

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 998

February 6, 2023
1:00 p.m.
Room 224 and Videoconference

RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS

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

Senate Bill No. 998 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 \$50,000 in general funds for FY 24 and FY 25 to be deposited into the SNSF; and appropriates \$50,000 in special funds out of the SNSF for B&F for FY 24 and FY 25 to be expended for the purposes of the SNSF.

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

veterinary services as these subject areas are outside of the purview of the department. Further, with the ongoing statewide financial management replacement project, B&F staff are fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work; therefore, additional staff and funding would be necessary to administer the SNSF.

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

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259

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

GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION**

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.B. No. 998, Relating to The Spaying and Neutering of Animals

BEFORE THE:

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

DATE: Monday, February 06, 2023

TIME: 1:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 224

Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation ("Department") offers the following comments regarding S.B. 998 for your consideration.

S.B. 998 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 \$5 or more, 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 the taxable year. A designation once made, whether by an original or amended return, may not be revoked. The bill also amends to replace references in the check-off box statutes from "husband and wife" to "married couple" with respect to joint return income tax filings. The bill becomes effective July 1, 2023, upon approval, with the section pertinent to the tax check-off box being applicable to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2022.

The Department notes that due to the number of bills with tax law changes that have been introduced this year, the Department may not have the resources to

Department of Taxation Testimony
S.B. 998
February 6, 2023
Page 2 of 2

implement all measures passed this session in time for tax year 2023. The Department will continue to monitor the status of proposed legislation and will advise whether some changes will require a later effective date.

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

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:03:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

[SB998](#)

This bill establishes a spay and neuter 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.

Animal Interfaith Alliance (AIA) in Britain believes that investing in spay/neuter is the best way to address overpopulation at no significant cost to the state. TNR is widely approved of and used in many countries.

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 overpopulation.

Many low-income and homeless companion animal guardians struggle to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions and this is a growing and worrying problem everywhere these days.

In company with our friends at the Hawaiian Humane, AIA begs to support this appropriate and compassionate Bill.



PO Box 1130, Kīlauea, HI 96754
808.828.0384 | info@kilaueapoint.org
www.fkwr.org | Facebook & Instagram @fkwrkauai

Opposition to SB 998

February 4, 2023

Senator Mike Gabbard
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha e Senator Gabbard:

I am Executive Director of Friends of Kaua'i Wildlife Refuges, the nonprofit "Friends Group" that supports and advocates for the work of the three national wildlife refuges located on the Island of Kaua'i, including Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), Hulé'ia NWR and Kīlauea Point NWR. On behalf of the organization and its supporters, **I wish to express our opposition to SB 998.**

Friends of Kaua'i Wildlife Refuges, along with other wildlife conservation groups and professionals, public health officials, and many animal welfare advocates, oppose the use of public funds to purposely maintain feral cats roaming the beach parks, natural areas, and neighborhoods of our state through the program known as Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR).

Trap-Neuter-Release is simply not the answer and should not be supported through the allocation of public funds. Spayed/neutered cats that are allowed to roam outside can remain a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals for up to 15 years. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our island ecosystem. It is safer for the cats, and absolutely essential for our birds.

Hanalei NWR provides a critical refuge for endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds. Most of these birds are found nowhere else in the world and in some cases, such as the 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), there are less than 1,000 individuals left in the world. They evolved here without any mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Within the Refuge, we consistently witness predation from feral cats, many of which have been trapped, neutered, released and fed by well-meaning community members. It has been proven that sterilizing and feeding cats does not reduce their instinct to kill. In fact, it can make them even more effective hunters of our endangered birds which have nowhere else in the world to live, nest, rest, feed and thrive. Last year, 66 cats were trapped and removed from Hanalei NWR alone, representing a mere fraction of the total number of cats that crossed the Refuge.

There is also a serious human health risk to allowing cats to roam our islands. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which can only be spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis runs off of cat colonies and into our oceans, coming into contact with humans, Hawaiian Monk Seals, and dolphins, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

In addition to the incredible harm caused by feral cats to Hawai'i's wildlife – and the known significant human health risks by allowing these cats to roam the landscape – residents of Hawai'i do NOT support maintaining colonies of feral cats roaming outdoors. In fact, a [2014 study](#) found that 87% of residents wanted to see a decrease in feral cats across the state and 78% supported removing feral cats from the environment permanently. The most popular method of feral cat management was live trapping and euthanasia and the least popular was TNR – the very action SB 998 would support with dedicated public funding.

I urge you to oppose SB 998 and the allocation of public funding for programs that would purposely maintain feral cats roaming the landscape (e.g., TNR). Such programs put Hawai'i's people and our precious wildlife at risk and are not supported by science or the majority of Hawai'i's residents.

I deeply appreciate your kind consideration of my testimony and can be reached at 808.828.0384 ext. 1 or thomas@kilaueapoint.org.

With aloha,



Thomas Daubert
Executive Director

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 2:45:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Ng	Testifying for Aloha Kitty TNR	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and have no idea why we didn't Think of this ages ago. This is the most pragmatic bill I've seen introduced this session so far. This is another good way for people to help people. Thank you Senator Rhoads.



February 4, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Herbert M. Richards, III
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: SB998: Relating to the spaying and neutering of animals

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports Senate Bill 998 and the campaign to establish a spay and neuter fund across Hawai`i. KHS took in almost 2,500 animals in 2022, 64% of which came to the shelter unaltered (not spayed or neutered). In addition to the spays and neuters performed for KHS animals an additional 1,071 spay and neuter surgeries were performed for the public (pet owners). KHS alone performed over 2,600 spay and neuter surgeries in 2022. This does not include the spays and neuters that were performed by the multiple veterinary clinics or the four other animal welfare organizations on Kaua`i. Kaua`i is struggling with pet overpopulation; there are simply not enough homes for the homeless animals of Kaua`i.

In 2022, KHS took in 517 neonate kittens, those are kittens that were born in 2022. Though this is a significant population it is 199 kittens less than 2021. Our efforts to spay and neuter thousands of animals a year alongside Greater Good Charities' Good Fix program, that spayed and neutered almost 2,000 cats in a two-week time frame, we are seeing a decline in unwanted litters in the canine and feline population (including ferals) thanks to spay and neuter.

Financial support toward spay and neuter efforts can help decrease the homeless pet population and free-roaming cat population. The spread of toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*) in the environment could be halted by the spaying and neutering of cats, as kittens are at the greatest risk to being infected by the parasite and shedding the parasite into the environment, potentially endangering wildlife.

We urge you to pass Senate Bill 998 as it will allow taxpayers to support an initiative that supports their community, their environment, and saves lives. This bill is to the benefit of pets, free-roaming cats, wildlife, the environment, and the residents of Hawai`i. Thank you for considering our testimony.

Respectfully,
Nicole Schafer
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society
nicole@kauaihumane.org

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:09:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hob Osterlund	Testifying for Kauai Albatross Network	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Gabbard, Vice Chairman Richards and esteemed Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

I urge you to OPPOSE SB 998. On the surface "Trap Neuter Release" sounds like a good idea, but in fact is a complete and utter waste of precious resources. There are likely a half million feral cats running around the state, living miserable lives and killing what's left of our native birds. Even the most ambitious spay and neuter programs--which, by the way, are heavily supported by the pet product industry---are capable of taking on a tiny percentage of the feral cat population. Spending money on that enterprise does NOTHING to reduce the overall population, and of course a neutered cat still has to eat. The vast majority of TNR cats are simply dumped and not fed or given any kind of further medical care. And the ones who ARE fed become subsidized predators, killing our native birds because that's what they do. Everyone who's ever had a pet cat that's allowed to roam outdoors knows about the "presents" they bring to the back door. Let us also be clear about protecting birds: we are not even a little concerned about introduced birds like chickens, doves and mynas. We are talking about the ancient ones, the birds who have lived here for tens of thousands of years, the ones who never had to have defenses against predators because Hawai'i had no native predators.

Please, I beg you, OPPOSE SB998. Do not be duped into thinking it will help anything except the bank accounts of the pet product industry.

Hob Osterlund, APRN

Founder, Kaua'i Albatross Network

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:10:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Fritz	Testifying for Conflictresolution.com	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please give your FULL consideration to implementing this bill. Everyone knows and sees and experiences the huge amount of unclaimed cats and dogs on this island and they (and we) need ALL the assistance we can get!

Helping with the cost of neutering and spaying will go a long way toward assisting those brave and stalwart organizations who seek to help - - and do! -- without this funding. **THINK WHAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED IF THEY RECEIVE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TOWARDS THIS ENDEAVOR!**

Great for the poor, INNOCENT animals! Great for the culpable population who doesn't know and/or just doesn't care about the problems involved with these INNOCENT animals! Great for the organizations involved!

It's a WIN-WIN!PLEASE -- DO THIS!!!! Pass SB998!



ROAR

RESCUE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS

to.

the Senate
Committees
AEN

The Hawaii State
Legislature

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair & the AEN Committee,

CARES testifies in strong support for SB 998. Cats are wonderful creatures and have intrinsic value to society. People may view cats as invasive because cats eat indigenous birds. But there are also many positive characteristics about cats. Feral cats can be trained to be domestic animals. Rescue cats can also be Emotional Support Animals. ESAs provides relief to humans and has numerous benefits to our health & mental well-being. ESAs help to mitigate mental emotional symptoms.

from

Zhizi Xiong
(Angela
Melody
Young)

Creator

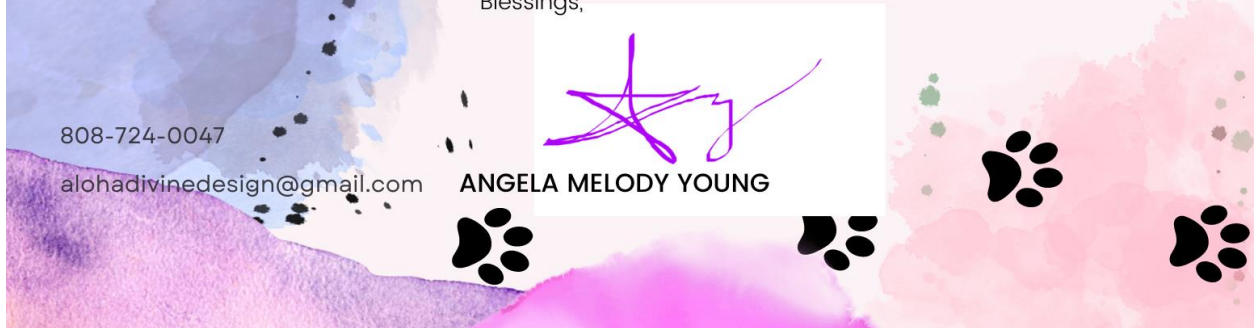
Trap & release is the most humane method of addressing cat overpopulation in Hawaii. When the male cats are in heat, they will attempt to mate with every female cat possible. Trap & release cat programs are flourishing in vets and clinics throughout Oahu. The Humane Society has an active program. Creating a spay & neuter special fund and allowing funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund does not require citizens to contribute unless they want to. Being that a cat crisis has become a concern that many constituents are raising concerns about, it is imperative to create this fund and facilitate humane methods to address the cat overpopulation.

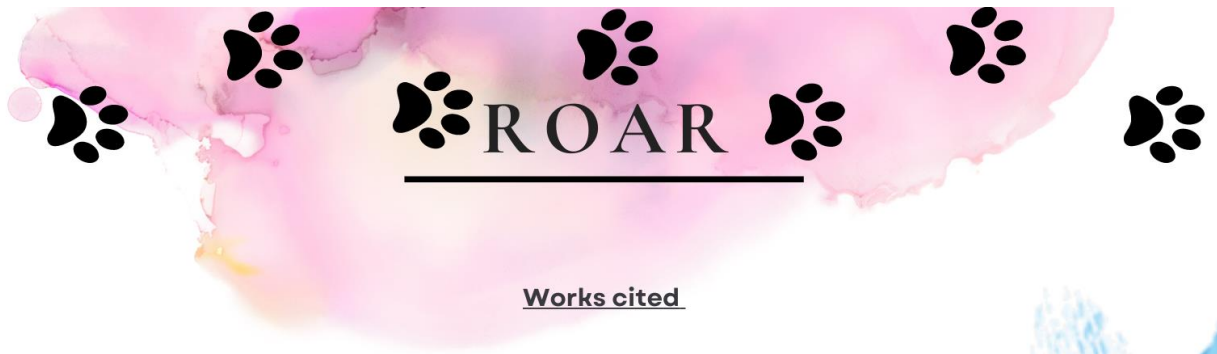
Blessings,

ANGELA MELODY YOUNG

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alohadivinedesign@gmail.com





Works cited

1. Themes, UFO. "Male Feline Sexual Behavior." Veterian Key, 22 Dec. 2016, <https://veteriankey.com/male-feline-sexual-behavior/>.





Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Feb 4th 2023

TO: THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Chair: Senator Mike Gabbard

Vice Chair: Senator Herbert M Tim Richards III

CONCERNING: SB640 (Relating to Agriculture), SB682 (Relating to Animal Fur Products), SB967 (Relating to Taxation), SB998 (Relating to Spaying and Neutering of Animals), SB1009 (Relating to Neonicotinoids), SB1011 (Related to Pesticides), SB1551 (Relating to Invasive Species)

POSITION: STRONG SUPPORT OF ALL LISTED BILLS

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards III, and all the Committee Members

The Environmental Caucus is testifying in support of all the listed bills above.

SB998: One of our priority issues concerns continuing and expanding all programs to humanely control the feral cat and dog populations by funding as many Spay and Neutering programs as are possible. Sadly there are many people who have rescued abandoned pets, or are willing to care for or adopt pets but who cannot afford timely spaying/neutering of them. The Humane Society is doing what it can but the waiting list for private persons to get their pets fixed is often months long and people cannot take the time from work to get it done or have no means for transporting their animals to such services. More funding is vital and amongst other things, might provide for more service options like mobile clinic spay and neuter services. They have been very successful in the past.

SB640 & 967 & 1551: We support all legislation which assists local farmers who provide us with local food sources, with special support for organic farming whenever the type of crop allows for it. Food independence from imported products rests with local farmers. In addition, the damage done to our agricultural industry and our native flora by invasive species has been devastating over the years. We need to do more in all possible ways to prevent these environmental disasters.

SB682: In principle, we are against the harvesting and selling of any animal skins although they are a number of commercially raised animals only for their skins. We feel that Americans, at least do not or should not require animals to die for our fashion egos.

SB1009 & 1011: We support all bills which eliminate and/or monitor the use of pesticides which poison the land and are dangerous to animals and humans alike.

Martha E Randolph
DPH Environmental Caucus SCC Representative



Bringing back the birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Opposition to SB 998 Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment | February 6, 2023**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **opposition to SB 998 as written and to suggest amendments.**

Although American Bird Conservancy supports the sterilization of domestic cats, the use of funds collected as part of this bill for programs that would trap, sterilize, *and then release* unowned cats to the landscape is cause for great concern. The use of public funds for such programs would cause tremendous harm for Hawai'i's people and wildlife. **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 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. Toxoplasmosis, caused by infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, is a cat-transmitted disease of significant 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, such as schizophrenia. 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, neighborhoods, and natural areas, 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 wildlife. For example, researchers found that [three of every four feral cat colonies on O'ahu were actively excreting *T. gondii* oocysts](#). On Kaua'i, scientists found the cat-excreted parasite "at nearly every sampled site" and 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 are not only harmful for the wildlife but also indicative of the widespread and dangerous consequences of human exposures. *T. gondii* infections have



Bringing back the birds

been identified [in Nēnē \(Hawaiian Goose\) from Kauaʻi, Maui, and Molokaʻi](#), and *T. gondii* infections in ʻAlalā (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 release cats, regardless of their sterilization status, to roam the landscape contributes to environmental *T. gondii* contamination and puts people and wildlife at risk.**

Consequently, we ask that you please consider the following **two amendment options** to protect Hawaiʻi's people and wildlife:

Option #1 | Support Cat Sanctuaries

1. Change the purpose of the fund to exclusively support the **establishment and management of cat-proof enclosures (i.e., cat sanctuaries)**, in which stray and feral cats can be safely sheltered, cared for, and monitored. This strategy eliminates harms to Hawaiʻi's native wildlife, protects communities from nuisances and disease risks, keeps cats safe, and is based on the proven success of the Lanaʻi Cat Sanctuary.
2. Should an advisory committee continue to be needed, **include a representative from the Hawaiʻi Department of Health, Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, and the Lanaʻi Cat Sanctuary** to ensure that actions will follow best practices and not inadvertently put Hawaiʻi's residents or vulnerable wildlife at risk.

Option #2 | Restrict Sterilization Funds to Owned Cats

1. To prevent the release of unowned cats to the landscape, **limit the use of funds exclusively to sterilizations for owned cats**.
2. Should an advisory committee continue to be needed, **include a representative from the Hawaiʻi Department of Health and Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife** to ensure that actions will not inadvertently put Hawaiʻi's residents and vulnerable wildlife at risk.

With these amendments, American Bird Conservancy would be happy to support SB 998. As it is, however, this bill will filter precious public resources toward a program that will only contribute to ongoing harms to Hawaiʻi's people and wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.
Hawaiʻi Program Director

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:33:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ran Morimoto	Testifying for Hawaii cat foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Spay and neuter needs more. It's so hard to make a appointment for spay and neuter at Hawaii humane society. Please help for stray cats , dogs and pets. We need more surgeries.

Date: February 5, 2023

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Committee on Agriculture and Environment, Chair
Senator Herbert M "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Cc: Stanley Chang, District 9

From: Jennifer Kishimori

Subject: Senate Bill 998 (In Support)

I am in **support** of SB998 to establish a Special Fund for Spaying and Neutering of animals.

The most effective way of decreasing the feral/free-roaming cat population is through sterilization. Cat Friends sterilizes thousands of cats each year at no charge to the public. With additional funding for sterilization, we will be able to continue to provide this free service to the public.

Thank you in advance for your **support of SB998.**

Jennifer Kishimori

Jennifer Kishimori
President, Cat Friends

(808) 226-4561

PO Box 240052

Honolulu, HI 9624



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti
Volunteer Board President, Poi Dogs & Popoki

In Support of SB 998 – Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Monday, Feb. 6, 1 pm, Rm. 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Senator Richards and members of the committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in support of SB 998.

PDP worked with Honolulu City Council in 2017 to establish a program to provide subsidized spay and neuter for feral cats on Oahu – now called Feline Fix. There have been ongoing challenges with the management and funding of that program so PDP would like to offer some amendments that would better direct this effort. Simply – the devil is in the detail, so we recommend that you add language that would make sure that these limited funds are used by the people and organizations that have the greatest need. We also recommend that the primary qualification for the veterinarian selected to advise the committee be a veterinarian currently engaged in sterilizing feral cats.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Section 143 (b) – pg. 2: There is established an advisory committee to assist the department of budget and finance in establishing the eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the special fund; provided that, in establishing the eligibility criteria, the advisory committee shall prioritize funding to organizations that specialize in trap-neuter—release practices and are able to demonstrate annual gross receipts of less than \$500,000 confirmed by their previous year's IRS 990 tax form.

Section 143 (b)(3) – p. 3: One ~~representative of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association~~ veterinarian licensed in the state of Hawaii that is providing spay and neuter surgical services to feral cats, who shall be invited to participate;

There will come a time when funds will be depleted. As an organization that was once using Feline Fix and is directly involved in the spay and neuter of dogs and cats, we believe these simple changes would be helpful in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the program. Animal control contractors with millions in reserves don't need more tax payer dollars, especially if they are already the biggest recipient of Feline Fix funds.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 3:07:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inga Gibson	Testifying for Pono Advocacy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members,

Spay-neuter is the proven, most effective, safe and humane method to reduce populations of dogs and cats, and in fact, improves the health and longevity of pets as well. Further, human conflicts between cats, wildlife and the environment can be greatly mitigated through the reduction of free-roaming cats via spay-neuter. Many states have enacted similar mechanisms and funding opportunities as proposed in SB998.

I urge the Committee's support.

Thank you,

Inga Gibson, Director

Pono Advocacy

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:12:37 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Killam	Testifying for CAT-CARE	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of my 501(c)3 nonprofit CAT-CARE, I support SB998. This bill will benefit the need on the Big Island to reduce animal overpopulation and assist the organizations in spaying and neutering community animals.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 5, 2023

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III,
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 998:
Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals
Monday, Feb. 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m., Room 224 & Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 998, 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 nearly 13,000 animals to our Mō'ili'ili campus in FY2022, including entire litters of puppies and kittens in need of homes. Compounding the pet overpopulation issue, mainland shelters that in past years have had capacity to place Hawai'i animals up for adoption also have been full. This struggle to find homes for animals in need 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.



The Hawaiian Humane Society offers discounted spay/neuter surgery to rescue partners, but more funding sources are needed to support this work.

- 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 aim to trap and spay/neuter hundreds or even thousands of cats annually to prevent continued breeding

Spay/neuter improves animal health and wellbeing, reduces pet and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation, and saves lives.

We urge you to pass SB 998 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.

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 for 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

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:43:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are a 501(c)3 nonprofit offering free spay and neuter clinics in low income areas of Hawai'i Island. In 2020 we altered 1,600 cats and dogs; in 2021 the number was 2,300 and in 2022, 3,200. The need is ever-growing, the wait lists are getting longer and we desperately need funding to be able to increase the number of clinics we can offer and further help both the community and the animals themselves. The overpopulation of cats and increasingly dogs can only be reduced by aggressively altering animals. The veterinary services available are prohibitively expensive for most households and there are not nearly enough of them to make a significant difference. Please, help us help the community.



To: The Honorable Chair Gabbard and Vice-chair Richards, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing SB998 **RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS**

Hearing: Monday, February 6, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Aloha Chairs Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition STRONGLY SUPPORTS SB998!

The spaying and neutering of free-roaming cats is important for our marine life as well as animals on land. Toxoplasmosis is a disease that is spread through young cats that is harmful to endangered Monk seals and other marine life.

Toxoplasmosis spores survive outside of the cats' digestive tract and wash into the ocean with runoff. Humanely reducing the population of free-roaming cats will reduce the amount of toxoplasmosis washing into the ocean, thereby helping to protect our marine life.

This bill would help protect marine life by establishing a special fund for humane reduction of the population of free-roaming cats, with priority for trap-neuter-release practices. This is a good approach for reducing the population of free-roaming cats and the toxoplasmosis they spread.

We thank the committee for hearing this important measure! We strongly urge your passage of SB998.

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



Cat People of Oahu

95-1059 Hoalia Street • Mililani, HI 96789

www.catpeopleofohu.org

catpeopleofohu@gmail.com

EIN: 83-2888194

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB998

February 5, 2023

Dear Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Cat People of Oahu is a non-profit organization that is dedicated to helping people help cats. We are writing to strongly support SB998 relating to the spaying and neutering of animals. It is absolutely critical that the state of Hawaii find as many ways as possible to financially support the low-cost spay and neuter of pet animals and free-roaming cats.

On a daily basis, we see pet owners struggle with affording the costs of spaying and neutering their animals, which often leads to unintended litters. This leads to unfixed kittens and puppies ending up on the street, in our already overcrowded shelters, or being rehomed without first being fixed, which further contributes to the overpopulation problem. All of these put an undue burden on the animal rescue organizations in our communities.

As a foster-based non-profit organization, it can be a struggle for us and the independent fosters we support to afford spaying or neutering the cats and kittens in our care. We rely on generation donations from the public to ensure that all cats and kittens are fixed prior to their adoption. However, grants that are created from the passage of this bill would free up those much needed monetary resources to be used for other critical expenses.

Finally, we believe that free spay and neuter for free-roaming cats is critical to controlling their population humanely. Currently, only two organizations on Oahu offer free spay/neuter for free-roaming cats and it can be extremely difficult to get appointments when they are needed. We hope that grants funding free-roaming cat sterilization allow these organizations to continue to offer free sterilization for free-roaming cats, and allow additional organizations to offer these services to the public.

With additional funding for spay and neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Alexis E. Jamison
President, Cat People of Oahu

In Support of Approval of SB998

Spay and neuter of cats and dogs, both owned and free-roaming is essential to reduce and control the overpopulation of these animals on the island. This should be a concern of every island residents to prevent unwanted litters and prevent euthanasia of unwanted pets. The State of Hawaii have many low income residents who cannot afford this surgical procedure for their pets, nor can they afford to feed and provide veterinary care for new litters. Thus birthing of future generations of cats and dogs continues to occur.

Currently there is no County/State program to support spay and neuter. As such organizations including KARES, AdvoCATS and CatsNIP on Hawaii that conduct spay/neuter clinics and provide the service FREE to residents must raise the funds themselves through countless grants to mainland private and corporate foundations as well as from private donors. For KARES alone we spent \$55,000 in 2022 plus countless volunteer hours to accomplish spay/neuter of 500 dogs and 100 cats. Hundreds of hours are also spent writing competitive grants to fund this work. Each organization can do more surgeries given funding through this proposition.

If every household were to contribute a small amount through a tax credit we could substantially augment delivery of spay/neuter surgeries. Thank you for considering approval of SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:34:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Shields	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators Rhoads and Lee:

Thank you for giving me this opportunity to wholeheartedly SUPPORT SB998 relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals. This is an issue that has been growing steadily over the years, and without responsible humans taking responsibility for their pets, the problem only grows and festers.

I fully support establishing a special spay and neuter fund, similar to the one set up for elections on our income tax forms, among other things. By amending the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include a new section entitled "Spay and Neuter Special Fund" it gives hope that moneys received in this fund will actually go towards an actual Spay and Neuter Program. My only question is how will veterinarians be compensated for this service and will only certain vets be designated?

I wish to thank you again for your advocacy in proposing this critical Bill. Many, many animals' lives will be saved because of it.

Feb. 6, 2023

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Gabbard and Members:

On behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our thousands of supporters in Hawaii, I am writing to urge your support of **SB 998**, **“Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals,”** with clarifications to promote humane policy decisions for community cats who live outdoors in the state. If enacted into law, **SB 998** 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 998** was introduced by Senator Karl Rhoads and is currently assigned to the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment.

Alley Cat Allies is the leading global 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 and the communities where they live.

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 intake, housing and killing of animals, thereby saving Hawaiian taxpayers millions of dollars.

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 998 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.

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.

However, because humane management of community cats who live outdoors is a specific priority of this bill, the language of the bill must be adjusted to better promote humane policy decisions in the oversight of the fund to be created. Section 2, §143 (B) should therefore be changed to add a second mention of “**humanely**,” to read as follows:

“All members shall have an active interest in humanely reducing pet overpopulation and **humanely** reducing the number of free-roaming cats in the State.”

Furthermore, because a critical component of Trap-Neuter-Return involves **returning** cats to their outdoor homes to live healthy lives outdoors, it is important to use the term accurately. Section 2, §143 (b), should also be changed to omit the word “release” and to instead read as follows:

“...provided that, in establishing the eligibility criteria, the advisory committee shall prioritize funding to organizations that specialize in trap-neuter-**return** practices.”

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 998.**

Sincerely,
Calley Gerber
Alley Cat Allies

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:07:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We are in strong support of SB998

Mahalo!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 3:29:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
helen raine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB998

I am a conservation professional working to protect endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds, particularly wetland birds and seabirds. These birds are found nowhere else in the world and in some cases, such as the ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), there are less than 1000 individuals left in the world. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them.

Allowing cats to roam free on the landscape is a disaster for these birds. In a four-year period (2014 – 2018), over 250 native waterbirds were killed by feral cats on Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge in Kauai, including around 100 Hawaiian Gallinules and 40 Koloa Ducks. That is a major crisis for any endangered bird species.

In addition, there is a serious human health risk to allowing cats to roam our islands. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which spreads through only through cat feces to Hawaiian Monk Seals, dolphins and humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

‘Trap-Neuter-Release’ (TNR) is not an answer. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. I am very tired of finding literally hundreds of carcasses of endangered or native birds ripped apart by feral cats every year. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate that slaughter, undermining efforts to protected endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

Please oppose this well meaning but highly misguided bill. Thank-you for your consideration.

Helen Raine

I am submitting testimony to **strongly oppose** S.B. 998. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

SB 998 Supports TNR for feral cats, a known injurious species to Hawai'i's threatened and endangered wildlife and a well-known threat to public health. TNR has been scientifically proven to be ineffective in reducing the feral cat population by multiple peer-reviewed studies.

The Hawaiian archipelago is known as the endangered species capital and is critically important for endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds, particularly wetland birds and seabirds, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Native Hawaiian wildlife evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them and need urgent action to protect them from extinction. As these native species are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act, there is an obligation to meet that legal mandate.

Also, of much concern is that it is inhumane to abandon cats outdoors without a family to provide for the necessary regular veterinary and routine health care and also the need for daily socialization of these domestic pets. Cats indoors and as members of a human family are healthier and they live longer and happier lives. It is essential that cats are required to be under the control of the pet owners at all times, whether on a leash, in a catio, or indoors. This protects the pets, the public and more urgently the threatened and endangered native wildlife of Hawai'i

Another important factor is that Human Health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a serious health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is dangerous to humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects, and can be fatal. Cats are also a vector for multiple other diseases that can seriously affect humans, including cat scratch disease (*Bartonella henselae*), Campylobacter infection, Salmonella, Giardia and cryptosporidium. Additionally, endangered native birds, the Nēnē and 'Alalā have been killed by exposure to toxoplasmosis. Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian spinner dolphins and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can and does kill marine mammals. In recent years it has been a significant cause of mortality for critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals in particular.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

I look to the Legislature to meet the legal, the biodiversity conservation, the public health, and the humane obligations by opposing SB 998.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critically important issue.
Linda Elliott
Hāwī, HI 96719

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:13:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Burke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, for the sake of Hawai‘i's endangered endemic wildlife, do not pass this bill. I work in native wildlife conservation on Kaua‘i, and it is clear to me and fellow conservationists that cats do immense damage when allowed to roam free on the landscape, especially in sensitive island ecosystems like those of Hawai‘i. Feral cats should abosutely not be released back into the wild if captured. One cat can kill literally hundreds of endangered birds such as the ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel), ‘A‘o (Newell's Shearwater), ‘Alae ‘Ula (Hawaiian Gallinule), and many more. These and others are birds found only in Hawai‘i and are seriously threatened with extinction, largely due to predation by cats. Cats also spread diseases such as toxoplasmosis which kill endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals and pose a threat to human health. It is literally crazy to use state money to engage in releasing cats into the extremely fragile landscape of Hawai‘i to slaughter the native species that were here before humans ever arrived, and it directly conflicts with the large sums of money that are already dedicated to trying to help the species that cats pose a threat to. Please, please, please, do not allow cats back into the wild!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 4:38:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmylou Kidder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a seabird technician for an ecological consulting company on Kaua'i & I would like to state my staunch opposition the to trap, neuter, release (TNR) of feral cats (SB998).

Hawai'i is the extinction capital of the world & drastic measures must be taken to reverse the decline of our endangered endemic species, which are found nowhere else, immediately. Every native bird species is integral to the health of the Hawaiian ecosystem & hold an immense cultural significance to local communities. Many reputable organizations, such as the American Bird Conservancy & the National Audubon Society, recognize cat predation to be the #1 cause of bird deaths in the United States. Our island birds evolved without mammalian predators & have no defenses to protect themselves against them. It is 100% our responsibility to protect our vulnerable bird life by making the collective decision to choose the welfare of wildlife over feral cats.

Conservation professions on Kaua'i are constantly finding evidence that feral cats have invaded even the most remote & pristine wilderness areas & killing sensitive bird species en masse. 'Trap-Neuter-Release' (TNR) is not a sufficient answer to this monumental threat to our manu. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to endangered wildlife & human health. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands.

I strongly urge you to oppose this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:05:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Wilcox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please help the animals of Hawaii by passing this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:05:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Brittingham V	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill SB998, which would fund TNR programs of stray cats.

Trap, neuter and release programs do not solve all the disasterous environmental consequences that stray cats cause. A spayed or neutered cat still contributes to native wildlife destruction through preying on native birds; toxoplasmosis that is lethal to the endangered monk seal and is shown to cause potential harm to human health such as birth defecencies; cat on cat violence through territorial fighting which occurs regularly in my neighborhood of Kalaheo which is not the quality of life a cat deserves. Cats should have a loving home that allows them to only experience the outside world in a controlled manner (leashes/outdoor fully enclosed areas like a screened in lanai/catgrass brought inside) to benefit the cat with a high quality of life, but to also protect native species that have little to no defense against the destruction that feral and stray cats cause.

To see our government allocate funds towards a cause that fuels these aforementioned dangers is a dangerous precedent to those who have spent decades trying to conserve rare wildlife, especially wildlife on Kaua'i that are culturally significant to the origin stories of Kaua'i. I see this bill as a government funded detriment to the downfall of Hawaiian native species, quality of life in cats, and even a huge blow to pieces of Hawaiian culture that revolve around the native species that inhabit our beautiful island of Kaua'i.

As a conservationist, it feels very bleak to see that funding from tax dollars would go towards working against the work I put in to conserving Kaua'i's native species. The past few decades have seen some great transfomations in the hopes of some native species, but a move like this will surely see this positive trends slow down or more likely halt completely.

This bill is a dangerous precedent to set for wildlife, it shouldn't be supported.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 5:23:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Crampton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to state my **opposition to SB 998**. Trap, neuter, release (TNR) leaves feral cats

I am dedicated to the conservation endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds, species found nowhere else in the world, that are critical components of the ecological and cultural tapestry of this beautiful state. Some species, like the 'akikiki, number on a few dozen or few 100 birds. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Allowing cats to roam free on the landscape is a disaster for these birds.

Cats roaming outdoors pose a serious health risk to mammals, including humans. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which spreads through only through cat feces to Hawaiian Monk Seals, dolphins and humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

Outdoor cats, such as those maintained in "managed colonies", often themselves suffer cruel and inhumane deaths, such as being run over by cars or suffering horrible infection from bites inflicted by other cats.

'Trap-Neuter-Release' (TNR) is not an answer to managing outdoor cats and protecting wildlife. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. I am very tired of finding literally hundreds of carcasses of endangered or native birds ripped apart by feral cats every year, and seeing our highways strewn with dead cats. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate that slaughter, undermining efforts to protected endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

I urge you to join me in opposing this bill.

Sincerely,

Lisa Crampton

Kalaheo

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 6:24:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support bill SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 7:26:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 998 because I do not believe this is a viable solution to protect our endangered native Hawaiian birds from cats. I am a conservation biologist and worked with Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel in the past couple of years. Allowing cats to roam on the landscape is disastrous for the native bird populations. Spayed and neutered cats are still free to live out their lives on the island causing destruction to native species. Spaying/neutering them does not remove them from the environment fast enough to save the seabirds. In addition to the threat they pose to seabirds, cats also carry the disease toxoplasmosis, which spreads only through cat feces, and infects Hawaiian Monk Seals, humans, and dolphins. This disease can be fatal and causes birth defects and miscarriages.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed that spaying/neutering cats is not the solution. We should not allow a minority of people who do not understand the detrimental impact that cats have on our native wildlife to push our native species to extinction. Passing this bill would be a waste of resources and would undermine efforts to protect endangered species from feral cats.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 8:50:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tami Shotz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who does rescue work, I am a strong supporter of support for spay and neuter. Many people say they cannot afford to spay/neuter their animals due to the high cost at vet offices and the fact that Hawaiian Humane is often booked 2-3 months out for appointments because they are the most affordable option to do so. There would be less of a problem with animal over-population if spay/neuter was more affordable and people would be able to get it done before the "accidental" litters happen to perpetuate the over-population problem Oahu already faces. With all the rescues and shelters at capacity this is a much needed bill to help so that there are not as many animals born that will eventually end up in shelters or on the streets.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 9:30:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please consider passing SB998 as we have an overpopulation of cats in our neighborhood and need to pay out of pocket for trap and neuter to keep the neighborhood clean and prevent overpopulation. Passing this bill would be the humane treatment for overpopulation of stray cats.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:20:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Hofmann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good evening Senate,

I would like to write this letter to show my support in passing this measure. Our Hawaii Islands are over populated with stray and feral animals. This would allow for the many organizations and individuals to have access to have the animals spay/neutered and will reduce the populations in a humane way. This would benefit cat, dogs, and our wildlife. I am witness to countless charities and organizations that work diligently to spay/neuter but many have to come out of pocket for the expenses since free options are limited. Please pass this and help our islands get a handle on the situation and prevent the already over populated island.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/3/2023 10:40:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapulei Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to state my opposition to SB 998. Hawai'i is known as the hub for extinction, especially of our native birds. Feral cats pose a big threat to our native and endangered birds. Although i think getting wild cats nutured could be a step towards helping, i dont think it actually addresses the problem because those cats will still be in the wild where they can hunt and kill our native birds, as they already do. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:24:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Passing this bill will allow supportive Hawaii's taxpayers a way to support spay/neuter of pet animals and free roaming cats at no significant cost to the state. This will help to reduce pet overpopulation and allow low income and houseless pet owners affordable access to spay/neuter services for their animals

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:20:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill must be passed! Spaying and neutering is the ONLY way to reduce the stray and homeless animals on our State. Murdering them NEVER works. This is the only solution.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:50:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the bill from Humane Society, the spray and neuter or cats.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:53:13 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

PLEASE,PLEASE,PLEASE support this bill and get it into action as soon as possible!!

The people and organizations that are conducting TNR and helping to control the cat population do amazing work and humanely work to control the population while providing compassionate care for these four legged beings.

The work is hard and even a little support will go a long way to help the dedicated people continue to help humanely control the population around the islands.

Please get this into effect SOON. This is a "No Brainer" and does not seem to cost the state any real funds. This is a classic WIN-WIN which should be signed into law NOW>

v/r, Bob Shereda

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:19:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sandra Dale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I will repeat what you already know. THE BILL SPEAKS FOR ITSELF. THIS IS DESPERATELY NEEDED TO HELP!!! Investing in spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation. 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. I myself have TNR'd many cats on island and feed colonies and have adopted many.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:22:14 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB998 spay/neuter bill is important for health and population control of pets and free roaming cats. Strongly support. Mahalo!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:36:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trish Renguul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am fully in support of this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:48:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strong support. The heavy lifting of spay and neuter on the Big Island is being done by non-profit and volunteer organizations at great effort and expense of exhausted individuals. Assistance is direly needed to further address the pet overpopulation issue.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:55:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I just recently neutered 4 cats in my neighborhood, 3 of which were female. Thanks to the tireless efforts of volunteers, I was able to do all 4 in a week at no cost. It was done through the Ginny Tiu program at the Hawaiian Humane Society. If I did it on my own at a private veterinarian, it would have cost thousands of dollars. The cost would make it unaffordable, leading to postponing the procedure. One of the females were already in early pregnancy, and the other 2 would soon follow. Thanks to the TNR program, the cycle was broken and unwanted cats would not multiply from these felines. This is the most humane and ethical process. Without TNR, cats will continue to breed and cause a nuisance to neighborhoods. This in turn will result in cruelty to the animals. Offering free/ low cost sterilization programs to the public is of utmost importance, while making these programs known is also crucial. If people were aware of these programs, it is more likely that they will participate in TNR instead of dumping them at cat colonies, thus perpetuating the problem and making it more difficult to control.

Aloha,

Barb

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:57:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise H Zimmerman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Denise H zimmerman Stongly support Spayding and Nuetering of all animals !

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:58:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kallie Barnes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to state my opposition to SB 998. Trap, neuter, release (TNR) leaves feral cats

I am a conservation professional working to protect endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and restore our watersheds. These birds are found nowhere else in the world and in some cases, such as the ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), there are less than 1000 individuals left in the world. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Allowing cats to roam free on the landscape is a disaster for these birds.

In addition, there is a serious human health risk to allowing cats to roam our islands. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which spreads only through cat feces to Hawaiian Monk Seals, dolphins and humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

‘Trap-Neuter-Release’ (TNR) is not an answer. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014 revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. I am very tired of finding literally hundreds of carcasses of endangered or native birds ripped apart by feral cats every year. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate that slaughter, undermining efforts to protected endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Kallie Barnes

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:11:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:27:43 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Rothe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to state my **opposition to SB 998**.

I am a conservation professional focused on protecting native Hawaiian birds (many of which are endangered and endemic--found nowhere else on earth). While I vehemently agree that overpopulation of feral cats is an issue that desperately needs addressing, TNR is not the way... primarily because of the "R." Trap-neuter-release still results in feral cats running loose on the landscape. This is problematic for a number of reasons:

1) **Feral cats pose a major threat to our native birds.** The unique species which evolved here did so in the absence of mammalian predators and therefore lack adequate defense against them. Cats are effective predators who harbor an instinct to kill even if well fed. Some of the affected species, like the 'ālae 'ūla (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) number less than 1000 individuals in the entire world. Every adult lost represents not only the loss of that individual, but their breeding potential and, by extension, that of their offspring. These cats are even able to make their way into the innermost sanctuaries of the islands and wreak havoc on the mountain-breeding natives (including honeycreepers and seabirds). Nowhere is truly safe.

2) **Feral cats pose a threat to mammals, including humans.** Cats carry and spread toxoplasmosis through their feces. When infected, native Hawaiian monk seals, dolphins, and humans can all experience birth defects or miscarriage. Toxoplasmosis can also be fatal.

3) **Feral cats themselves suffer subpar quality of life.** Skirmishes with other cats, starvation/malnutrition, disease, and run-ins with humans (via vehicle tires, etc) are not conducive to a happy, healthy life.

'Trap-Neuter-Release' (TNR) is not the answer. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside still threaten human health, endangered birds, and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

In 2014, [Lohr and Lepczyk](#) conducted a study of Hawaii residents and found that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. It would be a travesty indeed to allow our unique native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic detrimental impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem. One

need only look as far as the Stephens Island Wren and the introduction of the lighthouse keeper's cat for a cautionary tale of extinction, though similar scenarios have already played out many times on the world stage. We have already lost so many of our beautiful native Hawaiian species; it makes zero sense to sacrifice what few remain at the altar of an introduced predator, found the world over, who didn't belong here to begin with.

The State of Hawaii invests millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species because of the important role these species play in the ecosystem and Hawaiian culture. I have, on many occasions, personally discovered the mangled carcasses of native birds bearing the telltale signs of a cat depredation. It's gut-wrenching every single time, and I'm frankly tired of it. Passage of this bill would perpetuate this slaughter and undermine the time, energy, and financial resources that have been rightly poured into protecting our native species.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Mahalo,

Jen Rothe

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:45:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB998. 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. 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. This bill is desperately needed. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 12:55:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Nagasako	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

RE: [SB998](#) Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

DATE: Monday, February 6, 2023

TIME: 1:00PM

PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

In Support

Dear Senator Gabbard, Senator Richards, and members of the committee,

I am an elementary school student living in Honolulu.

I think that spaying and neutering cats is important because when animals are spayed/ neutered then it addresses overpopulation.

This would help nonprofit organizations having rescued animals be spayed/ neutered because some organizations struggle with paying for spaying/neutering.

I urge you to support this bill.

Thank you,

Luke Nagasako

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 2:11:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB998 and ask for your support of this very important bill.

This Bill SB998 will help with the so much needed Spay Neuter for dogs and cats throughout our Aloha State.

Too many dogs and cats on the street are not spayed or neutered due to lack of funding.

This bill is what Hawaii needs to end animal suffering and save Lives!

Mahalo Nui Loa

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 2:55:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Lack of access to free spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population. The animal welfare community and an army of volunteers represent the only large-scale effort to address this issue, but funding is needed to support their work. Uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats means more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, leading to the need to ship animals out of state to find homes. With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 3:19:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Debra and I am a resident of Hawaii.

I support the state actively funding efforts to spay and neuter our free-roaming cat population, as I believe this is a humane strategy that will help to protect our native birds, moths, butterflies, and other valuable pollinators on the islands that are threatened by the overpopulation of feral cats. I have also witnessed free-roaming cats accessing my neighbors rain catchment tanks, and this poses a health risk to people that may unknowingly ingest contaminated water. Myself and my neighbors previously attempted to handle the local cat population around our apartment building. We trapped a few cats and took them to a vet that had advertised “free spay or neuter.” We drove across the island to bring these animals in, and upon arrival they charged us a hefty fee for each cat we brought in, which greatly discouraged my neighbors or landlord from ever attempting to address the issue again. I feel that a state funded program can be beneficial to humanely reducing animal suffering across multiple species and will be beneficial for the fragile island ecosystem.

Thank you for allowing me to provide testimony.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 3:30:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 3:57:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a humane solution to reduction of the over population of free roaming cats. It is much needed.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:07:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill to help animals in Hawaii.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:10:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill establishes a spay and neuter special fund for the spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs and Free-Roaming cats and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

The number one barrier to addressing the issue of cat and dog overpopulation is insufficient access to free or low-fee spay/neuter. The state does not allocate any funding to address these issues.

This bill allows concerned and caring taxpayers an easy way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and Free-Roaming cats at no significant cost to the state. 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 and many low-income and houseless pet owners struggle to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:12:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 998. I volunteer with cat rescue nonprofits and also feed a colony of cats once a week. It makes me sad to see those cats outside where they have no protection and can and do get hit by cars. Hawaii has way too many free roaming cats and the State must take measures to reduce those numbers. Many of Hawaii's nonprofit cat rescue agencies spend thousands of donated dollars a year to ship healthy and special needs fixed cats and kittens to mainland no-kill shelters where they find adoptive homes. Hawaii does not have enough homes of all of its cats. The Hawaiian Humane Society should be a non-kill shelter, and this bill could help them achieve that goal. The best way to reduce the number of cats in this State is to do significant spay and neuter efforts. This bill is a very low-cost way for the State to make that happen. State moneys for spaying and neutering Hawaii's cats is much needed and long overdue.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass SB 998.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Andrea J. Armitage

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:20:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, because it establishes a spay and neuter special fund for the spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs and Free-Roaming cats, and allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

We desperately need this humane program. It is the only real resolution to the exponential growth of unhoused cats and dogs in Hawaii.

I urge you to pass this and properly fund it.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:26:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Castro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This help is so needed. It is a proven way to keep the cat population down and save wildlife. A lot of these cats were pets and just dumped-- whether people could not afford to feed them and chip/ neuter them or it is sometimes military families that leave and abandon them. I believe these military families purposely don't neuter them because then they would have to be chipped and could be traced. I realize they don't have a lot of money but this is cruel. So maybe you could work with the military and their families too? These groups that trap and neuter these cats are angels. We all chip in to feed them as it is cruel to trap and release but then let them starve to death!!! This is NOT humane. Maybe the Humane Society could contribute to the feeding of these cats. Also, Costco in Hawaii Kai where a lot of these pets are dumped would look like a shining star to the community if they donated cat food as well. Then they would look more community minded instead of just being a big box store that is here to take our money but just grumble about the cats. If we all help we can control the population and even decrease it; but humanely. A lady in charge of the Hawai'i Kai Costco trapping says there hasn't been a kitten born there for the past 5 years because of their diligence with trapping. Any kitten there now is because an inhumane human dumped them. The cats aren't the problem-- it's the humans. It's time for us ALL to help. Susie Castro

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:39:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynn krieger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support a bill that will help subsidize spay/neuter programs in Hawaii. It is an important service that will help allieviate the population growth from dumping of pets when they are no longerr wanted or the owner can no longer take care of them.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 4:45:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Johnstone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a desperately needed Bill to help get the County of Hawaii's feral population under control and to help pet owners that cannot afford it, who later abandon the pet, to only become an in-tact stray. Please fund.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:10:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a full time Hawaii resident. I volunteer at my local spay/neuter donation only clinic several times a month. We could expand our offerings if local grants were available to fund more vets and meds for the programs. Anything that can help our local community to humanely reduce the local population of cats and dogs through the reduction of unwanted litters is very much needed in our community.

Mahalo for your support for this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:20:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Sadoulet	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in favor of SB998. I donate to a number of local organizations which provide spaying and neutering of companion animals, but having a box taxpayers can check to donate on their tax returns will encourage a wider group of donors, even if they only donate small amounts. Mahalo.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:43:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Beers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 998. High volume sterilization (spay/neuter) is the only humane way to reduce the current feral cat overpopulation and its corresponding problems. If funding was offered on my taxes as a check-off, I would gladly participate!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:46:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christel Collins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SB 998 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Monday Feb 6, 2023

1:00 PM

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Gabbard. My name is Christel Collins. I am testifying in favor of SB 998 relating to the spaying and neutering of animals.

Studies show that spaying/neutering is the single most effective action for reducing the suffering of feral cats and dogs.

It is no secret that feral cats suffer greatly in Hawaii. Easy targets for cruelty, they have been shot with arrows and used for fish bait. Their effect on native birds and monk seals results in even more human anger towards them.

Unwanted dogs, though not as vilified as feral cats, are regularly found starving and disease-ridden and maltreated. I volunteer with and donate regularly to groups like the Hawaiian Humane Society, PAWS of Hawaii, and Kaaawa K-9, and I can tell you that these groups cannot keep up with the large numbers of canines that need food and shelter and medical treatment.

There are simply not enough people to adopt all the cats and dogs that need homes. Overpopulation is the problem and spay/neuter is the answer.

This law would allow non-profit groups, who already do so much with so little, to help reduce the suffering of our animal population at no significant cost to the State.

Many people, like myself, want to help reduce animal suffering but do not know how to make a real difference. The establishment of an income tax checkoff option for a State of Hawaii spay/neuter fund will allow us that option.

I urge the Committee to hear and pass Bill 998, and I thank the legislators who introduced it.

Mahalo,

Christel Collins

Christel.j.collins@gmail.com

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:49:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SB 998. I volunteer with cat rescue nonprofits and also feed a colony of cats once a week (along with many others who pay for these feedings out of pocket, to ensure local birds are not decimated). Hawaii has too many free roaming cats (a human induced problem) and the State must take measures to reduce those numbers. Many of Hawaii's nonprofit cat rescue agencies spend thousands of donated dollars a year to ship cats and kittens to mainland no-kill shelters where they find adoptive homes. Hawaii does not have enough homes for all of its cats. The Hawaiian Humane Society should be a no-kill shelter, and this bill could help them achieve that goal. The best way to reduce the number of cats in this State is to increase significant spay and neuter efforts supported by the State. This bill is a very low-cost way for the State to make that happen. State funds for spaying and neutering Hawaii's cats is imperative and long overdue.

I strongly urge the Committee to pass SB 998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 5:54:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly support as Kailua Kona kupuna. Reducing feral cat populations by spay/neuter is a humane way of reducing feral cat population and their suffering. Cat advocate agencies can continue placing them. By reducing cat reproduction, we reduce risks to birds. Rarely do you have an opportunity to make a difference for Hawaii residents and Aina immediately. Please pass this bill. Mahalo nui.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:05:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rod Aries	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support legislation is being proposed to establish a state-wide special fund to support the spay/neuter of Hawaii's cats and dogs; funding would be provided on a voluntary basis by checking a box on the Hawaii State income tax form. Grants from the fund would be made to organizations that provide:

- Free or low-cost spay/neuter for pet cats and dogs of low-income owners;
- Low-cost spay/neuter for animal welfare organizations offering cats and dogs for adoption; and
- **Organizations providing free spay/neuter for free-roaming cat populations.**

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:08:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB998. Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) programs are some of the most humane ways to deal with feral animals and should be supported. The animal is not harmed and can be returned to its place of origin in most cases. TNR programs also can help with spaying and neutering animals from low-income households who otherwise would have no other means of getting their cats and dogs fixed.

Without TNR programs, Hawaii would be even more overrun than it already is with feral, invasive species. Controlling the population of invasive species is imperative for the ecological health of Hawaii, and SB998 would allow taxpayers to support such measures.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:17:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Elise Travis. I have been a resident of Maui for 44 yrs. The Feral & Stray Cat population has grown so much that it's out of hand. I have watched first hand how the caretakers of The Cat Colonies take great care of these cats. They are caring people that give of their time and own money. These cats didn't create this, people did. The TNR program right now is the only humane way to deal with this out of control situation. Killing them is not the answer . On Maui, we want to be part of the solution. With extra funds it can help organize and make sure these cats are getting the care they need and protect them from any harm. The more cats that are trapped and neutered and released to the colonies , the better. We want to be apart of the solution. Groups are organizing and raising funds to help with the feeding, trapping and any vet bills to keep these cats healthy but if we had the help of the Government we can become a role model and teach people to get their cats fixed and have a creative adoption program. The caretakers are in place, we just need help with funding. We need a full on Cat Sanctuary here, where people can bring cats to a safe haven. Where we can get creative and have an adoption agency that could be geared towards tourists. Where tourists can make it an activity to go to and learn about the cats.They have this on Lanai and it is very successful. Rusty The Maui Cat , a Feral Cat, who just recently died, after living on The Wailea Path for 22yrs, has been a huge inspiration to continue on in his name to help all the unwanted cats. He gave so much Love to so many people all over the World. Tourists are eager to help with their donations. They all come back and all remember Rusty. Everyone misses Rusty. This is an opportunity to actually do something in a decent, humane way to get this situation under control. We need to hire trained trappers and more vetrinarians to neuter hundreds of cats per day. We need to educate the communities about getting their cats fixed and why it is so important. The Humane Society is overwhelmed. They don't have the manpower to keep up. I also would like to say, this could be Rusty's LAW, where all cats are protected and that Hawaii becomes a NO KILL STATE by Law. Please pass this bill. It would do so much and would make the ALOHA STATE, live up to it's name. We Care and We Can Do Something Now to protect these innocent creatures. There is a Solution. People that bring cats into the State should all be legally fixed as well. This should be law. We can be a leader and take charge of this situation with your help. The Community will do whatever it takes, through fundraisers, etc. to help with this situation as well. We are a growing task force right now and it's time we do something about it. Mahalo, Elise Travis

I am in full support of Bill SB998. In our neighborhood we have dozens of stray cats. It is sad to see feral cats and kittens very thin, unhealthy, and hungry. No one to care for them. I have adopted 2 kittens, on different occasions, because they were so ill that their mommies had to leave them behind. I knew that I couldn't keep adopting and thank goodness I found "Cat Friends!" This is a non-profit organization. Jennifer and Leilani would come to my home to drop off humane traps. Once I catch a cat they retrieve the trap, take the cat to be neutered or spayed, and then bring them back to our neighborhood. I understand the value of what spaying and neutering these feral cats do for our community. People are not as frustrated with these ferals because they see their clipped ears and know that they will not be able to reproduce. That our feral problem is being addressed. That someone is addressing this problem in a very humane way. Unfortunately, we know nothing is free, Organizations like this need your help! By giving taxpayers the option to check that box in support of funding would be such a tremendous help to people like Jennifer. What they would be able to accomplish with government support would be less than amazing. Please do the right thing and support Bill SB998. Mahalo!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 6:54:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta J Freidus-Flagg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this measure that establishes a Spay and Neuter Special Fund which allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the Spay and Neuter Special Fund. It is important to appropriate funds for this purpose.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 7:07:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Tonissen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my support for this bill to provide spay and neutering for cats and dogs on the islands. I have supported Advocats and Petfix for some years now as they provide low cost clinics to assist in spay/neuter. This is the most humane way to control the population of cats and dogs and shows the compassion of Hawaii's people.

Thank you, ruth

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 7:13:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I strongly support this bill in order to help reduce the amount of free-roaming cats across the island. While the state might not want to directly intervene with this problem, passing this bill will help enable many volunteers from various organizations who, out of the kindness of their hearts, are working to solve this problem. I see free-roaming cats on a daily basis in shopping centers, residential areas, and even on the side of the road. Allowing their populations to continue to grow out of control is irresponsible and can be remedied through this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 7:38:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Vasey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 7:55:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My home is in Ocean View, Hawaii. There are so many free roaming cats and dogs. My husband and I are currently managing a colony of 9 cats and have used AdvoCATS to get them spayed and neutered. I think the bill SB998 will help everyone manage this ongoing problem of free roaming cats and dogs. Many people would adopt if there were free and/or affordable options not only for population control but also for veterinary care.

Cynthia A. Karrow

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:02:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Uhley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Providing funding to help fund organizations providing spay and neuter clinics is a positive measure worthy of support. Doing this as outlined in SB998 seems a good way to accomplish this for those taxpayers who wish to contribute.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:14:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Day Emerson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Trap, neuter, and release programs work, benefit the community and the environment, and are critical to bettering the lives of free-roaming cats. Currently trap, neuter, and release programs exist because of the willingness of dedicated people who contribute hours of hard work and their own financial resources to these efforts.

it is time for the State to recognize that these efforts benefit everyone in Hawaii and benefit beautiful Hawaii itself. It is time for the State to support these programs and contribute to the shared goal of reducing overpopulation and the suffering of free-roaming cats.

i strongly urge you to pass this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:29:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please help the overpopulation of animals and people who have a hard time with inflation and caring for the animals that have become a part of their family but yet are not financially secure to spay or neuter their pets. All may suffer, human and animals without this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 8:39:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a volunteer with PETFIX Spay and Neuter (Big Island), I see the massive impact that spay and neuter services provide to our community, especially related to Kupunas and those in more marginalized economic regions of the island. We successfully spayed/neutered over 3200 animals in 2022, on a shoe-string budget supported by modest grants and individual donations.

What is equally challenging is to hear, from individuals that truly care and are deeply compassionate to maintain the health and well-being of their animals, is that they are all too often making the personal choice "to go without" themselves to feed their animals, or get them the most rudimentary care. When a 75 year-old man is telling you that his wife just passed away, he hasn't much in the way of money, but he's here to try to get a few cats fixed and he can do without dinner for a few nights, offering a few dollars in the donation box--it's simply heart-wrenching.

People CARE....they feed colonies, they trap and rescue, foster and otherwise just try to address a situation on this island that only gets worse by the day. Spay and neuter services protect the health of the animals but it's also about the mental/physical health of these impacted communities--keeping seniors healthy by ensuring that a beloved pet is cared for. Making sure that "the crazy cat lady" down the street who is looking after animals left behind by owners who have moved, or rescue groups coming to the aid of dogs that are malnourished, mistreated and having litter after litter. These situations impact our community, our mental and physical health AND the economic well-being of these same groups.

The choice is an easy one. As the humans in this equation, we have the responsibility to look after these animals--they do not ask to be born, they should not have to suffer. The passing of this bill to provide monetary support to the many small, volunteer -based nonprofits on our islands WILL make a massive difference to the services we can offer, to the care we give, to the audiences we serve and to the animals we protect. Please vote yes to making a difference in the lives of our four-footed friends, and the humans that love and care for them--feral, owned, or otherwise.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:18:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Audrie Deleon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE the establishment of a Spay and Neuter Special Fund. I do not support TNR, which only proliferates the presence of feral cats on the land. TNR, TNVR, TNRM, and similar programs are mainly concerned with feeding feral cats and these programs have little to no concern for sterilizing the feral cats. Advocates of TNR-like programs constantly preach the importance of "feeding schedules" to supposedly get the cats to stay within a specific area, but feral cats allowed to roam freely have been found miles away from their original feeding location.

These roaming feral cats will leave the city and travel to hunt birds in Wildlife Refuges for food or because those feral cats want to kill for fun. TNR is seen as a humane way to reduce feral cats. However, those who support TNR fail to consider that many native birds are killed by these re-abandoned feral cats. These birds will die in violent and painful ways. The birds who escape from a cat will die later from a sepsis infection because of the bacteria in a cat's mouth. TNR is inherently an inhumane death sentence for native birds.

Feeding feral cats also keeps feral cats healthy enough to reproduce over and over. There is no possible way to neuter 90% of the feral cat population for a decline in numbers if everyone is feeding pregnant feral cats and feral cats in heat. Pregnant feral cats with food supplementation will be able to gestate larger kitten litters. And feeding feral cats in heat makes finding mates easier for these cats because feeding congregates the cats together.

TNR is not effective in reducing the feral cat population and is inhumane to native birds. Feeding feral cats is a huge part of TNR-like programs, and feeding feral cats makes feral cats more successful at reproducing. TNR, TNVR, TNRM, and similar programs are a waste of money.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:47:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kandice Crusat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support spay/neuter for cats and dogs on all the islands of Hawaii. We caused this horrible problem and we need to correct it ASAP.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 9:52:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill for three main reasons, One being the community, second the natural ecosystem and third the happiness and well being of the pets themselves. First the community: Most residents are lower income and the assistance of the State getting animals spayed and neutered will allow loving pet owners who otherwise couldnt afford it to have pets spayed or neutered to do so. For specific memebrs of our community like our Kupuna, a pet can be extremely beneficial to their mental health & emotional well being. Secondly, for our local environment making sure that domestic animal populations are lower preserves the lives of animals like our indigineous birds as well as keeping the natural areas cleaner which is healthier for all life in the ecosystem. Thirdly, many of the pets and ferals are suffering from overpopulation and its effects. Organzing a help network such as this to combat that alleviates undue stress and injury on the animals as well as takoing stress off resources provided by organizations like the local humane society that help them.

Thank you.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:24:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kemtis Kunanuraksapong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this to keep cat and dog population in check and in humane way.

Kemtis - Waipahu

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:44:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline M Guerrero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have lived in Kona for 2.5 years. I am an OB/GYN physician who loves cats. I have worked with Advocats in Kona through their trap and release spay/neuter program, and in the process have adopted 4 cats. These 4 cats were either ill, needed special postoperative attention, or too fragile to release to the wild after their sterilization procedure. I did not intend to keep any of these animals, however it is very difficult to rehome them in a place where there is an over abundance of cats and little to no animal rescue resources. Kona is in need of more animal shelters, and funding for homeless animal services. We have amazing volunteers, including myself, who feed all the stray cats on a daily basis, however prevention is the best medicine in order to decrease their reproduction. I am happy to provide further information about my personal experience with stray animals and Kona I will continue to donate my personal funds and time to this cause. Thank you.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 10:57:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicelle Herron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nicci Herron and I live in Kailua-Kona on the island of Hawaii. I am asking that you please support this bill. It is a humane way to help control the pet population. If we can make free or low cost options to help spay and neuter the pets on the island, we can help control the population without having to result to barbaric "options" such as culling. There are many people who love and care for the pets here who be happy to help give the care that they need in this form in order to also help control the number of them on the island.

Thank you.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:15:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony. Advocats immensely helped our community. We had a 5 month old kitten (whom we received from a friend) that got pregnant as quick as possible. She had 6 kittens. We were able through advocats to get her, along with all of her kittens fixed fast, convenient and affordable. If not for them those kittens would have gotten pregnant just as fast as their mom. Very very thankful for advocats and all they do. Wasn't aware how fast cats reproduce until put in this situation. Mahalo for your time.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/4/2023 11:40:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimo galon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support sb998. We need to take control of the overpopulation of cats and dogs. With over abundance of these animals this leads to bad actors that abuse the animals in aa variety of ways, such as homeless stealing and breeding dogs in unsafe conditions and selling them for money. Over breeding and random animal abuse, dog fighting, bait dogs in dog fighting. Humane Society and HPD has no connection or communication with jurisdiction of problems like these. The state needs to take matters in thier own hands and do this for the health and safety of these innocent animals

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:17:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support spaying/neutering of our pets and stray animals. I believe that helping those who need financial support to receive spay/neuter services, whether it be low income households or non-profit animal welfare organizations will definitely help to reduce the overpopulation of strays and unwanted animals and reduce animal suffering. I have worked as a volunteer with Advocats and have seen throughout the years how important it is to have spay/neuter clinics to help control the stray populations. The amount of work and the funding required for each event is overwhelming.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:18:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need help controlling the Cat Population here in Hawaii. There are so many forces working against those of us who dedicate their time and Money to helping the Feral and abandoned Cats and Dogs. I TNR and Maintain colonies in the Kaneohe, Hakipu'u area. The Park personnel work against us. There are not fines or strict laws for those who illegally drop off unfixed Cats, Kittens, Dogs. But, they continuously Harrass and threaten those of us who work tirelessly to care for and control the colonies. We need Animal cruelty laws in place for those who drop off and abandon cats. When trying to trap to TNR WE ARE HARRASSED, VERBALLY THREATENED AND LOCKED OUT OF THE PARK DURING PARK HOURS OF OPERATION. PLEASE, I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR HELP FOR ALL THE ANIMALS AND VOLUNTEERS. Mahalo and God Bless 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:33:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and the Environment.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to testify. I absolutely support SB 998 which will help taxpayers to support efforts to spay and neuter pets and free roaming animals.

Thank you for your consideration in supporting SB 998.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:36:48 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I work on TNR efforts in my neighborhood in Kalihi, where I have heard many of my neighbors as well as residents across the island express their concerns and requests for help with managing the free-roaming cat populations in their area. I know how resource-poor many of the hardworking organizations and individuals who do this work are, so I support any effort to increase their access to resources, including this bill (SB998). Thank you for your consideration.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:09:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB998. I see the damage that cats do to the environment. Cats are natural hunters, and even if they are fed in feeding colonies, roaming free cats will kill birds. That's their nature.

TNR is not the answer. Spayed/neutered cats are still a threat to human health, endangered birds, and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is essential for the birds that they are not allowed to roam free.

If this bill passes, it will perpetuate the slaughter of our native birds, which will undermine all of our efforts to protect endangered species and will be wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Thank you for your consideration,

Meredith Miller, M.A.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:10:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaime Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB998 and plead for the additional help with the sterilization of our pets and stray/feral dogs and cats. Thank you

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:37:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle92986	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB998.

Greetings:

I applaud and thank Senator Karl Rhoads for introducing SB998 and Representative Scott Nishimoto for introducing HB220. Your courage in introducing these bills on a very sensitive and controversy issue is very much appreciated. Mahalo nui loa!

These proposals are forward looking and humanistic approaches in controlling the pet and free roaming cat populations. The Trap, Neuter, and Release (TNR) programs in other states and international countries have enjoyed successes and making headway in curbing cat populations.

The heinous and barbaric methods to control the cat populations previously proposed by individuals in our state government is unforgivable. Even suggesting the methods used by the Australian government for total eradication of the free roaming cat population. Totally barbaric!

These important bills will provide tremendous monetary relief for costly spay/neuter veterinary services and motivation for pet owners to sterilize their pets. Private TNR none-organizations will also benefit and more importantly, the lives of cats will be protected from inhumane population control measures.

I energetically support SB998 and HB220 and again thank Senator Rhoads and Representative Nishimoto for introducing these very important and humane bills.

Respectfully,

Allan T. Yoza

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:02:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need a spay and neuter fund for this island . The amount of dogs and cats overbred , stray, abandoned, abused and neglected is a despairing and never ending issue. And directly connected to the overbreeding and or lack of access to the resources to have animals spayed and neutered. Rescue groups can not keep up with the number of animals they are working to take in and get adopted out because animals are continuously being bred. We must create a fund to help support these non profit groups who are working tirelessly to use their funds and resources to help support spay and neuter initiatives throughout the community . This is a community rooted issue - an issue that impacts not only the welfare and well being of non human animals but humans and our communities alike. We are in crisis mode with our animal overpopulation issue and relying on county and non profit resources that are overloaded and at capacity. Thus we have to transport out so many animals to other shelters and adopters off Island because of the endless, overflowing and desperate situation on the Big Island. I know this is a heartbreaking problem island wide throughout the state of Hawai'i. Please let us malalima our animals and community and kokua all living beings. Let us initiate a spay neuter fund today.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:07:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Fujimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support bill SB998. I believe that it will help to greatly reduce the free-roaming cat population in a humane way which will then benefit multiple species. I kindly urge you to approve this bill.

Thank you!

Lynn Fujimoto

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:21:56 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric J Cleintuar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 998

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:25:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Soyejima-Nordstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:27:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

I strongly support this bill because it provides a convenient and simple way for those who are concerned about this issue to have a direct impact on improving it.

The free roaming of cats and dogs is a human made problem resulting from irresponsible pet owners not spaying/neutering pets and then abandoning them. These animals then have a very difficult life through no fault of their own even with the help of compassionate people who work diligently to help them and are grossly overworked in their efforts to keep up with the needs of abandoned animals.

Four years ago i adopted an abandoned cat whose owners moved to the mainland and left their cats and two dogs to fend for themselves

For the past eight months I have been fostering a very young cat and her five kittens. Fortunately, two of the kittens were adopted together by very responsible pet owners. I have had the remaining three kittens and the mother cat spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated at my own expense. Not everyone can do this, but I believe that there are many who would help if they had an opportunity to do so. Bill SB998 would provide this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Rogers

sylviajj808@ gmail.com

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:32:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Parks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:04:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NANCY Matthews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the bill to establish a fund for spay and neuter for Hawaii's animals. I feel it is a great idea on many levels. It will help the community, and demonstrate to our visitors that we are progressive in solving a nationwide issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Best Alohas, Nancy Matthews

73-1530 Uanani Pl, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:05:06 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support the much needed effort to maintain the population of homeless cats. There are so many cats all over our county of Hawai'i that are impacting our bird populations. We see them almost everywhere we visit on our island. This is critically important to support Hawai'i's wonderful and unique environment.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:12:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert J Grunert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I volunteer for Advocats when ever I can. And I see the great work that goes on. I realize the importants of this work. Advocats could sure use some help. Please pass this piece of legislature. Aloha B.Grunert

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:21:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Dufault	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is such a critical need for a low/no-cost spay/neuter program. I volunteer with 3 no-cost non-profits who are doing spay and neuter of feral cats on the island. Many Hawaii island residents are unable to provide spay/neuter services for their animals due to the high cost of veterinary services for their animals; thus the "extra" animals are dumped throughout the island where they continue to multiply. State funding would greatly assist these non-profit groups to do more for the feral animals of the state as well as help those residents who cannot afford veterinary services to manage their animals reproductive urges. Please pass this bill and allow residents to the choice to fund low-/no-cost spay and neuter. Mahalo

Re: Support of SB998

Measure Title: RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

I am in support of SB9988

Overall the Bill is in line with my belief that we focus on the human(e) management of spaying and neutering of pet animals and Free-Roaming (feral felines) versus a prior insane attempt in 2022 to introduce a Bill to promote eradication.

Our focus should be to:

- Invest in spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation. 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.
- Support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.
- Support 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.
- Provide low-income and houseless pet owners to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

Thank you.

Wayne Niide

Feather, Fin and Fur Advocate

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:54:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
EA Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:01:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy ryan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to urge the legislature to pass SB998. This bill is a reflection of our commitment to the land and our humanity.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:09:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Potensky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support SB998. What a fantastic idea! There was a colony at my neighbors' lot. They are starving and struggling without food. I've trapped them and had them neutered by AdvoCATS. There is a wait list and it is always full. It has greatly reduced the population but it cannot happen without the funds. Please help with this Bill. With more funds, there will be residents and the public willing to help catch, neuter and release them in a more humane way. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:14:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Snapp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We desperately need funding for these services. People are constantly finding lost, unfixed, feral animals. On the big island it has become an epidemic. Boxes of puppies are left on the side of the road, or a dump. Cats are smashed on the road every day. Kittens are found constantly. There are many good Samaritan's that take in these found animals but don't have the funds to have them fixed. The current organizations simply cannot keep up. The split of the humane society and animal control here along with the death of three veterinarians has created a perfect storm. Lack of funding and availability of practitioners is at a crisis point. Please dedicate funds to this problem. Not by just checking a box, but for the long term. Mahalo

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:17:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lysbeth Quackenbush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I live in near Mile Marker 94 down in South Captain Cook. Beautiful area with Coffee Farms and sadly too many feral cats. AdvoCats Program has been so helpful and slowly making a big difference because of their caring. The feral cat problem is starting to get better. It's so very important to continue with the TNR program. Please fund this program for them to be able to continue with their mission. If not, it will be a sad day for Big Island residents and visitors to our beautiful home.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:28:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Whitmyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill wholeheartedly. We are all working to humanely fix the problem and need more financial help than just our own pockets. Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:30:59 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Coatts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation for all the people and animals that live here. It takes a village and I volunteer my time and services and personal income to this cause that so many are passionate about. Just like Hawaii was able to eradicate rabies - we should be able to spay & neuter all the animals that need it.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:39:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ehulani Stephany	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm for this program, which is much needed in our islands.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:40:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Whitmyer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This plan is much better than doing nothing or dealing with thousands of offspring.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:44:34 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This funding will be critical to assist the private, donation only services we (Petfix and others) can provide....the county and state have been totally useless toward the hugely needed neutering necessary! Our waiting lists are overflowing, there are not enough days in the week nor volunteers available to EVER catch up!! The state and county NEED to do more!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:47:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

There is an overpopulation of unwanted pets due to lack of affordable/accessible spay and neuter clinics. There needs to be a free or very low cost and accessible spay/neuter solution to this problem. Lack of an affordable solution as well as misinformation is creating a crisis that is heartbreaking to all concerned with animal welfare. Private individuals as well as small underfunded 501c3 nonprofit organizations are stretched beyond their means. Please help.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:56:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurie boyle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of SB998 for the simple reason that our island and state are overburdened with the cost of spaying, neutering the huge overpopulation of cats and dogs, not to mention the thousands of donated hours by our concerned citizens to help with this problem. We need a plan, a fund, and a way forward out of this terrible mess.

Mahalo for your time,

Laurie Boyle

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:57:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Tanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because if there are more free clinics, more people would take in their pets/ferrels to get fix and there would be less ferral cats around. Dogs are also expensive to fix. I also help trap and fix cats in my area

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:05:21 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Tim Richards

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

February 5, 2023

Aloha, Senator Gabbard and Senator Richards,

My name is Liz Noetzel and I am a dedicated 'Trap/Spay Neuter/Return/Manage' cat colony assistant on the Big Island. I am writing to SUPPORT SB 998. As I'm sure you are aware, we have NO county Humane Society helping with the incredible cat overpopulation problem and the task of spaying and neutering, as well as finding homes for the hundreds of abandoned pets. This has become the burden of the non-profit advocacy groups, as opposed to the county. 'Animal control' is run by the police, I believe?

Because of covid or general irresponsibility, hundreds of pets have been left to fend for themselves after their owners have concluded that they can no longer support them, and most owners have not had them spayed or neutered. The overpopulation of cats numbers in the THOUSANDS, but because of the efforts of several unfunded organizations, they are managing to keep the numbers from growing even higher. Were they not doing the work that I believe the county should be doing, quite frankly, this problem would be making national news and I'm quite certain our government would be duly humiliated. At the very least, supporting this bill will provide these organizations with some funds to continue supporting their work.

Please support the organizations that have been left to solve what is a community problem. They do so regardless of the lack of support they receive, and it would be so, so great if this committee could support a bill that might provide them with at least some funding. I also encourage you to think about crafting legislation that provides substantial sums of money to the advocacy groups that are doing this critical work.

Thank you for your time and for your support of SB 998.

With Appreciation,

Liz Noetzel

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:08:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

February 5, 2023

SB 998 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and the members of the Senate Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

My name is Barbara Anderson and I am a volunteer for a non profit group called ADVOCATS whose purpose is to spay and neuter cats on West Hawaii Island. I am writing you to support SB 998 RELATING TO THE SPAYING AND NEUTERING OF ANIMALS to provide more funding for this service offered by many organizations in Hawaii.

ADVOCATS oversees up to 3 clinics a month and performs the surgery on up to 100 cats each clinic with private donations. Once these animals are sterilized, data has shown that the populations decrease and the animals can live the remainder of their lives without bearing more offspring.

I am an unskilled volunteer at the ADVOCATS clinics, and the process is successfully completed with up to 20 volunteers and a veterinarian. I strongly recommend that you support this bill as it would provide for more funding that ADOCATS and others could use for helping our island with homeless pets.

Thank you,

Barbara Anderson, volunteer

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:11:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stan Olsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Stan Olsen of Kailua Kona, declare that I love cats & dogs, but Hawaii has too many of them. So let's get those numbers down ASAP.

Thx

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:13:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
donna j mills	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support catch & release!!!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:13:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellie Gatney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard and Senator Tim Richards

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Feb. 5, 2023

Greetings, Senator Gabbard and Senator Richards:

I am writing to SUPPORT SB 998.

Please consider passing this bill so that the organizations that are performing spaying and neutering of feral colonies (many of which include pets that people have ‘dropped off’ because they no longer can afford to take care of them, and the ‘Humane’ Society will NOT accept them) on the Big Island can at least have an opportunity to get some funding from sources other than their friends and family, selling their personal belongings at garage sales, and begging for whatever anyone they know can provide them in the way of cat food.

Please also know that this is NOT a ‘solution’- it is a band aid and a temporary solution at best. MORE needs to be done to stop the incredible overpopulation problem on this island. The cats are NOT at fault. It is the humans who have created this environment and it is our responsibility to come together to solve this problem. Please find funding elsewhere to support each organization that is doing the ACTUAL WORK to stop overpopulation of cats on the Big Island!

Please support SB 998.

Mahalo,

Kellie Gattney

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:19:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Light	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support this.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:25:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This will help local non profits that are actively working to humanly reduce free roaming cats which benefits both cat and wild life.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:31:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michael willinsky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fund a robust Tnr program for all hawaii cats. It has been proven to be the only solution to any cat overpopulation problem worldwide and would work well across hawaii too. TNR has been effective in over 500 major cities worldwide.

thank you for your kindness, help and support.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:34:53 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Luchette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the legislation that is being proposed to establish a state-wide special fund to support the spay/neuter of Hawaii's cats and dogs; funding would be provided on a voluntary basis by checking a box on the Hawaii State income tax form. Grants from the fund would be made to organizations that provide: Free or low-cost spay/neuter for pet cats and dogs of low-income owners; Low-cost spay/neuter for animal welfare organizations offering cats and dogs for adoption; and Organizations providing free spay/neuter for free-roaming cat populations.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:41:50 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keri Jones, DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha lawmakers,

I am 100% behind this bill which provides a good first step in controlling the pet overpopulation problem in our state. With the shortage of veterinarians, particularly on Hawaii Island, getting these animals spayed and neutered, and providing for euthanasia services for the sick and seriously injured, is a difficult proposition. Additional funding to provide these services is a great step in the right direction and may allow some of these organizations to hire or contract with out of area veterinarians to help with the volume. Additional legislation for funding of new animal control facilities and public education is also a critical need which I would love to see in the near future.

Please vote in support of this much needed funding.

Aloha,

Keri Jones, DVM

Owner, South Kona Veterinary Service

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:48:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: I am a resident of the Puna Region on the island of Hawaii and I am writing to ask for your support of SB 998 which allows for a designation of tax receipts for spaying and neutering stray animals. I have managed a feral cat colony in Texas prior to moving to Hawaii. Overtime, the population of my colony reduced from around 30 cats to one single, spayed cat. I know from practical experience that spaying and neutering reduces the feral population.

We have a huge problem with the number of colony cats on our island. Most of the problem is a result of people dumping their pets or their neighbor's pets at locations where colonies are established. I feed cats at one of the transfer stations and I foster kittens out of the transfer station. My organization of volunteers prepares these kittens for adoption by providing medical attention, vaccinations, spay and neutering and micro chipping. We do all of this at no cost to tax payers but the numbers overwhelm our efforts. Regardless of the number of cats we catch and "fix", the continuous stream of dumped pets, both adult as well as kittens makes it clear that the lack of low or no cost spaying and neutering is the major obstacle to getting control of the population. The average veterinarian on our island charge hundreds of dollars for a single spaying or neutering putting the cost out of reach for many households.

When desperate households dump cats, especially kittens, the animals are exposed to many health hazards and cruelties. I have held little kittens struggling to live from infestation of roundworms and other types of infections only to see these poor babies loose their fight for life. Please help us reduce and eliminate the number of animals exposed to these conditions. There is no aloha in allowing these conditions to continue. Please allow people the option to designate of a small amount of their taxes to be used for this important act of mercy.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:54:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Menton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to fund spay/neuter programs.

Thank you.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:55:10 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB998 Spay and neuter

I am strongly in support of SB998 by Senator Rhodes, which creates a spay and neuter fund and allows for an income tax check-off so that people who wish to support this vital work can do so.

I volunteer with Action 4 Animals to foster cats on Big Island. We trap cats at the Keaau Transfer Station and attempt to find them homes. We tame down often terrified cats, treat them for ailments and parasites, get them spayed or neutered, test them for feline leukemia and feline AIDS, get them vaccinated, have them microchipped, and find them their forever homes. Many of the cats and kittens we rescue are or were someone's pets. They do not understand how they went from being loved to abandoned.

Sadly, a primary cause of pet abandonment is a lack of low cost spay and neuter availability. Many pet owners would get their pets spayed or neutered if they could afford it. Then they would have one beloved pet kitty instead of six unwanted kittens that become street cats in a neighborhood. Low cost spay and neuter definitely works to reduce unplanned companion animal populations. This in turn benefits neighborhoods, indigenous wildlife populations, and quality of life for the animals.

Please show aloha for the animals. This is a true win-win situation. It's voluntary for the taxpayer. It's a cost effective and compassionate solution to help solve a serious environmental and humane issue.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

District 4, Pct. 2

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:57:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna M. Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB998, the statewide spay/neuter fund bill. As a pet owner and animal lover, I have firsthand seen the impact and benefits of trap-neuter-release programs in my neighborhood. The positive change that this program has brought to my community has convinced me of the importance of spaying and neutering to address overpopulation and provide care for free-roaming cats.

This bill is a win-win solution for all involved. By establishing a special fund and allowing funds from an income tax check-off, compassionate Hawai'i taxpayers can easily support the spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs and free-roaming cats without significant cost to the state. Furthermore, it will support groups working to humanely reduce the population of free-roaming cats, which benefits both the cats and wildlife.

I have seen the impact that trap-neuter-release programs can bring to a community, and I believe that the impact can be exponentially multiplied if funding is available for local non-profit organizations. These organizations often face financial difficulties in funding pre-adoption spay/neuter, but with the establishment of this special fund, they will be able to ensure that the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation. Additionally, low-income and houseless pet owners will have access to affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions, allowing them to provide the best care for their pets.

In conclusion, SB998 is a well-thought-out solution that will have a positive impact on the lives of pets, wildlife, and the community. I strongly urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to support this bill and make it a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Anna M. Kidder

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:05:15 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Mattero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for SB998, the statewide spay/neuter fund bill. As a concerned resident, I have observed disturbing and concerning observations regarding the free-roaming cat population issues in my community. The negative, illegal, and harmful methods of trapping cats and dumping them on the freeway, in harbors or in neighborhoods across the island have become a regular occurrence.

This is why this bill is paramount and important to bring the population under control in a safe and humane manner. The creation of a spay and neuter special fund, supported by funds from an income tax check-off, will provide much-needed resources to organizations working to address the issue.

I have researched the success of trap-neuter-release programs in other cities and states and am confident that the same positive results can be achieved in Hawaii with appropriate funding. In cities such as Los Angeles, New York, and Austin, these programs have been successful in reducing the population of free-roaming cats and improving the health and well-being of both the cats and the community.

This bill is a step in the right direction, providing a sustainable solution that benefits both the pets and the community. The funds collected through the special fund will go towards spaying and neutering cats and dogs, reducing overpopulation, and providing a safer environment for all.

In conclusion, SB998 is an important piece of legislation that will bring about a positive change in our community and address the free-roaming cat population issue in a safe and humane manner. I urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to support this bill and make it a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Zachary T. Mattero

Aloha Senator Gabbard and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment,

As a long-time resident (30 years) of Hawai'i Island, an avid hiker, an outdoor enthusiast, and supporter of Native Hawaiian culture, I oppose SB 998, Spaying and Neutering of Cats. I also love cats and have had several throughout my life. However, I strongly believe domestic cats need to be spayed/neutered AND they belong indoors to protect native birds. Although I have cats, I do not support trapping, neutering and releasing (TNR) of feral cats. Our native birds evolved without human intervention, such as introducing cats as predators whose instincts are to catch birds. Our native birds have played an important role in Native Hawaiian cultural practices. "Birds are depicted in Hawaiian mo'olelo (stories), they are seen as 'aumakua (guardian spirits), and their feathers are used for adornment." (Rare winged wonders: birds of Haleakala, National Park Service brochure)

Our native Hawaiian birds are unique. Many are now extinct and among those species that have survived, most are endangered or critically endangered. It is reported that a few species, such as the 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), have less than 1000 individuals left in the world. Ground nesting native birds, such as the nēnē are especially vulnerable to feral cats.

In Hilo, where I live, several mating pairs of nēnē are now regularly seen in Wailoa State Park. However, any chance of their goslings surviving are greatly reduced by the feral cat colonies that have been adopted by well-intentioned community members who continue to provide cat food. Although some use their own money to also TNR cats, older cats and litters of kittens are routinely abandoned because of irresponsible cat owners. It's a vicious cycle--feral cats are TNR and fed, other people think these colonies are okay, and more cats are abandoned.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate the senseless killing of our native birds, undermining efforts to protect endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

Please OPPOSE this bill and do not allow it to move forward.

Mahalo,
Ellen Okuma
P.O. Box 10766
Hilo, HI 96721

ph 808-896-1010
ellen.okuma@gmail.com

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:30:46 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guy V. Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my support for SB998, the statewide spay/neuter fund bill. The creation of a special fund for spaying and neutering cats, supported by funds from an income tax check-off, is a crucial step in addressing the overpopulation of free-roaming cats in our community.

Trap-neuter-release programs are a proven and effective way to control the population of free-roaming cats and improve their quality of life. The following are 5 benefits of well-administered trap-neuter-release programs:

Reduced overpopulation: Spaying and neutering cats is the most effective way to control pet overpopulation, reducing the number of animals that end up in shelters or on the streets.

Improved health: Spaying and neutering cats reduces the risk of certain diseases and improves their overall health.

Better behavior: Fixed cats and dogs are less likely to exhibit aggressive or territorial behavior, making them better pets and reducing the likelihood of conflicts with neighbors or wildlife.

Enhanced community relations: By reducing the number of free-roaming cats and improving their behavior, trap-neuter-release programs can improve community relations and reduce tensions between pet owners and neighbors.

Financial savings: Trap-neuter-release programs are more cost-effective than traditional methods of controlling the pet population, such as capturing and euthanizing animals.

The funding provided by SB998 is critical to ensure that these programs can be carried out effectively and reach as many animals as possible. Without this funding, local organizations may not be able to implement these programs, and the pet overpopulation issue will continue to be a major concern in our community.

In conclusion, the benefits of trap-neuter-release programs are clear, and the funding provided by SB998 is essential to ensure their success. I urge the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment to support this bill and make it a reality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Guy V. Kidder

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:30:58 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edith Brodbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am writing in support of SB998, legislation to support and fund organizations that provide low cost spay and neuter clinics. I have personally experienced the difficulty in obtaining these types of services for feral cats on our property. Due to the overwhelming number of animals needing these services the local organizations that provide these services are equally overwhelmed. Waiting 5 to 6 months to obtain these services negates the benefit of neutering. The animals mature and go on to create more babies in the interim. Private providers of animal welfare services are unable to help alleviate the problem. They put these services at the bottom of the list - in calling my vet, willing to pay full charges for the neutering, I was advised surgeries were being scheduled 3 months in the future - what?! I guess we have a shortage of these providers as well.

The folks I have dealt with in the volunteer organizations are compassionate and dedicated to the plight of the animals that have ended up on the street. This isn't their job - this is their calling! Passing this bill would recognize the willingness of volunteers to take on the burden of humanely handling this growing problem that has been abandoned by public services.

Please pass this bill - every bit of financial consideration will help this dire situation.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:33:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juan Carlos Guerra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii is a unique place with species that are found nowhere else in the world, and several of these species are in danger of extinction. Trap neuter release programs are not appropriate for Hawaii and having a special fund that supports this practice is not in the best interest of anyone, cats, people or native species.

Endangered Ua'u are predated by free-roaming cats dozens of miles away from population centers, toxoplasma carried by cats ends up affecting native monk seal populations, feral cats live shorter lives than cats housed indoors and are exposed to life long diseases.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian species to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem and who also fail to see the negative impacts a feral lifestyle has on domestic cats quality of life. As a veterinarian I oppose this bill and suggest pursuing other efforts that can further Hawaii conservation goals as well as improve feline quality of life by keeping them indoors.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:34:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Okawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I support and always recommend people spay and neuter their pets, I do not support creating a special fund that will specifically benefit trap-neuter-release (TNR) programs. TNR does not work. It creates inhumane conditions for the animal. Feral colonies also promote continued abandonment because people feel that their pets will be looked after and that they'll be ok on their own. I would imagine the abandonment would decrease if the potential penalties were much harsher - i.e. fines for the abandoner and the risk of humane euthanasia for their animal. TNR is a symbolic feel-good gesture that unfortunately stops the hard solutions from being discussed and halts any significant progress towards stemming the feral issue.

I am also concerned about the impact of growing feral colonies on native and endangered populations - and a state-sponsored program to provide for the release of predator animals back on the landscape. It would be a different story if this bill provided support for spaying and neutering and then finding new loving homes for these animals. That would be great. But TNR organizations will dump them back out in the environment where they don't belong. What happens when these state-funded predators decimate native seabird populations and otherwise interfere with conservation goals to protect native Hawaiian biodiversity? If these conservation programs are also state-funded, that was just a huge loss of those state resources.

Sidenote, I do support the updating of the language in the statute from "husband and wife" to "married couple". Everything else TNR-related in this bill, no.

Creating this fund will only feed into the growing loop of animal abandonment and will do nothing to address the hard facts and difficult solutions. On top of that, it's fiscally irresponsible. Let's not continue with this effort to procure the tiniest bandaid for a gaping flesh wound. Please defer this measure. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:07:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Vinz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a fulltime resident of Hawaii and reside in Kailua Kona. I am an active voter. I support SB998. As a volunteer I humanely trap cats and take them to get spayed and neutered at community clinics that are providing that service. We need more support for those organizations and clinics.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:13:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SB998, which would allow people to check off a donation on their tax return that would help pay for spaying/neutering of pets and free-roaming cats. I have seen many bills over the years which attempt to address the free-roaming cat problem, usually by killing the cats. This bill is a much more humane option. Also, by enabling low-income pet owners to spay/neuter their animals, there would be less pets abandoned (to become free-roaming cats or to overload local animal welfare organizations). This bill seems like a win/win for everyone.

Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:15:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The Big Island has long been experiencing a severe pet overpopulation problem (as are all the Hawaiian Islands.) Only through large-scale spay/neuter will this overpopulation problem be solved. But people and animal welfare organizations are struggling due to the lack of availability of low-cost spay/neuter. Spay/neuter at a private veterinary clinic is prohibitively expensive for most people, and non-profit organizations do not have enough funding to provide free or low-cost spay/neuter to those in need. Also spay/neuter (through TNR) has been proven to be the most effective long-term method of controlling the homeless (feral) cat population. Additional funding through this measure will go a long way to overcoming the financial barrier that most people and organizations must deal with to provide spay/neuter to all those who need it.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:34:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Oliver	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Susan Oliver, I live in Ocean View. I am a resident of Hawaii for 20+ years. When I moved to Hawaii in 2002, I noticed feral cats all around me. Unfortunately, these cats are abandoned anywhere convenient. I have been overwhelmed with cats here at my home and neighborhood. I notice cats at the transfer stations, beach parks, view points, parking lots. The recent proposal to poison these cats was ludicrous and dangerous. This was realized. There is a nonprofit group here called AdvoCATs. They neuter cats. We are a very strong group of volunteers. We know how many cats we capture, neuter and return. This system works. It's proven. What slows us down is lack of funds. We need financial support to continue this. If the government knows how this is so effective, it should contribute. They need to realize, we are an island in the ocean. Our cats multiply and spread disease, and many many more cats. These cats depend on us to care for them. If we continue to ignore the cats, things won't get better! Let's work on this as a caring community, focused on doing the right thing. Thank you. Fund this issue. Do something for all of our well bring. Aloha.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:37:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Merrifield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully back this bill in support of a neuter/spay fund for free-roaming cats as I feel, for the well-being of the cats, controlling the population in a humane way is important.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:46:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support legislation is being proposed to establish a state-wide special fund to support the spay/neuter of Hawaii's cats and dogs; funding would be provided on a voluntary basis by checking a box on the Hawaii State income tax form. Grants from the fund would be made to organizations that provide: Free or low-cost spay/ neuter for pet cats and dogs of low-income owners; Low-cost spay/neuter for animal welfare organizations offering cats and dogs for adoption; and Organizations providing free spay/ neuter for free-roaming cat populations.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:49:56 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Pro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB998 for the sole reason that free roaming cat colonies should not be allowed to exist because of the following reasons:

1. The environmental damage that they create, especially in regard to our native bird population.
2. Cats are domesticated animals and are happy, healthy and content only when they have loving homes.

I have one rescue cat Kika 7 years old from the Humane Society and 2 feral cats I adopted at the beginning of the pandemic. They are now tame with me and I love them dearly. I love all cats! However cats need homes and relationships to fully reach their potential- just like humans. Please modify this bill so you can fund spay neuter for shelters and for low income people. Do not fund Advocats and other free roaming support organizations. Thank you!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:52:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Moreno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This statement is in support of funding for spaying & neutering.

This could have such a big impact for the over population of abandoned Dogs & Cats or just people who can't afford to spay or neuter their animals.

The trap neuter release program is proof that it's possible to curb the population of feral cats.

Its not the animals fault of over population but a man made problem of dumping of animals.

Thank you for your time!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 12:53:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As of volunteer working with rescue groups and focusing on TNR for colony cats, I am highly aware of the great need in Hawaii to have a spay neuter program available and accessible, particularly for colony cats and for citizens of Hawaii who are lower income and not able to afford a private veterinarian services so they elect to not sterilize their pet. There's only adds to the problem of overpopulation of animals in Hawaii.

I support the Hawaiian Humane Society's focus and efforts on helping to ameliorate this community issue and need and ask our legislature to pass this bill, as it affects so many on our island. Failure to pass will only add hardship and increase the problems and issues we currently face in trying to balance the animal population in a safe, responsible, and humane way.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:02:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Opiteck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a colony cat caregiver near my home and work place. I have been working with Aloha Kitty TNR, the Humane Society,, Cat Charities, and several cat cafés in the area. I am doing this on my own time and spending my own money for their food and vet care. Aloha kitty TNR has given me traps and gone with me to TNR the Kewalo basin harbor master area and construction site near Alamonana beach park. We have successfully rescued kittens in the area and fixed 98% of the cats in the immediate area and in my colony. I have been a foster during the pandemic (over 35 kittens) I currently have four rescue cats from this area.

Aloha kitty TNR has paid for the spay and neuter of these cats in this area. Leilani Ng is a saint and works diligently with cat caregivers to help TNR cat colonies. I've been asked to help over at Magic Island by the Humane Society several times. Leilani Ing has a full-time job and traps full-time for her nonprofit. She has made it her mission to help out whenever needed. Recently Leilani helped myself and the Humane Society catch an injured, sick cat in the rocks on the harbor side of Magic Island. She did this on her own time. The Humane Society couldn't catch it for three days.

TNR is the only Humane way to help lessen the amount of cats that are in cat colonies. Her nonprofit is in dire need of financial support. I highly recommend this bill as a way to help the nonprofits help the colony cat caregivers with the issue of overpopulation of colony cats and feral cats. I also feel that the community should be educated on what TNR is and cat colony caregivers should be trained and monitored.

(HCDA had a program up until 2019)

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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.

This bill will definitely help reduce the cat population for both pets & free roaming cats. This bill will enable many pet owners who cannot afford the expense of having their pets spay/neuter.

As a colony caretaker I can say it works, in the last two years I have TNRd, spay/neutered 53 cats, my group is now down to 20-25 which also includes natural attrition.

Sincerely,

Grace Himenes
96734

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

States on the mainland that have invested in subsidizing spay/neuter for pet animals have seen a drastic drop in pet overpopulation. 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 SB998 and give this a chance.

Mahalo,

Hannah Mizuno

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

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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 measure.

Sincerely,

Lee A Cuccia
96734

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
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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.

Sincerely,
Ronald Taira
96701

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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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.

Sincerely,
Sherrie Caramanis
96826

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

Many people complain about the feral cat population and I do agree. Many of us aren't able to go out to help these animals, many dropped by previous owners.

This bill will help those like me support taking care of the feral cats in a humane way and NOT just kill them off, as some suggest.

I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB998 and give this a chance.

Mahalo,
Joanne Parker
96701-3050

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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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.

Sincerely,
Lisa Soyejima-Nordstrom

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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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.

Sincerely,
Trina Taira
96701

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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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.

Sincerely,
Peggy Fern
96825

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

States on the mainland that have invested in subsidizing spay/neuter for pet animals have seen a drastic drop in pet overpopulation. 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 SB998 and give this a chance.

Mahalo,
STEPHANIE MCLAUGHLIN
MILILANI, 96789

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

February 6, 2023
1:00pm
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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 SB998.

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.

I urge you to pass this bill.

I have been feeding ONE kitten since October. She is no longer a kitten now. She has become my garage cat and is somewhat tame. Since then, she has given birth to a litter of four already and is ready to give birth again. I tried to catch her 6xs for the Hhs catch, neuter, and release program but she failed to go into the trap. If I could catch her on any day, I think I would be able to. But because they only allow a specific day which is about 3 months out, it's impossible. Sadly, there will be another litter of kittens that will starve after they are weened.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
K. Saiki
96816

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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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.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.
George Linnik
96791

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

Monday, February 6, 2023
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee,

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I believe Hawaii taxpayers are compassionate and will support this kind of a fund. Please pass SB998 and give this a chance.

I strongly support SB998 and ask for your support this very important bill!

Mahalo,
Helene Navaro
96720

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:29:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 1:42:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Vittek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No sense in killing animals without purpose if neutering will control the population. We really need this bill passed to protect the needless taking of the life of our cats and dogs.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:13:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek. I am a Hawaii-based attorney and small business owner who has a passion for animal welfare. I serve as a volunteer with the Hawaiian Humane Society and on its board of directors.

I support SB 998 because it will provide resources for state government to support spay and neuter programs across the islands. It is a positive, humane, and proactive step to addressing concerns we heard expressed last session. HB 998 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.

Please pass SB 998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:23:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cynthia Walsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill that will reduce the number of animals that can not be taken care of.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 2:37:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Rapoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Hawaii State Legislators,

First, thank you for your time to read my testimony.

We the people have a responsibility to be good stewards to all creatures; humans and animals.

For those who can assist, there is a dire need to maintain the cat population.

1) There are so many loving cats. Even with all the animal organizations/shelters/sanctuaries in Hawaii, individually they can't handle the influx of newborn kittens, adult feral and household rejected cats.

2) Sadly, with an abundance of cats; some kids and adults do abuse cats and other animals in unimaginable cruel ways.

3) Many cats are malnourished, get into fights with other cats or are injured being hit by a vehicle or abused by someone(s) which its untreated injury leads to extended suffering and or diseased.

There are a couple awesome cat/animal spay/neuter programs in Hawaii that are reasonably priced and they do great work! It's a blessing to many people and animals that those programs exist. After many rescues later, spay/neuter is costly. Both cost effective programs & private veterinarians have overhead: location, surgical equipment, medical items, etc.. I rescue cats and other animals. After I rescue a kitten/cat, I first take it to a no-kill shelter, unfortunately I'm informed their overwhelmed. I try to find it a home and if can't, I keep the cat or dog as I can't discard it because I don't see an animal as trash or an object. Although I understand why, HHS is not an option, if the animal is not adopted in a certain period of time..well. Instead, I have the cat spayed/neutered and it cost \$300.00+.

I foster 6 cats and 6 dogs, all rescues & all spayed/neutered & microchipped.

So as I write this testimony letter to you, it is with great understanding of how important SB998 is.

Another issue is for those that want to help maintain a cat population that's on private property, as the owner or management company states: Do not trespass on private property to feed the cats. In order to gain a cats trust, make the cat comfortable to handle & take into be spayed/neutered, one must be friendly through feeding the cat. I'd happily sign a waiver of liability that if I get hurt on private property while tending to the cats, the property owner/management is not liable. The smell of cat urine is a reason many people don't like cats. Cat urine can be washed away. Cat feces and its affects on another animals should further be studied to be sure cats are not unjustly exterminated.

There's so many in the community that want to help maintain the cat population, there's just too many road blocks and spay/neuter cost prohibited.

A suggestion to solidify SB998, if all the animal organizations in Hawaii come together vs being separated, the collaboration would be monumental! Everyone working together could make a world of difference to lessen the suffering of future cats and other animals.

Of course there must be some discretion to. If there is a cat type that's rare, close to instinction to not spay/neuter for that reason.

IMPORTANT: The indiscriminate killing of cats is atrocious and frankly uncivilized. We shouldn't resort to that type of cruel practice. Whomever came up with that sadistic solution and those facilitating the act of annihilating cats should be immediately removed from those unnecessary positions! I've observed a colony of 15+ cats say today, then the next day all gone? How can that be? Not a cat in sight day or night? In addition, please consider making stricter laws for those that abuse an animal, it should be a felony, prison time and a massive fine. If a human can easily abuse an animal, he/she could possibly abuse a fellow human.

Your tax donation plan to obtain the spay/neuter funds is great! Electing compassionate people with related backgrounds whom have the cats best interests is important. Again, suggest to include all Hawaii animal organizations/shelters/sanctuaries to get together with committee to corroborate and implement a more aggressive approach to spay/neuter feral cats. For the committee- consider these funding categories: Addressing cat colonies, assist those that catch and bring in kittens/cats, also those that rescue and then choose to keep the kitten/cat; help by partially funding a negotiated flat rate price with animal vet practices for both health check and spay neuter service. Implement a standard process that's followed and not deviated from. Colony cats and rescued cats after spayed/neutered are placed back where the cat was found.

Please be a part of the solution as intuitive Legislators with great foresight to animal welfare, which benefits both animals & the community.

Thank you very much for your time and compassionate consideration to pass SB998.

Mrs. Lana RAPOZA

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 4:20:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dulice Reden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is vital to the welfare of the community. I have been volunteering with AdvoCats for over 10 years and as a Retired Nurse Practitioner and Surgical PA, Providing low cost or free spay/neuter is the most humane and effective way to manage overpopulation of cats and dogs. The people desparately need help in spaying and neutering their animals. It reduces animal cruelty and violence when animal populaations are managed in a humane way. This also reduces violence in the human population when people are given a humane alternative to manage and take care of their animals.Nuisance is drastically reduced when populations are reduced and they are spayed/neutered.

PLEASE supportSB998

Respectfully,

Dulice Reden, RN.Family Nurse Practitioner, Advocats vollunteer

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 4:40:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:05:07 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Lai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a person who does spay/neuter in Waipahu on my own this bill is very important and I am in support it. For the lives of innocent animals that through no fault of their own have to find there way in the world on there own. Please approve this bill!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:13:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arleene Skillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a retired veterinarian who helped implement the first spay neuter program in Honolulu in the 70's. I now, along with my daughter, help feed one of the many colonies of feral cats on Diamond Head Road. This bill will help the countless number of people who work to trap, neuter and release abandoned cats all over this island. Back in the 70's there was as a problem with overpopulation of dogs and cats. Sad to say it still is an issue presently. This bill will help the people who care for the feral population out of their own pockets, some help to keep more kittens from living this harsh life.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:18:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill makes it easy for Hawaii taxpayers to help fund the spay/neuter of pets, including feral cats, at no significant cost to the state. These funds will benefit low-income pet owners who may struggle to afford spay/neuter services. The funds also will support nonprofits that have a proven track record of reducing pet overpopulation in Hawaii.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 5:35:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the legislation being proposed which will provide funding for the spay and neuter of Hawaii's dogs and cats. Reducing overpopulation through medical sterilization will prevent so many animals being euthanized on the islands.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:17:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elli Pace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB998. Hawai'i has a vast stray and feral cat population that is being addressed by a small cohort of compassionate citizens wishing to see the numbers reduced through TNRM. The research has demonstrated that TNRM - Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage is the only humane, effective, and sustainable way to reduce the free-roaming cat population, for the well-being of both the cats and the local wildlife. Management of a cat colony is achieved through breaking the cycle of reproduction and compassionately maintaining the health of those cats who represent the last generation of a colony. This is done by trapping and sterilizing every cat over the age of 2 months (they start reproducing at 4 months old) to prevent further breeding. Where possible, these cats are rescued and rehomed through adoption, but most are returned to their colony, which prevents wandering and territorial disputes. They are then monitored by volunteer caretakers, who in addition to feeding ensure the health of the cats, prevent the spread of disease, sterilize any new cats that show up, and remove kittens and health-compromised cats for further intervention.

The challenge of this work comes in three parts, all of which could be decreased by this bill. The challenges are:

1. The cost involved in caring for the cats;
2. The availability of care; and
3. Harassment

Caretakers provide food, medical attention, and time each day to ensure the maintenance of their colonies. This is done out of pocket. HHS and SPCA are able to assist in the sterilization surgery, as well as microchipping and vaccinations, however, the wait time, due to the high demand on these organizations is often 4-5 months - enough time for a cat to have two litters, averaging 3-5 kittens per litter. Additionally, caregivers often face daily harassment from an underinformed public who do not understand TNRM efforts are reducing the free-roaming cat population. Any legislature in support of our efforts addresses each of these issues in kind.

Personally, I caretake a colony in/ around Moili'ili Japanese Cemetery. I discovered the unmanaged colony of 17 cats about a year ago. In the time it took for me to secure surgeries for the cats, 6 kittens were born, and another 3 showed up (likely owner abandoned). My females are now all sterilized, and despite the addition of 9 kittens, my colony has shrunk to the size of 16 cats, as I was able to work with organizations to foster and adopt out all 9 kittens and rehome

one adult cat. This is exactly as TNRM and rescue adoptions are intended to help the community, and these are the practices we are asking you to help support.

The free-roaming cats in Hawaii find themselves living outdoors through no fault of their own. Humans are responsible for this predicament and we must be the solution. I would gladly invite any interested party to join me while I feed the cats or on a trapping night, so you can see for yourselves the impact TNRM has on reducing the free-roaming cat population and why I am asking you to support SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:17:23 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Kellam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB 998. Feral cats are a horrible problem here on our island, and any measure that will help to slow down their breeding and multiplying is very important. As you know, the feces from feral cats is a contributor to the death of our endemic, endangered Hawaiian monk seals, too. PLEASE pass this very reasonable bill.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Susan Kellam

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:40:47 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Hultgren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Hawai'i resident and environmentalist. Hawai'i's native bird population has been under threat for hundreds of years. Allowing feral cats to freely roam in habitat that belongs to vulnerable native birds is an environmental catastrophe. Trap-Neuter-Release allows these cats to remain in the environment causing hazards to human health and that of wildlife (cat feces carry toxins, not to mention their predatory behavior). We need to take multiple different measures to protect our beautiful and endangered native manu. Please do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Sara Hultgren

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 6:58:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James H Hutzelman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this proposed legislation and urge you to vote in favor of it.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:11:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Bishop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support passage of SB998.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:20:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyhl A Austin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill and instead would like to see a bill introduced to trap and humanely euthenize feral cats instead. Cats are predators and will continue to hunt and kill even after being neutered. Simply put, trap, neuter, and release does not work. Re-releasing cats only creates more problems.

Please instead humanely euthenize stray cats and enforce feeding bans for feral cats as well.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:34:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Weipert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a conservation professional working to protect endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds. These birds are found nowhere else in the world and in some cases, such as the 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), there are less than 1000 individuals left in the world. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Allowing cats to roam free on the landscape is a disaster for these birds.

In addition, there is a serious human health risk to allowing cats to roam our islands. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which spreads through only through cat feces to Hawaiian Monk Seals, dolphins and humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

'Trap-Neuter-Release' (TNR) is not an answer. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. I am very tired of finding literally hundreds of carcasses of endangered or native birds ripped apart by feral cats every year. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate that slaughter, undermining efforts to protected endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Many thanks

Hannah Weipert

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:41:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I approve of the fund to help people spay and neuter their pets. We have way too many unwanted dogs and cats that need to be euthanized because of over population. Better to limit the babies than have them suffer.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 7:49:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Lau	Testifying for Catfriends	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I, as an individual citizen & as a volunteer with Catfriends, Abandoned & Feral, am in strong support of this bill to fund the spay/neuter of pet cats, dogs & free roaming cats. The overpopulation of free roaming cats & the abandonment of animals, both pet dogs & cats across this Island needs to be addressed permanently & this is a very important bill which will help address this cause. If people can fix animals free of charge it will help tremendously. Who would fix free roaming cats for instance if they had to pay out of their own pocket to TNR (Trap, Neuter, Return) all the unfixed cats out there. The cost would be prohibitive. I implore you to please pass this bill.

Patricia Linda Lau

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:13:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karl Magnacca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose this measure. Trap, neuter, and release (TNR) does not reduce numbers of feral cats and only perpetuates their killing of native birds and spreading of pathogens. We should be effectively controlling animal numbers, not spending more state resources on failed methods that do nothing to ameliorate the problem.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 8:31:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

This bill makes a lot of sense regarding control of feral cats and dogs and helping low income families do the right thing by spaying and neutering their pets.

- Free or low-cost spay/neuter for pet cats and dogs of low-income owners;
- Low-cost spay/neuter for animal welfare organizations offering cats and dogs for adoption; and
- **Organizations providing free spay/neuter for free-roaming cat populations.**
I urge you to support this bill and I am most willing to contribute with my income tax return.

Mahalo nui

99-7815 Kapoha Place Volcano. Ka'u Moku 96785

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 9:44:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dursin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to move this bill forward. It would help the non-profits that do so much to prevent animals from proliferating across the islands and affecting the health and safety of the public. It is the step that will also limit the pain and suffering of the animals themselves.

Thank you.

Susan Dursin, Captain Cook, Hawaii

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:05:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Himenes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will definitely reduce the cat population of both free roaming cats, pets who have been dumped, & pets of people who cannot afford the cost of spay/neuter.

As a colony caretaker I can say it works, in the last 2-3 years, with the help Aloha Kitty TNR I have been able to spay/neuter 53 cats, my group is now down to 20-25 cats, which includes adoptions & natural attrition

Grace Himenes

96734

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 10:28:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Many people are deluged with stray cats roaming neighborhoods and even more so since Covid 19.

We cannot at this time control owners abandoning their pets , nor expect feral cats to not exist.

It is a worthy cause to spay/neuter these animals for the good of everyone and the cats themselves. It is not their fault.

I know people who belong to TNR (trap,neuter,release) and just when they get ahold of reducing feral populations. unidentified persons come along and dump their pets or kittens into colonies,roaming various and obvious places. They spend a lot of their own money trapping and veterinarian care for these animals. They actually help the community but no-one helps them back. Some are going to quit due to age, finances and other issues. Then what do we have to manage this problem.

These people, vets and others who can't afford sterilization, need this bill to pass. Help needs to be on the way.

Moreover, we need to secure Federal funding if possible in addition to what the State can chip in. Many useless Pork Barrel projects get funded and here we have a real issue that needs treatment.

Please do not let this slip away. It is so timely and needed now. Please fight for this.

The cats need our help. I have adopted 5 homeless cats and got them all fixed on my own .But, that doesnt mean others can do this. It's all our problem don't you see , we are the keepers and the community at large.

We can't say we don't do anything. We must. We can and God help us we will.

Let humanity be humane.

Sincerely,

Debra Martin

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/5/2023 11:51:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to state my opposition to SB998. As someone who is involved in the conservation of endangered and endemic Hawaiian birds, allowing cats to roam freely on the landscape is a disaster for these birds.

TNR is not an answer, and as long as cats remain outdoors, they are a threat to human health, and a threat to endangered Hawaiian birds.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. So many of our endangered birds are ripped apart by feral cats. If this bill passes it will perpetuate the slaughter, and undermine our efforts to protect endangered species and is wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

Thanks for your consideration,

Lee Miller

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 2:51:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

Please support SB998 because we know that animal overpopulation is a problem in our communities but we need to address it humanely and effectively. Data has shown that sterilizing them is the most effective way of reducing animal over population. Affordability is often the cause for not being able to get community animals sterilized. This bill would help to remove that road block. Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Aloha,

Ginny Tiu

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 6:35:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben L.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

releasing these invasive species back into the wild to kill more birds is a bad idea.

we need to remove cats from the ecosystem.

spay neuter and release hasnt worked anywhere else and will never work.

ban the sale of cat food. bait and trap cats. kill the cats. save the birds.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 7:49:39 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Ford	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill on behalf of those cats that have no voice. I choose to spend my own money on helping these unfortunate animals that did not choose to be feral.
thank you!

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 8:40:40 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Borboa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Moiliili and I strongly support this SB998. As a volunteer foster of rescued kittens, feeder of community cats and advocate and active participant in TNRM in my community, I have seen the positive effects that a few dedicated people can make. This bill would allow for so many others, along with those already doing these good deeds to lend a hand and expand their reach. It will allow for those financially challenged to make the right and humane choice for your beloved pets and it will most importantly minimize the suffering and unnecessary euthanization of abandoned pets.

I urge you to pass SB998 .

Thank you.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:00:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nona b wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very concerned about the number of dogs and cats being born because of irresponsible owners. We are becoming like a third world country with animals being dumped on side streets. Non profits are filled to the brim w no help from the county. We need to stop this problem at the source. Mandate and support spay and neuter. Do something please

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:01:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Roney deYoung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 998 for the following reasons:

1) TRN (TRAP _ SPADE & NEUTER) is not the answer. Even neutered Cats proliferate in these cat colonies, fed by well meaning naive souls who do not understand the impact. More people bring cats and drop them, the cats travel to other sites. Even well fed cats are predators, by nature, of native birds and insects

The State of Hawaii Department of Health estimates 500,000 feral cats on the Island of Maui.

Cats are listed as the most harmful invasive species globally to island ecosystems by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature attributes 33 birds extinctions directly to cats.

2) Native and Endemic Birds - UNIQUE ONLY to HAWAII are being killed by cats. Shoreline birds are devastated and we have all seen the terrible photos of the baby birds dragged from their nests and killed. This is an issue up mauka as well. A native bird expert advises that the mamane forests make the saving of the Palila possible, but cats counter effort. They have caught some, but they are very difficult to capture. Our native birds have not evolved with predators so they are especially vulnerable. Cats have been seen at Kaulana Manu - so close to the last of our Hawaii Island Bird sanctuary.

3) Monk Seals, human pregnancy, dolphins are all affected by toxiplasmosis. We cordin off monk seals, villify the tourists that get to close, but turn around and fund cat colonys near known monk seal habitats such as Kaimana beach?

We spend millions to protect our birds and marine mammals. THIS bill counters all those efforts. VOTE NO.

Mahalo for your kokua.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:21:03 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in Support With Reservations of SB998.

While the intent and purpose of Spay & Neuter programs is good, it is better to instead euthanize feral cat populations in order to decrease their environmental impact on Hawaii. Numerous studies have shown that trap & euthanize programs are far more effective at removing feral populations, achieving in a 1 year time span what would otherwise take 30 years with TNR (Trap, Neuter/Spay, Release) programs (see <https://www.jstor.org/stable/23360334>).

I urge this body to consider looking at Euthanization programs for feral populations in the future.

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 9:38:52 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Romero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to state my **opposition to SB 998**. Trap, neuter, release (TNR) leaves feral cats

I am a conservation professional working to protect endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds. These birds are found nowhere else in the world and in some cases, such as the ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), there are less than 1000 individuals left in the world. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Allowing cats to roam free on the landscape is a disaster for these birds.

In addition, there is a serious human health risk to allowing cats to roam our islands. Cats are carriers of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, which spreads through only through cat feces to Hawaiian Monk Seals, dolphins and humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects and can be fatal.

‘Trap-Neuter-Release’ (TNR) is not an answer. Spayed/neutered cats which remain outside are still a threat to human health, endangered birds and marine mammals. Cats belong indoors to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystem in the Hawaiian Islands. It is safer for the cats, and essential for the birds.

A comprehensive study of Hawaii residents by [Lohr and Lepczyk in 2014](#) revealed that the vast majority of Hawaii residents agreed with this stance. We should not allow our native Hawaiian birds to be pushed to extinction by a minority of people who do not understand the drastic impact that cats have on an isolated island ecosystem.

As a State, we invest millions of dollars in the conservation of endangered species. I am very tired of finding literally hundreds of carcasses of endangered or native birds ripped apart by feral cats every year. If this bill passes, it will perpetuate that slaughter, undermining efforts to protected endangered species and wasting our conservation dollars and resources.

I urge you to oppose this bill.

Many thanks

Ashley Romero

SB-998

Submitted on: 2/6/2023 10:02:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 2/6/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Quackenbush	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Glenn Quackenbush and I serve as the Treasurer of the Molokai Humane Society board of directors. I am writing on behalf of myself and my wife A.C. Quackenbush who serves as the president of the board of the Molokai Humane Society.

We are strongly in support of SB998 relating to the spaying and neutering of animals. Spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation of animals and given the high proportion of low-income population here on Molokai, a low or no cost option for residents to get animals spayed and neutered is critical.

This measure also supports nonprofit organizations who rescue and rehome animals which often struggle to fund pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out to new families will not contribute to pet overpopulation.

Please vote in favor of this bill to help keep the overpopulation of unwanted animals under better control.