

ACT 278

S.B NO. 2134

A Bill for an Act Relating to Agriculture and Animals.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. The legislature declares that keeping Hawaii rabies-free is a public health and safety concern, and that the cost of animal quarantine should be borne by all the people of Hawaii and not only those people who are required to use the services and facilities of the animal quarantine station. The legislature also recognizes the hardships that animal quarantine user fees place on military personnel and others when being transferred to Hawaii.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds from the general fund into the animal quarantine special fund to reduce quarantine user fees.

SECTION 2. Section 142-28.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“~~[[~~§142-28.5~~]]~~ **Animal quarantine special fund.** There is established the animal quarantine special fund to be administered by the board of agriculture. All moneys received by the board of agriculture as fees for the quarantine of cats, dogs,

and other carnivores pursuant to this chapter, or any state appropriations or other moneys made available for the cost of quarantine, shall be deposited into the special fund. All interest earned or accrued on moneys deposited in the special fund shall become part of the special fund. Moneys in the special fund shall be expended to cover all costs of quarantine but not limited to the costs of salaries, fringe benefits, operating expenses, including the defraying of quarantine fees, equipment, motor vehicles, contract with any qualified person or entity for animal care services, operation and maintenance of the quarantine station, and promotional expenses. A reserve shall be appropriated and maintained in the special fund to cover contingency costs including but not limited to accrued vacation leave, unemployment insurance, and workers' compensation.''

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2000-2001 for deposit into the animal quarantine special fund to be used to reduce quarantine user fees; provided that the reductions shall be made on the basis of the following factors to be considered by the department of agriculture:

- (1) The public health, safety, and welfare;
- (2) Fairness and equity to users; and
- (3) Economic factors, including the ability to pay by a person or class of persons, to ensure that individuals and families moving to Hawaii relocate without creating an economic hardship.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2000.

(Approved June 22, 2000.)