojuch, Jr.
Chair and SCC Representative
Stonewall Caucus for the DPH

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:45:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support humane animal population management, NOT eradication.

Vote yes on SB2837

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 6:41:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are in strong support of SB2837 SD2

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:41:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Armstrong	Love A Cat Charity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to support Senate bill 2837 as spaying and neutering help for organizations such as ours is critical for the work to go on in a timely manner. This bill appears to be a way that like minded people can help with this effort without putting an unnecessary burden on the state. Our animals deserve not only our cooperation but our very best effort as that is what they give to us.



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

**Danielle Bays
Senior Analyst, Cat Protection and Policy
The Humane Society of the United States**

**House Committee on Agriculture
March 18, 2022**

Chairman Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important piece of legislation. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, supports passage of SB 2837, SD2.

This legislation is good for the people and animals of Hawaii. There is broad interest in helping companion animals and, by extension, the people who care for them. This legislation would create an opportunity for Hawaii taxpayers to do just that, voluntarily contributing funds to provide needed sterilization and veterinary care to cats and dogs in need.

When such veterinary services are made accessible and costs are subsidized, sterilization rates will increase. The truth is that most people want to do the right thing and are not ideologically opposed to sterilization but simply lack the resources to do so. This is particularly true for those who find themselves caring for a large number of free-roaming cats. Unable to get enough of the cats sterilized in a timely manner, the cats continue to reproduce, making the goal of reducing the population even more of a challenge. When funding is made available to cover the cost of sterilization, organizations which deliver these services to communities can be more effective in their outreach efforts. Not only will this prevent many surplus animal births and deaths but also lowers the cost of animal care and control in the future, reduce public health concerns and decrease threats to wildlife and the environment.

There is an urgent need for practical and effective solutions to the challenges associated with the presence of cats outdoors. There is no one-size-fits-all solution to managing cats in the environment, but with determination, innovation, and collaboration, we can implement and sustain effective programs to humanely resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts. More innovative programs such as this fund are needed to effectively manage animal populations in the state.

This bill creates an opportunity to help many people and animals across the state. The HSUS encourages a favorable report on SB 2837, SD2.

Sincerely,

Danielle Bays

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:23:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Pueo	Hui Pono Holoholona	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am totally in support, support, support of SB 2837 SD2. The reality is the high cost of spay and neuter of cats and dogs ranges up to \$500 and beyond. Majority of people can not afford this, and this leads to animal abandonment.

Hui Pono Holoholona/PAWS receives calls daily from our community for financial help to cover the very cost for spay and neuter. People want to be responsible pet owners, people love and care for their animals, cat colony care givers want Spay and Neuter help, but the totally outrageous cost to do so is beyond what they can afford.

1. We as a State brag that Hawaii is the Aloha State, yet by rounding up to kill animals we are the highest euthanasia stats in comparison to other states. That's not Aloha, specifically when funding for spay and neuter shows a decrease in animal killings. Less likely for animal abuse, and less animals being abandoned.

2. As an Organization we can show there is public support for Spay and Neuter funding. We are working in funding with Dr. Kris Henricks of Good Karma Spay and Neuter specifically for Spay and Neuter, and of today there is a three week back log. Our discount cost is \$50 per cat. This shows that our community are and will have their pets, and cat colonies altered that will decrease animal overpopulation.

3. We could do more, but our grant and donation funds are limited. We need help to keep up. The State has an obligation to equally be responsible in setting Spay and Neuter funds available, instead of round up to kill which scientifically proves does not work. The only proven successful project that does decrease humanely unwanted litter births is Spay and Neuter.

Please it is time the State gets on board to decrease unwanted litter births with funding. There will be a dramatic decrease in animal abandonment, decrease in animal abuse, and a decrease in child, women, and elder abuse which is evident that abusing animals is the learning from animal abuse.

Always with Aloha,

Frannie Pueo, Hui Pono Holoholona

(808) 769-1128, P.O. Box 943, Mt. View, HI 96771

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa LaBrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond,
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss,
NYC TNR Director

**National Programs
Director**

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

March 16, 2022

Re: SB2837 SD2

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Cats, a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, to express our **strong support** for SB2837 SD2.

Our organization is involved hands-on in the overpopulation of free-roaming cats on Maui. We assist community members with trapping their colony cats and bringing them to veterinary clinics for spay/neuter. The births of many thousands of kittens have been prevented as a result, but more is needed. Access and affordability remain significant obstacles to caretakers of free-roaming cats and many pet owners when it comes to spay/neuter services.

The proposed spay/neuter fund, financed voluntarily through income tax checkoffs, would be a big step forward in solving Hawaii's cat overpopulation at little economic cost to the State. Fewer cats on the landscape not only advances the mission of the animal welfare community, it also means a lower threat to native species and reduced public health concerns. It is a win-win solution for all stakeholders.

Thank you for considering our views,



Bryan Kortis

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:46:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rainbow Family 808 is in support of SB2837. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr., Secretary/Board Member, Rainbow Family 808



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: March 16, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2837, SD2:
Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Friday, March 18, 2022, 9 a.m., Room 325 or Videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members.

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 2837, SD2, which establishes a spay and neuter special fund and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation are persistent issues in Hawaii and efforts to reduce the resulting suffering through low- and no-fee spay/neuter receive no state funding. Rather than competing for general fund resources, this measure would allow compassionate state taxpayers to support a dedicated Spay/Neuter Fund by reducing the size of any income tax refund due. This low-barrier way to contribute to an unmet need could make a world of difference for the nonprofit groups and veterinarians on the frontlines of animal welfare in our state.

The Hawaiian Humane Society welcomed more than 10,700 cats and dogs to our Mō'ili'ili campus in FY2021, including entire litters of puppies and kittens in need of homes. We flew 96 cats and 6 dogs to the mainland for adoption to make room for more animals to get help here at home. This struggle is repeated in every county in our state and has inspired a community of nonprofits to spring up to help, but they need resources to do their work.

We are a member of the Hawaii Animal Welfare Association, which includes the largest animal welfare organizations in each county, and the Oahu Animal Welfare Alliance, which is a broad consortium of entities devoted to animal welfare on the island including businesses, nonprofits and veterinary professionals. Both groups have identified increased access to no-fee or low-fee spay/neuter as one of the greatest unmet needs to better care of our state's animals and to assist struggling pet owners.

If established, this fund would provide help for:

- Low-income pet owners who want to prevent unplanned breeding of their pets
- Houseless pet owners who need to have their animals spayed/neutered to qualify for transitional or supported permanent housing
- 501c3 animal rescues who want to spay/neuter pets prior to adoption so they are not contributing to pet overpopulation
- 501c3 Free-Roaming cat management groups who collectively trap and spay/neuter thousands of cats annually to prevent continued breeding

States that have invested significant resources in no-fee or low-fee spay/neuter have seen drops in pet overpopulation. That is why Hawai'i groups are able to transfer animals to states like Washington, California, Arizona and Colorado for adoption. But it would be far easier on our animals and our pet-loving residents to tackle this issue right here at home.

Spay/neuter improves animal health and wellbeing, and saves lives.

We urge you to pass SB 2837, SD2, to take effect upon approval and allow Hawai'i taxpayers to help people and animals in need. Mahalo for you time and I would be happy to answer any questions.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 3:53:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain would like to support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals to be heard by the Senate Committee on Senate Committee on Ways and Means on March 18.

We join with Hawai'ian Humane in strongly supporting the Bill which establishes a special fund for the spay/neuter of companion cats and dogs and free-roaming cats, and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

We understand that Hawai'i has more homeless companion animals than families looking to adopt, so it is vitally important to address overpopulation by a comprehensive spay/neuter campaign. It would also support the excellent groups you have on the islands who are working to humanely reduce the population of free-roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.

The bill would aid non-profits that rescue and rehome animals by funding pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the animals they adopt out are not contributing to overpopulation.

It would also help low-income and houseless animal guardians to access affordable spay/neuter.

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

March 17, 2022

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 424
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Hashem and Members:

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our thousands of supporters in Hawaii, I am writing to urge your support of **SB 2837, "Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals."** If enacted into law, **SB 2837** would establish a spay and neuter special fund, allow funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the fund, and establish an advisory committee to help establish eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the special fund, prioritizing funding to organizations that specialize in Trap-Neuter-Release (AKA Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR). **SB 2837** was introduced by Senator Karl Rhoads, passed the Senate unanimously and is currently assigned to the House Agriculture Committee.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading international advocacy organization dedicated to protecting and improving the lives of all cats. We have promoted sound and compassionate programs for cats since our founding in 1990. We work with lawmakers, shelters, and the public to change attitudes, launch new programs, and advance lifesaving laws and policies that serve the best interests of cats.

Preventing new births of domestic cats and dogs is proven to be the effective and humane way to manage animal populations. Therefore, sterilization is the linchpin that makes possible the bigger goals of public health, animal protection, and effective population management. The availability of a spaying and neutering fund will save lives and reduce the cost by millions of dollars to Hawaii taxpayers for the intake, housing, and killing of animals.

Low-cost spay and neuter programs are very effective at increasing the sterilization rate among pet cats in lower-income households. These programs also benefit community cats, also called stray or feral cats, as part of TNR, whereby unowned, free-roaming cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, eartipped, and returned to their outdoor homes to live and thrive.

SB 2837 will significantly reduce one of the greatest barriers low-income owners face to neutering their pet: cost. A peer-reviewed scientific study published in the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* found that while most pet cats are already neutered, the neuter rate is significantly lower for pet cats living in households earning \$35,000 or less annually.¹ The lower-income owners who were interviewed primarily cited high cost as the reason for not neutering their cats. Providing low-cost or free spay and neuter services benefits both cats and shelters as research has shown that spaying and neutering reduces the risk that adopted animals will be returned or relinquished to shelters.

There are also a substantial number of stray and community cats who benefit from spay and neuter programs. Sterilizing these cats prevents unchecked breeding, eliminates nuisance behaviors associated with mating, and improves their health.

Increased accessibility of spay and neuter services is a win for citizens, a win for animal shelters, and a win for cats. **For these reasons, we urge you to support SB 2837.**

Sincerely,



Becky Robinson
President and Founder, Alley Cat Allies

¹ Chu K, Anderson WM, Rieser MY, Population Characteristics and Neuter Status of Cats Living in Households in the United States, J Am Vet Med Assoc, 2009; 234: 1023-1030.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:21:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaaumoana	Hui Ho'omalua i ka Aina	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem and Vice Chair Perruso,

I am testifying on SB 2837_SD2 as the Vice Chair of Hui Hoomalu i ka Aina. Our organization is actively engaged in restoring, protecting and advocating for the culture, practices and creatures of our homeland, Hawaii.

We are a party to legal action on Kauai regarding the "take" of protected and endangered species, specifically native seabirds from light distraction, powerline and predation.

Cats are the most dangerous of the predators. Any program that supports the "return" of predators to the landscape is encouraging their predation of critically endangered native wildlife.

Supporting spay and neuter programs is a good thing. Allowing those programs to return cats to the landscape is NOT.

Hawaii is different than places where this practice may not threaten native wildlife. Our laws must be different and not patterned after other places.

Please do not pass SB2837_SD2.

Mahalo



Bringing back the birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Opposition to SB 2837_SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
House Committee on Agriculture | March 18, 2022**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **strong opposition to SB 2837_SD2**.

American Bird Conservancy supports cat sterilization as part of a suite of responsible cat owner practices, but this bill would not only authorize *but also prioritize* the use of public funds for the purpose of trapping, sterilizing, and then **releasing unowned cats to the landscape** through the program known as trap, neuter, release (TNR). State sponsorship of such programs would cause tremendous harm for Hawai'i's people and wildlife. **Stray and feral cats, whether sterilized or not, continue to attack and kill Threatened and Endangered birds, spread infectious parasites and diseases, and contribute to public nuisances.**

Cats are among the world's most harmful invasive species and are instinctive predators that have contributed to the extinction of two endemic Hawaiian species, the Lāna'i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and the decline of countless others. Sadly, Hawai'i is already the bird extinction capital of the world, and **the continued presence of cats on the landscape only increases the likelihood of future extinctions**. Research has repeatedly shown that cats are a [major threat to Hawai'i's unique birds](#), such as 'A'o (Newell's Shearwater) and 'U'au (Hawaiian Petrel), two species which have experienced [94% and 78% population declines](#), respectively.

Cats can also carry a large number of infectious parasites and diseases, including *Giardia*, tularemia, hookworms, and more, and these pathogens can be spread to people. For example, a study at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children found that **keiki in Hawai'i had approximately 3.5 times more incidences of disseminated cat scratch disease** as compared to the continental U.S., which the researchers suggested was due to the large numbers of cats roaming the landscape.

Toxoplasmosis, which is caused by infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* is another pathogen of concern. The parasite **can only complete its life cycle in a cat**, and a single cat can excrete up to hundreds of millions of *T. gondii* eggs (called "oocysts") into the environment via its feces. These oocysts remain **infectious for months to years** and can infect any bird or mammal. Infection in people can cause miscarriages, fetal deformities, blindness, organ failure, and death and has also been linked to neurodegenerative diseases. This parasite is the reason women are told to avoid changing cat litter while pregnant, but **cats roaming the landscape, whether sterilized or not, turn the entire environment, including beach parks, gardens, and nature preserves, into one giant, contaminated litterbox.**

Scientific studies in Hawai'i have shown that **feral cats contribute to widespread environmental *T. gondii* contamination, and this contamination is dangerous for people and**



Bringing back the birds

wildlife. For example, researchers found that [three of four feral cat colonies on O'ahu were actively excreting *T. gondii* oocysts](#). On Kaua'i, scientists found the parasite "at nearly every sampled site" but observed [higher coastal contamination at beach parks and harbors](#), which has serious implications for public health because of the increased likelihood of human exposure. Infections in wildlife further underscore widespread environmental contamination by cats – and only cats – and the dangerous consequences of exposures to contaminated landscapes. *T. gondii* infections have been identified [in Nēnē \(Hawaiian Goose\) from Kaua'i, Maui, and Moloka'i](#), and *T. gondii* infections in 'Alalā (Hawaiian Crow) pose a [significant risk to this species' conservation](#). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that toxoplasmosis is also a [leading threat to the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals](#). **Supporting programs that purposely keep cats roaming the landscape, regardless of their sterilization status, contributes to environmental *T. gondii* contamination and puts people and wildlife at risk.**

In its current form, SB 2837_SD2 would inappropriately and unnecessarily put the State of Hawai'i in the cat abandonment business and create a variety of legal liabilities from the "take" of federally Threatened and Endangered species and human health risks. This bill, however, could be strengthened by eliminating the foreseeable and preventable harms to people and wildlife by **restricting use of public funds to support the sterilization of owned cats**, especially for underserved communities. Were such an amendment adopted, American Bird Conservancy could eagerly support this bill.

SB 2837_SD2 would facilitate ongoing harms caused by at-large cats and filter precious public resources toward a program that will only contribute to ongoing harms to Hawai'i's people and wildlife. For these reasons, **we urge you to oppose SB 2837_SD2.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Grant Sizemore, M.S., CWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.
Hawai'i Program Director

**Suggested Amendments to SB 2837_SD2
Section 2**

Page 2

- 1 §143-_____ Spay and neuter special fund. (a) There is
2 established the spay and neuter special fund to be administered
3 by the department of budget and finance. Moneys received by the
4 department from:
- 5 (1) State income tax refund designations to the special
6 fund pursuant to section 235-102.5(e); and
7 (2) Appropriations or other moneys made available,
8 shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned
9 or accrued on moneys deposited in the special fund shall become
10 part of the special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be
11 expended to reduce the pet overpopulation and the reproduction of
12 owned, free-roaming cats by providing spaying and neutering surgery
13 and associated veterinary care; provided that the uses and
14 expenditures of moneys in the special fund shall only apply to owned
15 cats and follow the eligibility criteria established by the advisory
16 committee established under subsection (b).
17 (b) There is established an advisory committee to assist
18 the department of budget and finance in establishing the
19 eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the
20 special fund; ~~provided that, in establishing the eligibility~~

Page 3

- 1 ~~criteria, the advisory committee shall prioritize funding to~~
2 ~~organizations that specialize in trap-neuter-release practices.~~
3 The advisory committee shall include the following:
4 (1) One representative from the department of budget and
5 finance;
6 (2) One representative from the Hawaii Animal Welfare
7 Association or its successor organization, who shall
8 be invited to participate;
9 (3) One representative from the Hawaii Veterinary Medical
10 Association, who shall be invited to participate;
11 (4) One member from a Hawaii-based private non-profit
12 animal welfare organization, who shall be invited to
13 participate; and
14 (5) Two members from the general public, who shall be
15 invited to participate.
16 Members of the advisory committee shall be selected by the

17 director of finance, who shall also select a chairperson from
18 among the members. All members of the advisory committee shall
19 be residents of the State and shall serve three-year terms. All
20 members shall have an active interest in humanely reducing the pet
21 overpopulation and the number of free-roaming cats in the State.

Page 4

1 (c) The advisory committee shall submit an annual report
2 to the director of finance, in a form prescribed by the
3 director, identifying the total amount of funds that were
4 disbursed from the special fund in the previous fiscal year and
5 the amount of funds to be carried over to the next fiscal year.
6 The advisory committee shall submit the report to the director
7 within ninety days from the close of each fiscal year.
8 (d) The members of the advisory committee shall serve
9 without pay but shall be reimbursed for their actual and
10 necessary expenses, including travel expenses incurred in
11 carrying out their duties.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:00:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2212 but find it wanting. I object to the use of defective effective dates and find that they do not serve to encourage future discussion, they are a cop out, and often end in the defeat of a bill during conference committee. The effective date should be changed to effective upon approval, not some date 28 years in the future when a good number of us will be dead.

This bill would support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.

It would also aid nonprofits that rescue and rehome animals by funding pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation.

Better yet it would help low-income and houseless pet owners access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

I urge you to pass this bill in support of our companion animals and make the effective date upon approval..

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:57:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Jonsdottir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On the Big Island, even with all the individuals who are volunteering our time, our Animal Control is overwhelmed. We NEED to have a way to humanely control our feral animal population. Please support this bill.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:57:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Friedrich Boeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Neutering and spaying animals is THE only way to control overpopulation on the islands. The rescue organizations cannot pay for that alone. They need help from the State/County.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:34:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2837.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 10:46:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill as more pets need to be neutered and spayed. It's heartbreaking to see unwanted animals needlessly suffer.

Mahalo

Noel Bobilin 96771

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:27:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenna Gorresen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing concerned citizens the opportunity to join in this important form of Democracy.

I am writing in Support of SB 2837. As someone who has often assisted various Spay/Neuter Clinics and seen the very dedicated volunteers (and on occasion, the one-vet who flies in from Oahu for these all day, exhausting procedures), I can tell you they do an amazing job! **But**, too often they are underfunded --- the #1 barrier to addressing the overpopulation of cats (and dogs) is insufficient funding for free and low-cost Spay/Neuter clinics. The state needs to allocate resources and funds to address this issue - many lives will be saved, but so will many unwanted births be prevented.

I thank you for your time and consideration towards this humane effort!

Aloha!

Brenna Gorresen

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:28:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHNNY KELLY	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spaying and neutering homeless cats and dogs is the ONLY way to reduce the homeless animal population we have in our State.

Noncaring and plain old mean people are the cause of the overpopulation.

Please pass this bill

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:40:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because a fund to pay for cat sterilizations is desperately needed. Private citizens and rescues organizations are overwhelmed by the number of feral and domesticated cats. Veterinarians have a two month waiting time for an appointment. Unchecked breeding is a threat to wildlife and a nuisance. We need funding for free/low cost spay/neuter clinics.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:46:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2837 SD1 and encourage you to do the same.

As shown by numerous real-life examples, investing in spay/neuter is a proven way to address the issue of large numbers of Free-Roaming animals.

This measure supports groups who are actively working to humanely to address this issue. This will benefit both cats and wildlife, while representing no significant cost to the state.

It will also be an enormous help to people in Hawaii struggling to meet the costs of spaying/neutering their animal companions.

Sincerely,
Nandita Sharma, Ph.D.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:55:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives Scott Nishimoto and Karl Rhoads,

I am writing in strong support of SB 2837 SD2.

Through no fault of their own, defenseless, domesticated pets are often abandoned and suffer on the streets. These abandoned pets are rarely spayed or neutered; these poor animals mate, and the problem exponentially increases. Thus, we have the tragic situation of too many cats and dogs, and not enough homes for them.

SB 2837 SD2 is the best way to address this issue.

Investing in spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation as shown by states on the mainland that now have to import pet animals to meet the demand for adoption. (Hawai'i, on the other hand, has more homeless pet animals than families looking to adopt.)

This bill allows compassionate Hawai'i taxpayers an easy way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and Free-Roaming cats at no significant cost to the state.

This measure would support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife. Nonprofits who rescue and rehome animals often struggle to fund pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation. Many low-income and houseless pet owners struggle to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

Please pass SB 2837 SD2. This bill will absolutely help. I am in strong support of this important solution.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

taurie@hawaii.edu

born and raised Hawai'i, lifelong Oahu resident

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:58:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2837 SD2

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:37:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Parra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2837. It is desperately needed in order to keep the feral cat population under control and avoid urges to cull. I have personally helped multiple neighbors and friends find the best and most affordable option for spay/neutering their pets and any strays they've taken on. It is not an easy task. Local groups and organizations **understandably** struggle to keep up with the demand, making spay/neuter availabilities fluctuate constantly. With some veterinarians charging upwards of \$500 for a spay/neuter, it's unrealistic to expect everyone to be able to afford that when so many are already struggling to make ends meet. There are also many individuals already going out of pocket to help alleviate their neighborhood or community's stray populations who should not also be burdened with high costs.

On an island with limited capacity, where stray animals pose a major threat to native species, I find it astounding that we do not have a mandatory spay/neuter law for all pet owners. Such a law would allow for more of the islands' pets-in-need to be adopted and for the overall issue to become more manageable. We should really consider this in the near future. In the meantime, this bill is a good step in the right direction.

Thank you for your consideration and time!

Natalie Parra

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:46:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa J Sims	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is so important and needed to address our feral and overpopulation situation. Please support this bill

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:02:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:05:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margie Gillman-Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill! Spay Neuter is the humane way to control the abandoned pet issue. Thank you

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:17:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support passage of SB2837 relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

The provisions in this bill would provide the linchpin for reducing overpopulation of free-roaming cats and facilitate efforts to protect endangered wildlife.

A particularly effective feature is the establishment of a special fund for the spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs, as well as free-roaming cats, and allow funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund. I believe many Hawaii taxpayers would welcome such a vehicle as a no-fuss way to address the issue; it also would make neuter/spay programs affordable to far more pet owners, as well as reinforcing understanding of the benefits of such programs.

Thank you.

Aloha

Alice Saul
Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:25:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I write in support of this measure which will help support a compassionate way to address animal overpopulation.

Elizabeth Kent

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:37:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for receiving my testimony. There are a lot of good pieces of this legislation, however, it should not be passed as written as it shows clear bias to organizations that support trap-neuter-release (TNR) of free-roaming (eg feral) cats. (For example, lines 1-2 on the top of page 3). TNR is scientifically proven NOT to work unless it is being applied to a closed colony. Furthermore, release of cats back into free roaming status anywhere on the island does not keep them from the spread of toxoplasmosis for the rest of their lives, which has been proven to kill endangered nene and monk seals, as well as spinner dolphins.

I do not support the passage of this bill unless the threat to native wildlife from feral cats is acknowledged and addressed and that the bias towards organizations that advocate for TNR is removed.

Mahalo for you consideration.

J. Rivers

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:33:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:47:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Buckovetz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter programs work if administered correctly. Let's get it done humanely and save our Aina. As a Kona Kupuna Wahine, this is very necessary and critical. Mahalo, K Buckovetz

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:07:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am emphatically in support of this bill. It can not be stressed enough, how the absence of funding has been a severe impediment in the invaluable service that the TNR trappers provide for the larger community. Just imagine if there was no one doing this grueling, intensive, and time consuming labor.

If your residence has a growing number of abandoned cats, I can guarantee you, that it is NOT because TNR doesn't work, but because NO ONE is doing the trapping and neutering, and THAT is a direct result of money that is, not only sorely needed, but money that should be considered well spent toward, and most definitely well deserved by, these selfless individuals.

Currently, and for decades now, trappers have had to pay for the bait (cat food) for trapping, the cost to rent the trap, to house/feed the cat, and for their gas. Once trapped, it is literally a three-day process to neuter just one cat. You have to drive to the location of the trap, house/feed the cat overnight, take it in to HHS (Hawaiian Humane Society) early the next morning - only by appointment, pick it up at the end of the day, house it for another day to monitor for infection or complications, then drive back to release it where it was trapped. Exacerbating this already enormous difficulty is the fact that you can not get an appointment for two weeks, up to even a month, because HHS does not have enough veterinarians.

Trappers don't get reimbursed for gas, which currently is astronomical, and most have to drive quite a distance back and forth from home, to the trap site, and HHS. And, this doesn't even consider the effort, time, and gas expense to actually trap the cat, as they can remain elusive for weeks, even months. The community, the State, has benefitted from the sacrifice of these dedicated trappers - all for free.

It is long overdue, for the community to acknowledge the abiding determination and devotion of these compassionate contributors to our society, the actual doers who get the job done without complaint. They should be compensated for their admirable service, and at the very least, reimbursed for long since having footed the bill that the state should be contributing to, most fairly in its' entirety, or at the very least, in part.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:26:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We support humane management to prevent further animal overpopulation, such as spay/neuter programs. Currently our police department is unable to assist with feral feline management. Even current organizations are overwhelmed. Clearly better systems are needed.

However, too much money may be siphoned off from animal toward human committee oversight.

Ideally, those humans who are doing the catch & release and currently paying out of pocket would be able to count these as charitable tax-deductible expenses.

Creating a fund to support these practices and a means of contributing are steps in a helpful direction.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:52:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass SB2837, which would go a long way to keeping Hawaii's pet population under control. Thank you.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:06:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Blocher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's the only humane way

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:16:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Hudnall	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this fund. It would help control the animal population tremendously and in a humane manner. Thank you so much!

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:04:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Thurston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2837. A number of animal welfare organizations are holding spay/neuter clinics for dogs and cats, but more funding is needed to increase their capacity. Allowing the public the ability to easily designate money specifically for spay/neuter for non-profits costs the State only in administration of the fund. I have heard people say their veterinarian quoted them a price of as much as \$500 to spay their cat, people cannot afford such outrageous fees. The nonprofits can provide quality spay/neuter to the public for free or for a reasonable cost, if they are provided with the funds to do so.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:54:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strongly Support

Yes, I support this bill !

Aloha, I am an Animal Advocate, especially for cats !

I do have some concerns:

Committee received written opposition to this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance. Yet, Members of the advisory committee shall be selected by the DF-director of finance, who shall also select a chairperson from among the 6 members, who DF invited to participate.

For the intended use & distribution of funds, considers these points :

- Clarifying that, in administering the special fund, priority shall be given to providing funding to organizations that specialize in trap—neuter—release practices.
- Agree to use grant funds for LOW COST / NO COST spay/neuter surgeries of owned or community dogs & cats in Hawai'i, allocated to each island by some fair method.
- Use the funds to INCREASE the total number of spay/neuter surgeries performed or subsidized.
- Agree to provide a public final report on how funds were used, including: Financial accounting of funds, Written results of funded projects, etc.
- Target areas with restricted access to low cost spay/neuter surgery and with high euthanasia rates.
- Can provide the highest number of spay/neuter surgeries for the lowest cost.

Mahalo for presenting this humane proactive bill and allowing testimony !

Most Sincerely, Vivian Toellner, Eastside Hawai'i Island

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2837, S.D. 1

February 23, 2022
10:05 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) **opposes this bill.**

Senate Bill No. 2837, S.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 143, HRS, to establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund (SNSF) within B&F to finance spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats; amends Section 235-102.5, HRS, to allow taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF; and appropriates an unspecified amount of special funds out of the SNSF in FY 23.

B&F strongly believes that it is not the appropriate agency to administer the SNSF and its related program functions. B&F does not possess the required subject-matter expertise on spaying and neutering animals or any other related veterinary services which do not fall under the purview of the department. Further, with the start of the statewide financial management replacement project in March, B&F staff will be fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:17:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pat Flynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Pat Flynn,

Kailua Kona, HI

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:31:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gyongyi "Momi" Szirom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of TNR and spay neuter for homeless and all island pet cats and (dogs). Also need to educate the public on the importance of spay/neuter, and inform them of free/low cost clinics.

Killing homeless animals is NOT the way to go...they can't help it that they were dumped or not cared for properly...have a heart! There are volunteers that tirelessly care for cat colonies all over the island. God bless them!

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:20:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support making funding available for spay/neuter programs. These programs help those who could not otherwise afford to have their animals sterilized. We have many cats and dogs who have found their way into our lives and have used the free programs to sterilize them. This is a good way to stop animals from reproducing unwanted litters with not enough homes to go to.

Thank you.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 8:25:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

The big island desperately needs spay and neuter. There is a huge surplus of animals, feral cats and pet dogs. I have been trying to help my neighbor trap and spay and neuter his feral cat colony of 60 cats. It is getting expensive. It would help to have more easily accessible free options. There are volunteers willing to perform the surgery and arrange the clinics, but funds are needed to help more animals and lesson euthanasia and suffering. Mahalo for considering.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:44:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rep. Hashem, Vice Chair, Rep. Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am delighted to voice my support for this creative and innovative approach to help tackle a difficult environmental and safety issue impacting the entire state. I appreciate our representative's efforts to promote and favorably review this proposal and encourage all to continue to "think outside of the box" for solutions to help our families, wildlife, and pets.

The establishment of a spay and neuter special fund for pet cats and dogs and free-roaming/homeless cats, will provide one additional avenue for our citizens to impact state-wide overpopulation and help to create safer, healthier parks, beaches, and neighborhoods.

I believe this fund will support and assist pet owners, nonprofits, veterinary clinics and animals across our islands by supporting pre-adoption spay/neuter for the pets they adopt (adopt out) as well as help low-income and houseless pet owners access affordable spay/neuter options for their animal companions.

Giving compassionate Hawai'i taxpayers a simple way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and free-roaming cats at no significant cost to the state is brilliant. Most citizens of our beautiful state want to "malama our aina" wherever possible - this provides citizens with another route to contribute.

Mahalo for your careful consideration and support of SB 2837 SD2. I hope we are able to quickly move to put this special fund into place. M. A. Forshey, Ewa Beach

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:40:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elise Travis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am all in favor of a spay neutering program for kittens & cats. This is the best and only way to keep them from reproducing. It is the humane way to solve this problem. Please pass this bill for these innocent creatures that bring so much joy and love to people. Hawaii is the Aloha State, we share and care for for all Gods creatures. To not pass this bill would be unconsionable. Thank-you, Elise Travis

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:54:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

This will give those who don't know that they're able to help our feral cat population. We have a very serious problem & this is one step in the right direction.

Mahalo

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:59:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill.

We need funds to take care of this feral cat population.

Mahalo

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:00:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helene Navaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this Bill since it makes it possible for the kind and generous people of Hawaii to support a special fund to help with spay neuter. We need this as a community. The lack of pet friendly housing, the constant transition of people moving out of Hawaii, the high cost of living are just a few important reasons to have a special fund dedicated for spay neuter of cats and dogs. Many people just can't afford to spay neuter their dogs or cats.

It is a task to manage a special fund but it is a task worth your time and effort. It shows Aloha, Kindness and Compassion. This Bill is good for our community.

I thank you for reading my testimony and I hope that this Bill SB2837 SD2 will get your full support. Mahalo Nui Loa!

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:20:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Hashem, Vice Chairperson Perruso and Committee Members.

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

Please support SB 2837 SD 2 as this bill allows Hawaii taxpayers an easy way to support spaying and neutering of animals, supports groups working to reduce the population of free roaming cats, aids non-profits which rescue and rehome animals and helps low income pet owners to access affordable spaying and neutering of animal companions.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:34:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. The pet overpopulation problem on the Big Island is out of control. I support any effort to fund spay and neuter for Hawaii's pets and feral cats. I would also like to see more education of young people about spay and neuter and proper animal care. There are many organizations that are already helping to control the pet population through spay and neuter programs. Please consider funding these programs which are already successful by supporting Hui Pono Holoholona, Good Karma Spay and Neuter, Advocats Hawaii Catsnip Hawaii, Petfix Spay and Neuter and Aloha Ilio among others. Thank you.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:52:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharri Thornton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This testimony is in support of this bill SB2837 SD2 to fund spay and neutering of animals. Humane managment to control overpopulation of animals will save many lives.

Other states who have passed similar bills has seen a 39 percent decrease in shelter intake and euthanasia rates have plummeted by 79 percent.

Please, lets stop animal suffering.

Thank you,

Sharri Thornton

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:50:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawaii has more homeless pet animals than families looking to adopt -- unlike some mainland states where spay/neuter programs have eliminated overpopulation of pet animals and free-roaming cats.

SB 2837 helps address this problem by establishing a special fund, supported by a voluntary income-tax checkoff, to provide affordable spay/neuter programs for pet animals. There will be no significant cost to the state.

I urge your yes vote on this measure.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:59:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marybeth Weber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of a fund to deal with the spaying and neutering of animals.

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:18:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liz Lees	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Big Island and all of Hawaii is experiencing a population EXPLOSION of cats and dogs. Offering extra funds for low or no cost spay/neuter to the islands animal welfare groups really helps!

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:33:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myra Hammonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support a spay, neuter fund.

Mahalo for your time. I really appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Myra Gale Hammonds

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:46:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madge Nicolas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaiian Humane Society needs more veterinarians to accommodate us trappers. As it stands we can trap 99% of ALL feral cats but we are limited by the HHS because of shortage of vets therefore having a very limited amount of available surgery slots. We do all the work. We need more surgery days. We should be able to drop in any day of the week to get the cats spayed ok neutered. Please help us (trappers) help you (state).

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass Senate Bill 2837.

I strongly support this bill as a means to humanely reduce the population of free-roaming cats. I have personally seen the positive changes it has made for the animals and people in my community. Please support this bill.

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

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

I urge you to support this bill.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Melody Borboa
Honolulu, HI

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass Senate Bill 2837. Please help us address the overpopulation of free roaming cats to protect our wildlife.

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

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

I urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Myrah Kosasa
Honolulu, HI

SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Natalie Spencer
Honolulu, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

I'm in 100% support of any and every spay/neuter program. I really can't imagine any other way to control the population of innocent cats and dogs.

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Kathy Takayama
Mililani, HI

Support SB2837

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

I support Senate Bill 2837. Please support it too. This will help control animal population and is a more compassionate choice for all tax-payers.

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

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

Sincerely,

Shirley Salcedo
Waipahu, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

Our animal 'ohana is a sentient 'ohana. Finding a humane way to reduce feral cat challenges, especially the threat free-roam cats pose to birds.

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Kirtland Petersen
Honolulu, HI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB2837. you're the best, i support you 100%

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

joanna milo
Waianae, HI

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Taylor Prostor
Honolulu, HI

Please Pass Senate Bill 2837

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

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

I am an administrator with an animal rescue non-profit and struggle to get my rescued kittens and their parents trapped, fixed, and returned due to limited resources for ferals and the resulting overpopulation of kittens. The numbers are overwhelming and disheartening.

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

I urge you to support this bill.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

DJ Sakata
Mililani, HI

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

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

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

With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community. Please do the right thing and fix this pest problem and save marine mammal wildlife which is important to the Earth but also to Hawaii's economy if nothing else. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chad Okuhara
Honolulu, HI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB2837.

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Stacey Arnold

Honolulu, HI

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass Senate Bill 2837. Please support spay/neuter programs, especially for families in need. The long term benefits include less need to euthanize animals when shelter's become overcrowded.

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

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

I urge you to support this bill.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lori Endo
Honolulu, HI

Support SB2837

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter, but allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. I support SB2837. **Private Vets are expensive but so is the upkeep of multiplying dogs and cats. As housing, food and gas prices rise our community needs assistance!!**

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

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

Sincerely,

Nikki Russell
Kihei, HI

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

I support completely.

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
Honolulu, HI

SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. **This is the only sensible way to curb the population. Please pass.**

Sincerely,

Linda Groves

Waikoloa, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Hamid Jahanmir
Honolulu, HI

Support for SB2837 SD2

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB2837.

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sheri Iha
Kailua, HI

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

I would like to see state funding for spay/neuter, but allowing taxpayers an easy way to help is a good first step. **I support this bill because it support neutering/Spaying Programs that will be available to low income pet owners who may not be able to afford space services and also available to free roaming animals to reduce feral populations.**

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

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

Sincerely,

Melanie Kim
Honolulu, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives! **It is bad enough that the County keeps cutting the Human Society budget for all the services they perform. At least this way people who know they want to support the HS can use this easy way to commit an affordable contribution.**

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Martha Randolph
Honolulu, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I support bill SB2837 SD2 whole heartedly.

We need the opportunity for caring citizens and concerned citizens to contribute to the spay/neuter of feral, community, and pet cats. We need to find this proven method to first control and then reduce the cat population in outer communities.

We have otherwise animal loving citizens resorting to cruel and harmful behavior due to the inability for current programs and services to keep up with the spay/neuter needs.

We need funds to recovery from the population explosion that occurred during the stop and slow period of spay/neuter efforts during the pandemic.

Please vote to implement this bill as one of many steps needed to curb the population humanely.

Funding is needed for all- pets, community managed colonies, and ferals.

Thank you for doing your responsible part to help animals in trouble due to human negligence.

Sincerely,

Lynley Dows
Kihei, HI

Please Pass Senate Bill 2837

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass Senate Bill 2837. Please pass this bill! We need bills like this that help animals and humans and our islands could really use the money to help our animal population, pets and community cats both. Many of us are working hard to make this a priority and the funding would help everyone.

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

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

I urge you to support this bill.
Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kelli Medeiros
Wailuku, HI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

Yes I support this bill.

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

Katherine Rilveria

Wahiawa, HI

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members.

Please consider passing this bill.

TNR is the most humane and most effective way in controlling the cat population. I was able to TNR because the humane society offers such a great program. I recently moved to Hawaii and noticed this was an issue when a pregnant kitty showed up on my doorstep. Luckily, I found a foster for her and the 3 babies. After the babies did not need to feed from momma, they were fixed and so was she. Shortly after she was in foster, 11 more showed up (not pregnant) a mix of males and females. I was able to successfully trap, get them fixed, paid for their shots, get microchipped, and released them back on property.

Had the humane society not have that program, there is no way I could have paid upwards of \$100 at a local vet for this service. Allowing people to donate a portion of their tax refund for this would open up so many more possibilities. The humane society is also really busy and they need other vets to jump on board to help with the volume. Please, these community cats deserve the best life possible and reproducing without having a home and proper food, nutrition, etc is really the cruel part. The Kittens have less of a survival rate and that puts a lot of undo stress to the mom. All in all, TNR is what saves lives and minimizes the population of cats humanely.

Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Tina Messerschmidt
Kihei, HI

SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I strongly support SB2837 SD2 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This bill will save lives!

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

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB2837 SD2 and give this a chance.

Sincerely,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

Hauula, HI

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 3:30:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the passage of SB2837 SD2.

Mahalo for considering my late testimony.

Eileen McKee

Kihei

SB-2837-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:46:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the development of a spay/neuter fund to assist with the community cat overpopulation on Maui.