



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: March 18, 2024

To: Chairs Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

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

RE: Support for HCR 171 / HR 150: Requesting State and County Agencies to
Notify Animal Welfare Organizations of Deceased Cats and Dogs that Are
Picked Up Along State and County Roadways
Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 10:15 a.m., Room 325

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Concurrent Resolution 171 / House Resolution 150, which requests state and county agencies to notify animal welfare organizations of deceased cats and dogs that are picked up along state and county roadways.

As this resolution points out, pets are an integral part of many people's lives and not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive can be traumatic. State and county agencies responsible for clearing dead animals from roadways do not routinely scan deceased animals for an identifying microchip or take other steps to determine ownership, such as inspecting a tag worn on the animal's collar for a contact phone number or address.

With an increase in the number of microchipped dogs and cats, resulting from a state law that required them as of January 1, 2022, scanning for chips would be an effective way to provide closure to worried pet owners.

If the agencies responsible for removing deceased dogs and cats from public roadways checked for microchips and other forms of identification, as the resolution urges, and shared that information with county animal services providers it would allow organizations like ours to provide closure to the owners of missing pets.

We urge you to pass this resolution. Mahalo for your consideration.



March 19, 2024

To: Chair Rep. Cedric Asuega
Vice Chair Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: HCR171: Relating to notifications of deceased dogs and cats

Testimony in support.

The Kaua`i Humane Society (KHS) supports House Concurrent Resolution 171 and the campaign to notify animal welfare organizations of deceased cats and dogs.

The Kaua`i Humane Society is responsible for the pickup of canine remains from the roads of Kaua`i. This responsibility allows us to bring closure and relief to canine pet owners. Pet owners face great stress and fear when their pet has gone missing. The longer the pet is missing the greater the fear grows and the worse the thoughts. Pet owners fear the pet was stolen, mistreated, poisoned, injured, or starving. These thoughts do not go away until the pet is recovered. Learning the pet is deceased is not comforting news, but there is great comfort in knowing the pet is not suffering and it brings closure to a family.

Though the Kaua`i Humane Society is responsible for canine remains, we are not responsible for feline remains, of which there is a larger quantity. Cat owners are equally as deserving of this closure and knowing what has happened to their beloved pet.

The Kaua`i Humane Society would appreciate the opportunity to contact pet owners and assist in providing closure, but we cannot do it without being notified. We urge you to pass House Concurrent Resolution 171 as it will provide closure for families. Having a pet go missing is a horrible experience, accidents happen causing pets to get loose, and responsible pet owners that have microchipped their pets and are in compliance with local and state licensing ordinances should be provided the opportunity to know what has happened to their pet. Thank you for considering our testimony.

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

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 11:12:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Holowach	Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support this bill. Nothing is more heartbreaking than having your pet or colony animal disappear without a trace. If the animal is picked up on the road, it is humane to check it for a microchip (now REQUIRED) and then contact the person or organization on the chip. This kindness will help the pet owner to have some peace of mind and closure even if the outcome is that their pet died. We urge you to support and pass this bill.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Holly Holowach

Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary

Kailua, HI

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 1:29:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are informed that the House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems will hear a resolution on March 20 that could help bring closure to pet owners whose animals have been killed on our roadways.

HCR171/HR150 requests state and county agencies to notify animal welfare organizations of deceased cats and dogs picked up along state and county roadways.

As this resolution points out, companion animals are an integral part of many people’s lives and not knowing how one died, or if a lost animal is still alive, can be traumatic.

State and county agencies responsible for clearing dead animals from roadways do not routinely scan deceased animals for an identifying microchip or take other steps to determine ownership. With the welcome increase in the number of microchipped dogs and cats, resulting from a state-wide law that required them, scanning for chips would be an increasingly effective way to provide closure to worried guardians.

The resolution urges state and county agencies responsible for removing deceased dogs and cats from public roadways to check for, scan, and record the microchip of the deceased dog or cat, along with the location found, descriptive information, and any contact details shown on the animal’s tag or collar.

It further requests that these agencies notify county animal services or animal service contractors in a timely manner of the deceased dog or cat, including the microchip number, if any, location found, descriptive information and any contact details shown on the tag or collar.

We support this Resolution.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:17:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HCR171. I live in Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:38:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello, I ask you to please support the resolution HCR171, to help bring closure to families who have lost their pets to car accidents. There is so much anguish not know if your pet is out there alive or not, potentially suffering, or lost and trying to get home. The months of hope and despair is awful without some closure. Even if the news is bad, knowing a loved pet has passed away, can help them cope with emotions and mourn the loss of their loved one, ultimately helping them move forward.

Thank you,

Jennifer Wood

Nuuanu

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 3:39:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Pavlicek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am in support of HCR 171.

I serve as a member of the Hawaiian Humane Society board of directors and as a volunteer. The reason for my testimony today is that pets are an integral part of many people's lives and not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive can be traumatic. I speak from personal experience and losing a beloved pet was traumatic for my son, lessened only when we found out what happened from a caring neighbor several days later.

I am hopeful that state and county agencies responsible for clearing dead animals from roadways will begin to scan deceased animals for an identifying microchip to provide closure to worried pet owners.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:07:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline S. Ambrose	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Yes to; REQUESTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO NOTIFY ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS OF DECEASED CATS AND DOGS THAT ARE PICKED UP ALONG STATE AND COUNTY ROADWAYS.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:37:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

yes..i agree..seeing a dead animal is so sad..mahalo's

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 4:48:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

YES I thought they already did this! PLEASE pass this bill. It's heartbreaking when we lose a pet, and not to know what happened to it tears at our heart. It's a small comfort to know that it's gone and not suffering somewhere in pain or lost, trying to find it's way home.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:04:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of this measure.

While resolutions do not have the force of law, they send a strong signal that the legislature feels the issue is important. Bills that would create new laws could follow if the agencies tasked in a resolution do not follow through.

As this resolution points out, pets are an integral part of many people's lives and not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive can be traumatic.

Please help give closure and ease the trauma

Kathleen Miller

Committee: House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Bill Number: HCR171/HR150 RELATING TO DECEASED ANIMALS
Hearing Date & Time: March 20, 2024 at 10:15am
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Support**

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Committee Members:

My name is Malia Wisch, and I am actively involved in local efforts to reduce the population of free-roaming cats on O‘ahu. As part of my TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage) volunteer efforts over the years, I have worked with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS), Cat Friends Hawaii, Popoki Place O‘ahu Cat Sanctuary, Greater Good Charities’ Fix events, Lucky Paws Animal Foundation, KAT Charities and more. Microchipping and scanning for microchips is a critical part of this work.

I am testifying in strong support of this resolution requesting state and county agencies to **scan for microchips** and notify animal welfare organizations of deceased cats and dogs that are picked up along state and county roadways.

I’m thrilled that it’s being introduced. I wondered if there was any protocol to scan for microchips when picking up pet animals from the street. As a pet owner, and as someone who is active on social media groups that try to reunite lost pets with their owners, **it is critical to be notified whenever an animal is picked up of course for closure but also so we don’t waste time and resources searching for it.**

I had a cat fixed through Cat Friends charity and registered his microchip under my name. He disappeared and someone said they thought they saw he had been run over. I went to look for him, but that cat was gone and I was never notified so I’ll probably never know for sure.

Please spare other pet owners and colony managers this grief.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

Sara Malia Wisch
629 Hanale Place, Kailua HI 96734
808-341-4543
malia@wisch-design.com

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 5:29:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:13:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Owners need closure for their pets that are deceased due to accidents on the roads. This resolution will help.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 6:25:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is important pet owners know of a deceased pet instead of wasting their time and time with multiple agencies looking for the pet for sometimes years. This bill not only would allow closure but allow for less time spent by county offices with the person looking for the pet.

Pets are as much part of a family as humans are.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 7:19:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. It would mean a lot to the owner to have this closure.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 9:37:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colette Faris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill to scan deceased animals for microchip, notate such number and keep on file or notify Hawaiian Humane Society.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/18/2024 10:43:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this important bill which will help pet owners get closure if their pet goes missing and is found dead.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 4:50:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

So many Hawaii families will never be provided closure if their pet is hurt and killed on the roadways. How very difficult is it to scan for a microchip, take a picture, note location, date, time and whether had a collar on or approximate breed. Instead they are treated like a piece of garbage. But this pet probably belongs to a tax paying family who deserves a little more from the agencies paid to recover deceased animals.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:37:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Inada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

5 years ago I would drive around Waianae coast looking for homeless with dogs to share dog food. As I drove around I'd notice dead animals 9n the road or roadside, even by bus stops. I decided to bag em after scanning and sending a snap shot to the 311 app (city only) for dead animal pickup.by tge applicable government entity (called the state if on highway).. Anyways, this bill would be so much m9re helpful as entities are well more equipped to do this. No one wants to lose their pets but when they do, either finding them or knowing they passed brings much needed closure to a painful time. Mahalo for your time!

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 6:54:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Gates, Vice Chair Representative Kahaloa and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

Please support HCR 171/HR 150 which would be helpful to pet owners. After county and state agencies notify animal welfare organizations of deceased cats and dogs found along Hawaii's roadways, these organizations can work on researching if these cats and dogs had owners, and then contacting pertinent pet owners.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

Date: March 19, 2024

From: Wayne Niide

RE: In support of measure HCR171/HR150

Measure Title: REQUESTING STATE AND COUNTY AGENCIES TO NOTIFY ANIMAL WELFARE ORGANIZATIONS OF DECEASED CATS AND DOGS THAT ARE PICKED UP ALONG STATE AND COUNTY ROADWAYS.

I am in support of HCR171/HR150.

Pets are an integral part of many people's lives and not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive can be traumatic.

Personally, I have taken it upon myself to retrieve a deceased feline or canine and admitted to The Hawaiian Humane Society to scan for microchip. On occasion a microchip is detected and the owner is notified. This provides a sense of peace in knowing that their pet was recovered.

While my efforts may appear marginal they are significant for the pet owner being notified.

Again, I support HCR171/HR150 and our coordinate efforts to provide this humane effort for our Community.

Wayne Niide
3138 Waialae Avenue
Honolulu, HI 96816

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 7:44:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Gate, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HCR171/HR150.

This Resolution is significant as many of our state's residents view their pets as family members. Pets build strong bonds with us, uplift our spirits when we are physically or emotionally unwell, and can be some of our children's best friends. So, when a pet goes missing and is never found, that lack of closure can be very disheartening, depressing, and even distracting.

I help to Administrate or Moderate 4 different Lost and Found Pet groups on Facebook, and I can tell you with certainty that most residents of our state think that city and state agencies are already doing what is asked in this resolution. People are surprised that, though they may have taken every step appropriate - microchipped and registered their pet, equipped it with a collar and tags with contact information, and reported it missing to the proper County level agency when it slipped away - a road sanitation worker, parks employee, DLNR officer, or Police officer who finds their deceased pet would not contact either them as owner or at least the County Animal Control agency to log that their pet was found deceased. The steps required are not excessive; a simple log of any contact information identifiable on the remains, microchip number if one is found, date, and approximate location. All of this could be transmitted to the County Animal Control to be added either to a "found pet" type report list or used to contact owners and provide much-needed closure.

Without that closure, we have local families posting and posting, looking and looking, hoping beyond hope to find their lost friend, I have seen those who post over and over to my groups, for months and years. And it is cruel to those people if their pet is deceased and was discovered by a road sanitation crew, but they were never notified.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue that I see affecting our local families every day. Please vote for this Resolution, and for providing needed closure to our local families in these tragic situations.

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:19:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitty Ng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I totally agree with this as so many pets are disposed of and owners never know what happened as stated here this would help give closure . As an animal lover and a person who works with cat rescue I have stopped and picked up dead cats and taken to HHS so that if microchipped at least owner could be notified . This bill would be such a help in giving closure in the loss of a pet.

Thank You

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 9:21:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HCR171. Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

The House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems

Representative Cedric A. Gates, Chair
Representative Kristin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

HCR 171

Requesting State and County Agencies to Notify Animal Welfare Organizations of Deceased Cats and Dogs that are Picked up Along State and County Roadways.

- Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2024
- 10:15 AM, State Capitol, House Conference Room 325 and via Videoconference

I support this important initiative.

Thank you for the opportunity to articulate my support for this very important resolution.

I am so thankful that this resolution acknowledges and affirms that pets are an integral part of many people's lives. As a (rescue) pet owner and animal lover, I can attest to the fact that the loss of a pet can be a heartbreakingly sad experience for the pet's family. Not knowing how a pet died or if a lost pet is still alive is traumatic, and providing closure for pet owners and other people who cared for the pet is of deep importance. I solidly support this compassionate effort to provide information and comfort to families experiencing the loss of a pet.

Further, this measure allows us to take full advantage of State law requiring "microchipping" of pets (as of January 1, 2022). Now that we have a large database of "microchipped" dogs and cats, scanning for chips would be an increasingly effective way to provide closure to worried pet owners. This would be a small but critically important task for those who collect deceased animals and for those who love their animals.

Further, reporting this data to county animal services or animal service contractors in a timely manner, including the microchip number, location found, descriptive information about the pet, and any contact phone number, name or address shown on the pet's tag or collar would be a game changer. It will provide huge comfort to the families and provide a compassionate service to all involved.

I urge you to favorably consider this forward-looking resolution allowing us to use tools already in place and supported by the State, the Humane Society, and many pet owners.

I support the position of the Hawaiian Humane Society on this Bill.

Testimony/Anne Forshey/annejorshey@gmail.com/Ewa Beach, HI 96706

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 2:09:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

I support Bill #HCR171

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 20, 2024, 6:23 am

LATE

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 5:50:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this measure. It is difficult to have a lost pet and not know what happened to the pet. Although notification won't ease the loss, it will provide certainty.

Yours,

Elizabeth Kent

HCR-171

Submitted on: 3/19/2024 11:53:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/20/2024 10:15:00 AM

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 20, 2024, 6:23 am

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis E. Jamison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is so critically important to ensure that any animal that is picked up on our roadways are scanned for microchips and other appropriate steps are taken to ensure that owners can be found and notified if possible. It is absolutely heart breaking to lose an animal and if no one takes the time to scan or check collars or tags, the owners will forever wonder what happened to their animal when closure would be possible if just a few extra steps were taken. If I see a deceased animal, I pick it up myself because I do not want to risk that the animal will be picked up by a state agency and not scanned, thereby depriving owners of potential closure. I know many other animal lovers who do this too, however, it is not always safe for us civilians to do this and yet we take the risk because the reward is so possibly great. Please support this resolution and help ensure that pet owners do not have to wonder for years what happened to their animals.