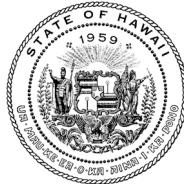


JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau
P.O. BOX 259
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96809
PHONE NO: (808) 587-1540
FAX NO: (808) 587-1560

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

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:
H.B. No. 1736, Relating to Animal Control

BEFORE THE:
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

DATE: Wednesday, February 4, 2026
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Chair Chun, Vice-Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 1736 for your consideration.

H.B. 1736 adds a new section to chapter 36, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to establish the "Spay and Neuter Special Fund" to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, and authorizes an income tax designation to provide revenues into the special fund.

Section 3 of the bill amends chapter 235, HRS, to authorize a new income "check-off" option. Individual taxpayers with a refund of \$5 or more may designate \$5 to the fund, and married couples filing jointly with a refund of \$10 or more may designate \$5 per person to the fund.

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

Department of Taxation (DOTAX) Testimony

H.B. 1736

February 4, 2026

Page 2 of 2

The bill is effective upon approval, provided that section 3 applies to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026, and sections 4 and 5 take effect on July 1, 2026.

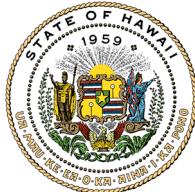
If adopted, DOTAX recommends that the proposed check-off option provided under section 3 be added as a new subsection to section 235-102.5, HRS, which already authorizes other “check-off” options for income tax purposes.

DOTAX notes that it can administer section 3 of this bill for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026.

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

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

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



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

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS**

**Wednesday, February 4, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1736
RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL**

House Bill 1736 amends Hawai'i Revised Statutes to create a Spay and Neuter Special Fund aimed at reducing pet overpopulation. The bill requires cats over five months old and those brought into the state to be sterilized, unless certain circumstances apply. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Cats at large are among the most successful predators on earth and have been linked to the extinction of over 60 small animal species. Hawai'i's native wildlife are especially vulnerable to predation, and cat predation significantly hampers the recovery of birds such as 'ua'u, palila, and nēnē. Free-roaming cats also spread diseases like rabies, toxoplasmosis, roundworms, hookworms, and ringworm, which can infect other cats, humans, and wildlife. The impacts of these diseases are seen both on land, where native bird species, including nēnē, have been killed, and in at sea, as shown by the deaths of Hawaiian monk seals, spinner dolphins, and other marine mammals due to toxoplasmosis. Feral or free-ranging cats are also less healthy: at-large cats tend to have shorter lifespans and higher disease rates compared to indoor pet cats.

The Department is encouraged by the Legislature's efforts to address at-large cat issues and urges the enactment of effective science-based cat management solutions, including: requiring cat owners to license and microchip their cats for identification; providing requirements, incentives, or educational efforts for pet owners about keeping cats indoors or otherwise contained in a fenced or screened enclosure (such as a catio); offering access to free or reduced-cost spay and neuter services for pet cats; requiring that cats (both existing and newly imported) be sterilized; establishing mandatory-open-admission animal shelters; creating cat sanctuaries; holding cat

owners liable for harm to property and native species; prohibiting the feeding of free-roaming animals; and updating existing animal welfare laws to expand community-led and private partner predator control.

The Department notes that the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council adopted Resolution 19-2 in January 2019, supporting the practice of keeping cats indoors and relying on peer-reviewed science to make recommendations to reduce the impacts of cats.

Cats are widespread throughout Hawai'i and have been reported in every habitat from sea level to over 11,000 ft elevation on Maunakea. They present a unique cultural and ecological threat to the ecosystem that must be addressed.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Support of HB 1736 Relating to Animal Control
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems | February 4, 2026**

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **strong support for HB 1736**.

Although cats (*Felis catus*) can make wonderful pets, Hawai'i is experiencing a cat overpopulation crisis that puts cats, other domestic animals, wildlife, and human communities at risk. **To foster a healthy and safe environment for people and animals, it is essential that Hawai'i incentivize and support responsible cat ownership behaviors, including spaying or neutering pet cats.**

The spaying or neutering of pet cats is highly popular among cat owners and other Hawai'i residents. **Research of Hawai'i residents conducted by Griffith University in 2024 found that two-thirds of respondents supported making pet cat sterilization mandatory.** Many of Hawai'i's cat owners have already chosen to spay or neuter their cat voluntarily, but further encouragement and support is needed to spay or neuter the rest. Spaying or neutering pet cats not only benefits the cat and owner but also eliminates undesirable breeding, which contributes to the cat overpopulation and resulting environmental and public health risks.

HB 1736 is a common-sense strategy to reduce the cat overpopulation and provide resources for responsible cat ownership. **This bill is consistent with animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety goals.** Key components of this bill include:

1. A requirement that all pet cats above a certain age be spayed or neutered, with certain exceptions, including for responsible breeders; and
2. Financial support for reducing the cat overpopulation, including free-roaming cats, that is consistent with reducing environmental and public health risks.

Cat Overpopulation Risks

Cats are an invasive species in Hawai'i 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. 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.

Contact

abcbirds.org
info@abcbirds.org
tel. 540.253.5780
fax 540.253.5782

Address

regular, registered, or certified mail:
P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198
physical address for deliveries:
8255 E. Main Street, Suites D & E, Marshall, VA 20115



Cats can also carry a large number of infectious parasites and diseases that put people and wildlife at risk. For example, [research at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children](#) found that **keiki in Hawai'i were particularly at risk of cat scratch disease**. These human exposures are not only dangerous for individual health but, with a median patient hospital stay of 8.5 days, also a financial burden for families.

Toxoplasma gondii, the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis in birds and mammals, is excreted in cat feces. A single cat can excrete up to hundreds of millions of *T. gondii* eggs (called “oocysts”) into the environment via its feces, and these oocysts remain infectious for months to years. This parasite is a serious risk for Hawai'i's wildlife, [including Hawaiian Monk Seals](#), and has long been recognized as a public health risk in the state.

HB 1736 is essential to addressing the cat overpopulation in Hawai'i. This bill will encourage responsible cat ownership, reduce risks for Hawai'i's residents, both people and animals, and is the type of action supported by a broad coalition of organizations, such as:

American Bird Conservancy | Archipelago Research and Conservation
Big Island Invasive Species Committee | Birds Hawai'i Past and Present LLC
Center for Biological Diversity | Friends of Kaua'i Wildlife Refuges
Hallux Ecosystem Restoration LLC | Hanalei Watershed Hui | Hawai'i Audubon Society
Island Conservation | Kaua'i Albatross Network | Kaua'i Forest Bird Recovery Project
Kauluakalana | Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project | Moloka'i Land Trust | Nēnē.org
The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra | The Wildlife Society, Hawai'i Chapter

We respectfully ask that you support HB 1736.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

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

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:53:03 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill supports humane animal overpopulation issues along with funding.

Please pass this Bill.

MEOW-halo,

Sylvia Dolena

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:15:09 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are pleased to support HB1736, which would appropriate funds for sterilazation for free roaming cats and also require cats entering our state to be spayed or neutered prior to entry. The S/N requirement would close a puka that is long overdue in controlling overpopulation of companion animals entering Hawai'i.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:53:48 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aisha Aoki	cat fanciers of hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i opposed this bill. Further discussion with the Cat Fanciers club is needed to adjust wording or consider timing. For statement: "(B) Has competed in at least one show or sporting competition hosted or staged by, or under the approval of, a national association; provided that this subparagraph shall not apply to cats that do not meet minimum age requirements for participation in shows or sporting competitions.": because our shows are only three times a year, a cat may not be able to meet the show vs age requirement because there may be a big gap in the timing of shows. Therefore, will we be consequence for things that are out of our control? Again, our Cat Fanciers of Hawaii cat club is guided by our national association and in which we abide by strict rules and standards. This bill is just an unnecessary burden for those of who practice responsible breeding and the true target of irresponsible backyard breeders continues on unregulated.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:58:55 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carita Inoue	Cat Fanciers of Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1736. My name is Carita Inoue. I am a registered cat breeder affiliated with an internationally recognized registry and a member of Cat Fanciers of Hawai‘i.

I respectfully oppose HB1736 due to the structure of its breeder exemption. While the bill allows an exemption for cats registered with a national or international registry, it further requires that those cats have competed in a show or sporting competition. This requirement does not reflect the realities of responsible breeding programs.

Not all cats maintained for breeding purposes are intended to be shown or are show-quality. Many cats that do not meet competitive standards are nonetheless essential to maintaining genetic diversity, temperament, and health within a breeding program. These animals play a critical role in producing healthy, well-socialized kittens, even if they are never exhibited.

Conditioning lawful ownership of intact breeding cats on participation in shows is unrelated to the bill’s stated purpose of reducing pet overpopulation. Responsible breeders carefully control reproduction, do not contribute to shelter intake, and already operate under rigorous registry requirements that document lineage, transfers, and ownership.

As written, HB1736 risks unintentionally penalizing responsible breeders while failing to more directly address the primary sources of overpopulation. I respectfully urge the Legislature to reconsider the breeder exemption language so that it recognizes registry verification alone as sufficient evidence of responsible breeding practices.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:22:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Lee Montgomery	Ahahui Malama i Ka Lokahi/Hawaiians for the Conservation of Native Ecosystems	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ahahui Mālama i Ka Lōkahi/Hawaiians for the Conservation of Native Ecosystems supports the bills [HB 1736](#) and [HB 1594](#) because of the many health benefits for humans, cats and wildlife from a new public policy promoting sterilized and confined cats.

The dumping of outdoor cats is making public parks and waysides poopy patches of polluted, unhealthy landscapes. Cat colonies at public parks and beaches, even where used by canoe clubs, expose our visitors and families, especially children and water sports enthusiasts, to the stench of daily droppings, more dung flies, and the many diseases carried by cats. Please count the ways cat diseases cause harm on this POOP SHEET:

1. *Toxoplasma* is a contaminant on the order of [DDT](#), which [lingers in the environment](#) for years where it can threaten human and animal health. The Toxoplasmosis threat makes outdoor cats nothing less than a public health issue.

2. Giardia Infection is common in cats & dogs via Cyst shedding in poop as the infective stage which can survive for weeks in the environment. Cats have been reported to carry parasite genotypes found primarily in humans. Transmission occurs by the fecal-oral route, either by direct contact with an infected host or through a contaminated environment. Infections with *Giardia* are due to excretion of very resistant cysts by infected cats, resulting in a gradual increase in environmental infection pressure. Cysts are a source of reinfection for animals, particularly those in crowded conditions.

3. *Cryptosporidium hominis* & *felis* cysts are a source of reinfection for animals, particularly those in crowded condition. Feces should be removed as soon as possible and disposed of securely. Prompt and frequent removal of feces limits environmental contamination.

4. Hookworms (*Ancylostoma*) are worms that live in animals and can be transmitted to humans. Cats can become infected with several hookworms, then eggs are shed in poop to contaminate the ground. People become infected when hookworm larvae penetrate unprotected skin, especially when walking barefoot or sitting on contaminated soil or sand. This can result in a disease called cutaneous larva migrans (CLM), when the larvae migrate through skin causing inflammation. Wearing shoes and avoiding skin contact with sand or soil helps prevent infection. In subtropical climates, especially on beach exposures wear shoes to prevent skin contact with sand. Routine veterinary care of cats, including regular deworming, will reduce environmental contamination with hookworms. Prompt disposal of animal feces to prevent eggs from hatching and contaminating soil is vital for control of this parasite (cdc.gov/parasites/zoonotichookworm)

TNR (trap-sterilize-return) is also terrible for cats themselves, so much so that PETA has come out against it. Cats get sick and good cat owners take them to a vet, but feral cats, once they are TNR'd, tend not to be easy to catch again. Plus feral cat colonies encourage more animal abandonment. Cat dumping problems on public lands worsen. The Lanai private cattery is a model. Please Vote for these bills. Mahalo

Steven Lee Montgomery, Ph. D. Board Member
Ahahui Mālama i Ka Lōkahi/Hawaiians for the Conservation of Native
Ecosystems manninga001@hawaii.rr.com

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:39:00 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB1736 Relating to Animal Control is similar to bills Hawaiian Humane has supported in the prior two legislative sessions- and we endorsed them too.

It would establish, for the first time, a mechanism for state support for spaying/neutering companion cats and dogs, as well as Free-Roaming cats, as long as those cats are not re-released outdoors. While it would be preferable that the fund could be used to support the trap return-manage strategy of reducing the population of Free-Roaming cats, there is enough unmet demand for low-fee spay/neuter of companion animals across the islands that we join Hawaiian Humane in strongly supporting this effort to fill that need.

We support the wish of Hawaiian Humane that the spay/neuter requirement in the bill be amended to apply to any cat allowed outdoors. As currently written, there is an exemption for pure-bred cats, which are no less of a threat to pet overpopulation and wildlife predation if allowed to roam than any other cat.

In addition, with no regulation of breeders in Hawai‘i, there are no accepted standards of what constitutes a qualified breeder.

On that subject, we refer to our testimony for HB1594 and beg to endorse HB1736



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 3, 2026

To: Chair Rep. Cory Chun
Vice Chair Rep. Matthias Kusch
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

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

RE: Testimony in support of HB 1736: Relating to Animal Control
Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2025, 9:00 a.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 1736, which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, and authorizes an income tax designation to provide revenues into the special fund; requires cats over the age of five months to be surgically sterilized and prohibits cats that are not surgically sterilized from being brought into the State, with certain exceptions; and appropriates funds.

This measure is designed to address an urgent need in our community. We have more pet animals than families adopting pets. Convenient and affordable access to spay/neuter is the best way to prevent pet overpopulation. Rising business costs have made it difficult for many private clinics to offer low-fee spay neuter leaving it up to nonprofit organizations to fill the void. The funds raised by this measure would offer critical support to those organizations.

However, we oppose the exemption to mandatory spay/neuter for cats registered with a breed group. A pure-bred cat poses the same threats as a mixed breed cat if allowed to roam. In addition, as Hawai'i does not regulate pet animal breeders, animal law enforcement has no rights of inspection or any way to determine the "legitimacy" of anyone claiming that distinction.

We recommend replacing the language regarding cat sterilization with language that mirrors O'ahu's existing animal ordinance, which prohibits cat owners from allowing any intact cat over the age of six months to be outdoors unrestrained. This targets the behavior of cat owners who would allow cats to contribute to pet overpopulation,



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regardless of breed. As responsible cat fanciers generally try to keep their cats confined, focusing on irresponsible pet owner behavior should not be objectionable to them.

Our suggested amendments follow.

There is a clear public interest in reducing the number of unwanted pets and of encouraging trapping and spaying/neutering Free-Roaming cats who will be adopted into homes. It is time for the state to join the counties and private donors in supporting this work. Please pass HB1736 with our amendments and support the organizations working on this issue.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB1736 Suggested Amendments

SECTION 2. Chapter 143, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§143- Cat sterilization. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

(1) Own Allow a cat over the age of five months to be at large, unless the cat is surgically sterilized; or

(2) Bring a cat that is not surgically sterilized into the State.

(b) A cat may be exempted from the sterilization requirement under subsection (a) if:

(1) A duly licensed veterinarian certifies in writing that the cat is not suitable for sterilization due to health or age considerations; provided that the certification shall be applicable for a period of up to one year, as specified in writing by the veterinarian, and contain the veterinarian's license number;

(2) Arrangements have been made to sterilize the cat within sixty days after the date the person assumes ownership of the cat and the cat is sterilized within that sixty-day period; or

(3) The owner of the cat can provide verifiable proof upon request by the applicable county animal control authority that the cat:



Hawaiian Humane Society

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(A) Is approved by and registered with a national or international breed registry or association

that, at minimum, requires verification of:

(i) Breed;

(ii) Date of birth;

(iii) Name of the registered sire and dam;

(iv) Name of the breeder; and

(v) Other information related to breeding, transfer or ownership, and death; and

(B) Has competed in at least one show or sporting competition hosted or staged by, or under the

approval of, a national association; provided that this subparagraph shall not

apply to cats that do not meet minimum age requirements for participation in

shows or sporting competitions.

(c) Any person violating this section shall be fined no less than \$500 and no more than \$1,000 per
violation per cat.

(d) This section shall not apply to cats brought into the State exclusively for the purpose of entering
them in a cat show or exhibition and not allowed to run at large."

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:38:09 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kaaumoana	Hui Hoomalu I ka Aina	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support control of feral cats in Hawai‘i as they represent key predators of protected native birds and marine life.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:39:44 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elsie Foster	Waianae Wags Pet Food Pantry	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1736
Relating to Animal Control – Establishing the Spay and Neuter Special Fund

Submitted by: Waianae Wags Pet Food Pantry

Position: Support

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

Waianae Wags Pet Food Pantry strongly supports HB1736, which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund.

We work directly with families on the Wai‘anae Coast and see an overwhelming number of starving and abandoned animals that were born simply because their owners could not afford the cost of spaying or neutering. Most of these owners care deeply about their pets but must prioritize basic needs like rent, food, and utilities.

HB1736 addresses the problem at its source by making sterilization more accessible and affordable. Action is needed now to reduce animal suffering, shelter overcrowding, and the growing stray population.

We urge the Legislature to pass HB1736 and invest in expanding access to and affordability of sterilization.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



LATE

525 East Cotati Avenue
Cotati, California 94931

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F 707.795.7280

info@aldf.org
aldf.org

February 4th, 2026

Re: Memorandum of Support for HB 1736

Relating to Animal Control

Dear Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems,

On behalf of the Animal Legal Defense Fund, the nation's preeminent legal advocacy organization for animals, and our supporters in Hawai'i, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this memo in strong support of HB1736, a bill to establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund and authorizes an income tax designation to provide revenues into the special fund; requires cats over the age of five months to be surgically sterilized; prohibits cats that are not surgically sterilized from being brought into the State, with certain exceptions; and appropriates funds. This bill is an important step in curbing Hawai'i's pet overpopulation crisis and reducing the Free-Roaming cat population.

There are estimated to be hundreds of thousands of feral cats across the islands, with over 300,000 on Oahu alone. Unhoused cats live difficult lives, and are subject to injury and disease. Such large populations of Free-Roaming Cats have also caused significant damage to Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems and the animals that normally thrive in them. Sterilization programs are proven effective in mitigating unwanted populations of animals. This bill offers a solution that would help to protect Hawai'i's species that are threatened by the large Free-Roaming Cat populations across the islands by managing and ultimately reducing the number of cats, while also ensuring the humane treatment of cats.

The Animal Legal Defense Fund also supports the amendments suggested by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Mahalo for your consideration of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

Lindsay Vierheilig
Legislative Affairs Manager
Animal Legal Defense Fund

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:06:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Hawaiian Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Cory M. Chun,

This is Serena from Punalu'u, Oahu, representing Hawaiian Humane Society. I am testifying in favor of Bill HB1736.

3-825 Kaumualii
Hwy, Lihue, HI
96766
808-632-0610
kauaihumane.org



Feb. 3, 2026

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The Kaua'i Humane Society is dedicated to fostering respect, responsibility and compassion for all animals and enriching lives by nurturing healthy relationships between pets and people.

Testimony in Support of HB1736

House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems (AG)
Kaua'i Humane Society

Aloha Chair and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems,

Kaua'i Humane Society submits this testimony in support of HB1736.

HB1736 offers a humane, proactive approach to addressing Hawai'i's pet overpopulation crisis by expanding access to spay and neuter services through a dedicated funding mechanism. On Kaua'i, limited veterinary availability and financial barriers contribute to unwanted litters and increased shelter intake.

Spay and neuter programs are proven to reduce animal suffering, ease pressure on shelters, and lower long-term costs for counties and taxpayers. This bill would strengthen preventative care efforts that benefit animals, communities, and the agricultural environment statewide.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1736.

Respectfully,
Susan Rhee, CEO
Kaua'i Humane Society

3-825 Kaumualii
Hwy, Lihue, HI
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Susan Rhee, CEO

The Kaua'i Humane Society is dedicated to fostering respect, responsibility and compassion for all animals and enriching lives by nurturing healthy relationships between pets and people.

KHS is a local, independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization. KHS has been serving the island of Kaua'i as its only open-intake animal shelter since 1952.

29 Jan 2026

Thank you for allowing Cat Fanciers of Hawaii and me to comment on H.B. No. 1736, Relating to Animal Control. I'm Duane Inoue, a member of the Cat Fanciers of Hawaii (CFH) and a cat preservation breeder.

Cat preservation breeders focus on maintaining and enhancing the distinctive traits of specific pedigree cat breeds that face decline or endangerment, ensuring their genetic health, temperament, and overall future by carefully selecting breeding pairs, conducting genetic testing, and working to keep these breeds from disappearing. They are distinct from those who breed for profit, prioritizing monetary gain over the breed's well-being.

We fully support funding the spay/neuter fund and increasing the amount to lower the cost of sterilization.

However, we have concerns on the following:

A. §36- Spay and neuter special fund, (b) states in part:

The counties shall expend funds to reduce pet overpopulation, including free-roaming cat population, by providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care; provided the spayed or neutered animals are **not released into the environment**.

This conflicts with Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) science and widely adopted municipal practice. It risks increasing shelter intake and euthanasia. It is inconsistent with bill's state goal of reducing free-roaming cat populations.

Recommend revising to something like:

"provided that counties may utilize evidence-based population control strategies, including trap-neuter-return, targeted sterilization, and adoption."

B. I recommend following changes for §143- Cat Sterilization:

1. §143- Cat Sterilization states:

"§143- Cat Sterilization. (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- (1) Own a cat over the age of five months, unless the cat is surgically sterilized; or
- (2) Bring a cat that is not surgically sterilized into the State.

Comment: As written, subparagraph (1) means that any owner of unsterilized cat over the age of five months has “broken” a law based on mere ownership of cat; albeit, there are health and breed registry exemptions. This is extremely unreasonable since a unsterilized cat that is not “at large” will not cause increase in free-roaming cat population.

Please note that there is no State that mandates sterilization of every cat over a certain age regardless of how it was acquired or owned.

Accordingly, this proposed action will get the scrutiny and opposition of every cat breed registry and cat owner from every State, as written.

Subparagraph (2) should not be added in this bill since this requirement is addressed in H.B. No. 1594 and S.B. No. 3012. I will provide comments to these bills separately. The exemptions used in these bills are different from H.B. No. 1736.

An earlier draft version of the bill included the language “at large” as follows:

“(A) It shall be unlawful for any owner to allow a cat over the age of six months to be at large unless the cat is surgically sterilized by a licensed veterinarian.”

I think that use of the language “at large” will reduce the risk to the state since it will not be a blanket sterilization mandate. In addition, the state will be able to defend that law since it only affects cats “at large” and not every single cat.

2. Recommend that subparagraph (b) be changed as follows to add clarity:

“(b) A cat may be exempted from sterilization requirement under subsection (a) if:

(1) A duly licensed veterinarian certifies in writing, **with veterinarian's license number**, that the cat is not suitable for sterilization due to health or age considerations; provided that the certification **due to health** shall only be applicable for a period up to one year.

(2) Arrangement to sterilize within thirty days after the date the cat has been identified to be at large to be over 6 months old by Animal Control Authority and the cat has been sterilized within that thirty days. Proof of sterilization shall be verified through a veterinarian's certification.

(3) The owner of the can provide verifiable proof upon request by the applicable Animal Control Authority that the cat is:

(A) Approved by and registered with a national or international breed registry or association that, at minimum, requires verification of:

- (i) **Name of cat**
- (ii) **Description of cat, including breed**
- (iii) Date of birth;
- (iv) Name of registered sire and dam;
- (v) Name of the **owner and breeder;**"

I recommend that you delete subpar (B) since it will be difficult to impossible to demonstrate that a breed registered cat has "competed in at least one show or sporting competition". In fact, breeding cats may not be show quality so have not participated in any shows. Our Champion Scottish Fold female, Lilinoe, did not participate in one show but birthed over 25 show quality cats. Please note that every single cat out of the 25 were not allowed to be "at large" and were sterilized per our cat contract.

3. "§143- (c) states:

"(C) Any person violating this shall be fined no less than \$500 and no more than \$1,000 per violation per cat."

What is the basis for the penalty amounts? Does it cover administrative cost, Animal Control Authority cost, cost to cover cat housing/feeding/medical care, etc.?

The penalty amounts are excessive compared to dog at large fines. In Honolulu, a dog at large (off-leash/unconfined) violation typically results in fines of \$50 for a first offense, \$100 for a second, and \$500–\$1,000 for subsequent offenses within two years. Other counties like Maui also enforce similar fines, including \$50 for the first violation and up to \$500 for repeated violations.

The cat fine seems excessive when the fine for First Offense DUI and theft in the fourth degree (Petty Misdemeanor) is \$500 to \$1,000. Courts frequently impose \$500+ fines for violations with prior history only.

I asked ChatGPT about the proposed fine amounts. ChatGPT recommends the use of graduated fines to avoid constitutional proportionality challenges. It recommended following:

(a) First Violation

- Civil fine: \$100–\$250
- Mandatory education or corrective action
- Fine may be suspended upon compliance

(b) Second Violation (within 24 months)

- Civil fine: \$500–\$1,000
- Mandatory compliance order
- Non-compliance escalates to petty misdemeanor

(c) Third or Aggravated Violation

- Petty misdemeanor
- Fine: up to \$1,000
- Court may order:
- Sterilization
- Restrictions on ownership
- Temporary seizure (with due process)

BTW, did you find out from Honolulu City and County on how their spay/neuter program is running, how many cats were found to be over 6 months without sterilization, how much fees have been collected, and whether the program has reduced the free-roaming cat population?

4. Supar (d) states:

“(d) This section shall not apply to cats brought into the State exclusively for the purpose of entering them in a cat show or exhibition and not allowed to run at large. “

This is conflict with H.B. No. 1594 and S.B. No. 3012 which states:

“(b) The requirements pursuant to subsection (a) shall not apply if:

(1) The animal is being imported for a period of less than ninety days and will not be sold or transferred, or otherwise remain in the State, beyond the ninety day period;

(2) A licensed veterinarian certifies that sterilization would jeopardize the animal's health or life; or

(3) The owner or importer is registered with the department as a breeder pursuant to subsection (c).

(c) The department shall establish and maintain a breeder registry for individuals or entities importing intact dogs or cats. The registry shall include, at

a minimum, the breeder's name, business address, and species or breeds maintained.

(d) The department may assess reasonable fees to offset the costs of administering this section, including expenses related to verifying documentation and maintaining the breeder registry.

(e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section. The rules shall address, at a minimum, documentation requirements, acceptable forms of proof of sterilization, and verification procedures in coordination with airlines and other carriers."

The State needs to revise these bills, as necessary, to ensure consistency.

D. Unlike previous "Spay and Neuter" bills from 2025, this proposed bill does not identify who shall enforce this section and may issue citations. Recommend adding something like:

"() The applicable county animal control authority shall enforce this section and may issue citations."

The State will need to add "police" and others to above, if they are also able to enforce and issue citations based on the subsection.

=====

As I have stated before, this is a very complicated problem that requires lots of research and planning. I think that we need State/County personnel, Animal Control Authorities/Contractors, veterinarians, attorneys, scientists, wildlife experts, Humane Society, animal welfare groups, and pet owners to develop the law that will help reduce cat "at large" and the impact it has on the environment and wildlife.

Please note that CFA (<https://legislative.cfa.org/>) and other organizations keep track of proposed bills relating to cats and dogs from each state. Since there is NO state with mandatory sterilization law, Hawaii's proposed bill will be closely scrutinized and opposed by animal groups throughout the United States.

v/r

Duane Inoue
Email: gekoboy@gmail.com
Cell: (808) 372-1162

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:58:45 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote yes on HB 1736! Free roaming cats pose a major threat to the continued existence of our native species in the Hawaiian Islands.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:20:16 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

We live on a small piece of land and it is essential to help control the animal population. I fully support spay/neuter initiatives.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:23:26 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:**House Bill No. 1736 Relating to Animal Control-Cats**

Aloha my name is Vivian S. Toellner, from the eastside of the Island of Hawai'i. I would like to see our State **support free / low cost Spay Neuter Clinics held by volunteer nonprofits** here on the Big Island of Hawai'i. To received the maximum service for the money.

Having volunteered at MANY cat clinics in the community, I know this is so needed and deserving of our support and tax dollars. Currently, PetFix Hawai'i holds Keaau and Ocean View clinics doing 100*+ cats a day with 4 Veterinarians. Yes, there are that many cats out there. **People line up, clearly wanting this service !!**

If other methods, such as round up and kill worked, we would not be discussing this problem again today. It is time to support Spay Neuter; it is the humane way to reduce animal overpopulation!

I too love our native birds and animals and want us to increase their safety with this spay neuter bill. **TNRM cats need to be eligible for these funds**, as not doing so only creates more cats out roaming free. Please support the humane reduction in animal overpopulation, the veterinarians, vet techs, volunteers, pet owners, TNRM caretakers, all are supporting spay/neuter with their long hours of community work and donations.

Page 2 , Lines 4 & 5. "Provided that spayed or neutered animals are not re-released into the environment." Cats are free roaming by nature. Even indoor pet cats get out and never return home. Cats are abandoned at parks and transfer stations. Turning away Trap Neuter Return cats is not productive. **It is far better to sterilize all cats that come to a clinic.** Remember the goal is to reduce the number of cats and thereby protect the native birds and monk seals. The breeding of cats in the open environment is the **Cat-Tastrophe** we have now!! In fact, Petfix requires all cats at their clinics to have the **ear tip to show sterilization-regardless of ownership!** This prevents cats returning to the clinic and thereby using up much needed appointments! Please understand that animal issues are complicated and require looking at all possibilities.

This bill as written is not perfect, but with a few changes, as mentioned, it would be great for Hawai'i as a whole. Please realize the magnitude of this problem. We need to spay neuter every cat we can get our hands on. This is no joke, please do not euthanize this bill.

Most Sincerely, Thank you, Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony.

Please approve HB 1736 and support Hawai'i spay neuter programs.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 1:38:21 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARK WOODWARD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TNR is ineffective. Feeding bans are effective.

I've lived next to cat colonies twice. Neighborhood of elderly parents had a huge one for 20 years. Cat colonies are horrible. It's wrong to force them on people and cats on the environment. Constant smell, dead sick cats, rats from all the pet food, constant flea bites. The worst part are the conflicts between feral cat hobbyists and property owners.

The domestic cats in one of the world's most destructive invasive species.

TESTIMONY HB1736

I am in favor of HB1736 which establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the Free-Roaming cat population and authorizes an income tax designation to provide revenues into the special fund; requires cats over the age of five months to be surgically sterilized; prohibits cats that are not surgically sterilized from being brought into the State, with certain exceptions; and appropriates funds for these measures.

Signed, Judith Aikawa, MD, 37 Apali Way, Kula, HI 96790

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 5:42:46 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Lāna`i, board member of the Maui Humane Society, and founder of Lāna`i Cat Sanctuary, I urge the Legislature to pass HB1736 to take this critical step toward addressing pet overpopulation in a humane and effective manner.

1. Spay/neuter is key to addressing the problem of unwanted cat and dog litters, animal abandonment, homelessness and overcrowding in Hawaii's animal shelters.
2. The high cost of spay/neuter surgeries has put these surgeries out of reach for many pet owners. Affordable and accessible spay/neuter services are desperately needed.
3. All of the Hawaiian animal shelters and rescues are facing a high intake crisis, with the number of animal intakes outpacing available resources. Spaying and neutering pets is a proven method to decrease animal intake at sheltering facilities.
4. Grant funding for spay and neuter surgeries from private foundations has become severely limited. This innovative approach to raising much-needed funds is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:00:10 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

the state needs to support assistance for spaying/neutering pet cats and dogs, as well as Free-Roaming cats. Hawaii Kai voter

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 7:06:19 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1736, Relating to Animal Control.

I am fed up with people complaining about stray cats but doing absolutely nothing about it. There is a quick and relatively easy fix: establish a Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the Free-Roaming cat population, authorizes an income tax designation to provide revenues into the special fund, require cats over the age of five months to be surgically sterilized, prohibit cats that are not surgically sterilized from being brought into the State (with certain exceptions), and appropriates funds. This bill does all that.

I am unhappy, however, that it does not apply to what is the most obvious and effective solution - the trap-neuter-return-manage strategy of reducing the population of Free-Roaming cats.

This bill should therefore be amended to apply to any cat allowed outdoors. As currently written, there is an exemption for pure-bred cats, which are no less of a threat to pet overpopulation and wildlife predation if allowed to roam than any other cat. In addition, with no regulation of breeders in Hawai‘i, we have no accepted standards of what constitutes a qualified breeder.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:10:06 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Representative Cory M. Chun, Chair

I am testifying in support of HB1736 RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL

There is a brilliant proposal in this bill that truly merits serious consideration for passage:

Implementing the Spay and Neuter Special Fund along with an income tax designation that helps provides revenues for the special fund. I would certainly like to have that as an option. Wouldn't you?

Thank you.
Alice Saul
Hawai'i Kai, Honolulu

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:11:09 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I totally support this bill. Any bill that establishes funds for pet spay/neuter is a good bill. All dogs and cats should be spayed or neutered unless they are purposefully being bred. We have too many unwanted animals that have to be euthanized because of lack of space and care.

I suggest ALL cats allowed outdoors must be spayed or neutered, no matter what breed. Two cats can have thousands of offspring.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 8:57:13 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Spaying and neutering pets is critical to help cut down on the states overpopulation issues. Making it affordable for all will be a major way to help this endeavor. Mahalo!

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:03:13 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. However, I would like it amended to apply to any cats allowed outdoors. As there are no standards as to what constitutes a qualified breeder, pure bred cats should not be allowed to roam free.

Lynne Matusow

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:30:35 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Doi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed to Bill. Recently medical advances show the long range impact to animal health when early spay and neuter is performed. Additionally, as a participant in the sport of Conformation which is actively supported by the American Kennel Club, it is paramount that our exhibition dogs are not spayed or neutered. This would disallow them from the competitive sport of Conformation.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:43:33 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Chun, Vice Chair Representative Kusch and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

Please support HB 1736 which would help to reduce pet overpopulation.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:24:25 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair person and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Focussing limited community resources on pets is critical for addressing the impact of free roaming cats here in Hawai‘i. Please support this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Bret Nainoa Mossman

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:37:32 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB1736. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I am a resident of Sunset Beach, Oahu.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:01:44 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Kishimori	Cat Friends	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The free-roaming cat overpopulation is a problem state-wide. Cat Friends, a non-profit 501c3, sterilized more than 7,000 free-roaming cats on Oahu last year with the help of the City & County Feline Fix Program but it's not enough funding to sustain our efforts going forward.

This year Cat Friends is on track to sterilize 8,000 free-roaming cats if it receives funding. Otherwise there will be thousands of additional cats born on the streets, parks, etc. this year alone.

Please support HB1736 so we can continue to our sterilization efforts.

With much appreciation,

Jennifer Kishimori

Cat Friends President

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:05:19 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Imoto	Nene.org	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

We are writing in strong support of HB 1736, which advances responsible pet ownership while addressing Hawai‘i’s ongoing cat overpopulation crisis.

HB 1736 takes a practical approach by requiring pet cats to be spayed or neutered by five months of age, with reasonable exceptions, while also establishing funding to help cat owners afford sterilization services. Importantly, the bill clearly states that these funds may not be used to sterilize and release cats into the environment.

Uncontrolled breeding of pet cats continues to contribute to high numbers of stray and feral cats across the state. As an introduced predator, free roaming cats pose a well documented threat to Hawai‘i’s native wildlife, particularly ground nesting and forest birds. Hawai‘i already has the highest number of endangered bird species in the United States, and predation by cats remains a significant pressure on their recovery.

Cat overpopulation also creates challenges for animal control agencies, shelters, veterinarians, and communities. Large unmanaged populations are associated with increased animal suffering, public health concerns, and the spread of diseases that affect people, pets, and wildlife. Preventing unintended breeding at the household level is one of the most effective ways to reduce these impacts over time.

HB 1736 focuses on prevention, not punishment. By supporting responsible pet ownership and providing financial assistance for sterilization, this bill helps protect animals while reducing long term costs to taxpayers and local governments.

We respectfully urge the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems to pass HB 1736 and move this bill forward. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ariel Imoto

Executive Director

Nene Research and Conservation

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:06:39 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
afsheen siddiqi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to require cats be spayed or neutered with limited exceptions. This bill is one step closer to help protect our important wildlife in Hawaii.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:24:30 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

I'm a constituent from Kailua on O'ahu and I would like to express my complete support for HB1736. Mandated sterilization of cats will help curb the number of feral cats on the landscape, which will help preserve Hawaii's natural beauty, protect our endangered wildlife, and safeguard human health. Unchecked breeding of feral cats leads to the predation of endangered endemic waterfowl and seabird species, many of which are rapidly heading towards extinction. Feral cat colonies also transmit parasites that spread of deadly toxoplasmosis disease to monk seals, dolphins, and people. Mandated sterilization will reduce these risks while also supporting cat welfare. HB1736 will alleviate the issue of overcrowding in cat shelters and make it more feasible to find them all loving homes.

Mahalo!

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:10:56 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee.

My name is Peggy Regentine and I fully support HB1736. I have Trapped Neutered and Released Feral free roaming cats. If you do not like cats, neutering the cats is a positive solution. If you care about the cats, neutering is a humane solution. It is a win/win solution on either side.

Yet I have heard TNRM people say they cannot continue to do this service as they cannot afford to either rent or buy traps or purchase the food or have transportation to the free clinics. With a special fund for this service, more trappers would help with the roaming cat population. Another issue is some DOE schools allow TNRM services (after school) and yet others prohibit this service. Therefore more roaming cats will be found in areas where there is no TNRM service. Unfortunately another obstacle!

I also request that the spay/neuter requirement in the bill be amended to apply to any cat allowed outdoors. AS an example- In my neighboring area where I neutered at least 35 cats, there are no trespassing signs. I am not allowed to trap and I now see more unchipped ear unneutered cats. This needs to change. With the support of HB1736, more help would be available with the feral cat population.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:27:48 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL ING	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:14:46 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill. Please pass it.

HB-1736

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:39:44 PM
Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2026 9:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kathleen Doi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose the section related to spay and neuter.
do not oppise the establishment of spay/neuter fund.