

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. Chapter 36, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§36- Spay and neuter special fund. (a) There is established in the state treasury the spay and neuter special fund to be administered by the department of budget and finance.

Moneys received by the department of budget and finance from:

(1) State income tax refund designations to the special fund pursuant to section 235- ; and

(2) Legislative appropriations, private gifts or donations, and other sources,

shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited into the special fund shall become part of the special fund.

(b) The director of finance shall disburse moneys from the special fund quarterly to the counties. The amount disbursed shall be prorated based on each county's share of the state



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

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

9 "§143- Cat sterilization. (a) It shall be unlawful
10 for any person to:

11 (1) Own a cat over the age of five months, unless the cat
12 is surgically sterilized; or

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

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

17 (1) A duly licensed veterinarian certifies in writing that
18 the cat is not suitable for sterilization due to
19 health or age considerations; provided that the
20 certification shall be applicable for a period of up
21 to one year, as specified in writing by the



1 veterinarian, and contain the veterinarian's license
2 number;

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

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

10 (A) Is approved by and registered with a national or
11 international breed registry or association that,
12 at minimum, requires verification of:

13 (i) Breed;

14 (ii) Date of birth;

15 (iii) Name of the registered sire and dam;

16 (iv) Name of the breeder; and

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

19 (B) Has competed in at least one show or sporting
20 competition hosted or staged by, or under the
21 approval of, a national association; provided



1 that this subparagraph shall not apply to cats
2 that do not meet minimum age requirements for
3 participation in shows or sporting competitions.

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

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

9 SECTION 3. Chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
11 and to read as follows:

12 **"§235- Income check-off authorized; spaying and**
13 **neutering of animals.** Notwithstanding any law to the contrary,
14 any individual whose state income tax refund for any taxable
15 year is \$5 or more may designate \$5 of the refund to be
16 deposited into the spay and neuter special fund established by
17 section 143- , when submitting a state income tax return to
18 the department. In the case of a joint return of a married
19 couple having a state income tax refund of \$10 or more, each
20 spouse may designate that \$5 be deposited into the special fund.
21 The director of taxation shall revise the individual state



income tax form to allow the designation of contributions to the
fund on the face of the tax return and immediately above the
signature lines. If no designation was made on the original tax
return when filed, a designation may be made by the individual
on an amended return filed within twenty months and ten days
after the due date for the original return for that taxable
year. A designation once made, whether by an original or
amended return, shall not be revoked."

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be
deposited into the spay and neuter special fund established by
section 36- , Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the spay and
neuter special fund established by section 36- , Hawaii
Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so much thereof as
may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to reduce pet
overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, by
providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated
veterinary care; provided that the sum shall be expended as
follows:



1 (1) \$ for the city and county of Honolulu;

2 (2) \$ for the county of Maui;

3 (3) \$ for the county of Kauai; and

4 (4) \$ for the county of Hawaii.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the counties for
6 the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 6. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
9 provided that:

10 (1) Section 3 of this Act shall apply to taxable years
11 beginning after December 31, 2026; and

12 (2) Sections 4 and 5 of this Act shall take effect on July
13 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

ZMC

JAN 20 2026



H.B. NO. 1776

Report Title:

Spay and Neuter Special Fund; Cat Sterilization; Counties;
Animal Control; Income Check-off; Appropriation

Description:

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. Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

