

HB-1287

Submitted on: 2/6/2021 8:17:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gerard Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is unnecessary waste of time and money. Do not forget WHO YOU WORK FOR!

The people want our money spent Wisely stop wasting the MONEY1

HB-1287

Submitted on: 2/8/2021 12:33:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members,

Please support HB1287.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn



Neighborhood Cats

the community cat experts!

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa Labrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

February 8, 2021

House Committee on Agriculture

Re: HB1287 (Relating to Microchip Identification)

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and Committee Members,

Neighborhood Cats wishes to express our **opposition as currently drafted to HB1287 (Relating to Microchip Identification)**.

Neighborhood Cats is an animal welfare nonprofit which focuses on reducing overpopulation of cats through spay/neuter and other progressive management approaches. Since 2016, we have operated a chapter on Maui. In addition, we operate hands-on programs in New York City and New Jersey, and administer education and advocacy programs nationally.

While we support HB1287's policy goal of microchipping all cats and dogs, we believe as currently drafted, the bill would create an unfunded and unenforceable mandate which would not achieve its purpose. The issues we see with the bill include:

- (1) The bill creates a mandate for pet owners to microchip their cats and dogs at their own expense. In our experience, current rates at private Hawaii veterinarians for implanting a microchip can be as high as \$45, not including any exam or other fees. HB 1287 provides no funding for low-income or other financially challenged pet owners to meet this potentially costly requirement. Other costs might include initial and ongoing registration with the microchip manufacturer.
- (2) The bill offers no enforcement mechanism or practical way for the State of Hawaii to monitor compliance with (a) microchip implantation, (b) microchip registration and (c) updating microchip information such as name, address and other contact info.
- (3) The bill defines "ownership" in a manner that is overly broad and would include cats and dogs not normally considered pets.

We believe these three key defects together would result in extremely low compliance and end up needlessly turning many tens of thousands of ordinary citizens into law violators.

A more sensible and useful approach, in our view, would be to mandate the implantation of microchips by all pet and animal welfare related agencies and businesses prior to release of any cat or dog from their custody. In addition, funding should be provided, especially to nonprofits, so the mandate does not create an undue burden on already financially stressed agencies.

This more targeted approach would not unrealistically seek to regulate all cat and dog owners in Hawaii, but a much smaller group of organizations. As a result, it would have a much greater chance of actually getting microchips into pets and securing the many benefits offered by these products.

Regarding current pet owners, the Legislature should encourage and fund voluntary, low-cost microchipping campaigns by animal welfare agencies. Education and persuasion are more likely to succeed than a top-down approach which tries to coerce compliance.

Thank you for considering our views,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Kortis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "K".

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director

LATE



3-825 Kaumuali'i Hwy, Lihue, HI 96766
808.632.0610 · kauaihumane.org

February 8, 2021

To: Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Submitted By: Kaua'i Humane Society

Re: Testimony in strong support of HB 1287: Relating to Microchip Identification.

The Kaua'i Humane Society (KHS) supports the passage of HB 1287. Cities and states across the nation are recognizing the importance microchips play in the reunification of pets with their owners and we are excited to see Hawai'i join this momentum. Being microchipped more than doubles a dog's chance of being reunited with its owner and a cat's chance of reunification increases 21 times, if microchipped (found.org). This safe procedure (less than 0.01% of pet owners have reported adverse reactions (avma.org)) is the most accessible and affordable identification option for residents.

Microchips require no maintenance or renewal, and registration can be provided for free. Microchip registration can provide more information than a standard County license or name tag on a collar. Registration companies offer options to add emergency contacts, medical information, and contact details for the pet's veterinarian, which provides various options for an animal to be reunited and promotes proper care while owners are being located. A microchip starts a relationship with a veterinarian or animal shelter (leading to resources and support throughout the animal's life), decreases pet theft, and assists law enforcement agencies.

KHS promotes microchipping on the island of Kaua'i. The County of Kaua'i will not accept any animal without a microchip, at KHS all animals are microchipped upon adoption or returning to their owner, and KHS hosts numerous clinics promoting microchipping. In the last five years KHS has microchipped more than 21,000 animals and we have seen our "return to owner" numbers increase over this same time period, with many animals bypassing the stressful shelter environment and going directly back to their owner. We urge you to pass HB 1287 to support not only the companion animals of Hawai'i, but also their owners that contend with the burden of losing a service animal, companion, or provider.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue.

Nicole Schafer
Executive Director
Kaua'i Humane Society

Dan V. Giovanni
President, Board of Directors
Kaua'i Humane Society



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improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by
Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong support of HB 1287 - Relating to Microchip Identification
House Committee on Agriculture
Wednesday, February 10, 2021, Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We operate The Big Fix, a mobile spay/neuter and wellness vehicle on the island of Oahu which provides affordable services for low-income pet owners in rural and at risk communities. We also rescue animals, place them in foster care, and adopt them into forever homes. We are in strong support of HB 1287.

Since 2014, PDP included a mandatory microchip ID for all animals that we sterilized at no additional cost to the owner. In that time, we have microchipped 20,000 dogs and cats on Oahu. In 2017, PDP introduced a Honolulu City Council bill to mandate microchip identification, but it failed to pass. In 2020, the bill passed but it has several limitations. HB 1287 not only expand mandatory microchip IDs, but it addresses the shortfalls in the county law.

REQUIRES ANIMAL CONTROL CONTRACTORS TO UTILIZE NATIONAL MICROCHIP FOUND PET ALERTS

Our local Humane Societies which serve as the animal control contractors on all island still use the archaic “paper processing” method for lost and found animals. For the past 7 years, PDP has utilized Found Animals, a national nonprofit microchip registry which is provided free to pet owners for the life of the pets. When a pet is found, the owner will receive a voicemail, email and text alert within minutes. The owner will receive the contact name and number of the finder and can contact the person to arrange for pickup. Since pets are statistically lost within one-mile of their home, this process allows pets to be returned directly to their owners within the communities where they live and often times by their own neighbors down the road – instead of making a trip to animal control (one by the finder, and once by the owner). They also avoid the administrative burden and fees charged by animal control.

The Hawaiian Humane Society has decided to forego the Found Pet Alert utilized by the National Michelson Found Animals organization and we are not sure why. PDP has been notified by rescuers on a number of occassion that found animals chipped to PDP were surrendered to HHS and PDP never received an alert. On Dec. 1, a cat was surrendered to HHS. PDP finally received the Found Alert on Dec. 6. As a result of their delay, the cat sat in a kennel at HHS for 5 days. When a volunteer went to pick up the cat, PDP was charged \$50 for boarding – even though we had just received the Found Alert that day. If the animal control contractors would utilize the more efficient, more

effective and more convenient Found Pet Alert offered by national microchip registries, more pets would be reunited with their owners in a timely manner – forgoing costly boarding and stress on the pet. Another national registry used by Hawaiian Humane Society – 24PetWatch – has similar option although not as comprehensive. But they are owned by a pet insurance company, charge owners to use their system, and require registered owners to “waive’ their rights to keep their information private so that they can sell that information to marketing companies. In return, veterinary clinics or shelters receive microchips for free or significantly reduced cost. PDP prefers to utilize the FREE and more comprehensive service of Found Animals.

REQUIRES VETERINARY CLINICS TO RELEASE THE SCANNED MICROHIP NUMBER TO FINDER

Many in the rescue community take found pets to veterinary clinics so that pets can be scanned for a microchip ID. For no legal reason – the veterinary clinic refuses to release the microchip number to the rescuer. There is absolutely nothing private or confidential about the microchip number. What IS private and confidential is the owner information but the veterinary clinic does not have access to that information either. And it is NOT released by the national microchip company. Instead, the finder information is provided to the owner. But the ONLY way the finder can file a Found Report is to have the microchip number. The veterinary clinics that refuse to release that information are doing a disservice to our community-wide efforts to return lost pets to their owners. They are a barrier to savings lives. So in response, PDP placed scanners at PetSmart stores in Honolulu, Kapolei, and Mililani – to give people an alternative. But it simply comes down to finding the most convenient place to scan a found pet for a chip. And veterinary clinics should be part of the solution – not part of the problem.

A microchip is the single most effective way to return lost pets to their owners. Many people in the animal rescue community now carry their own microchip scanners. I have a microchip scanner in my truck in case I pick up an animal off the road. When I see posts on social media about found animals, I immediately respond that I have a scanner and am available to help identify the pet. Many, many people do the same. As a result – more and more animals are immediately returning found animals directly to their owner and bypassing a trip to animal control. This process is better for the pet and for tax payers! This year – the Hawaiian Humane Society reported that their intake numbers of lost pets on New Years Eve was the lowest it had ever been. This is not because of fewer illegal fireworks or because the Humane Society is doing a better job! It is because social media has transformed our animal rescue community. More and more people are engaged on facebook and other media to help animals. But the fewer animals taken in to animal control, the less money they get paid in their animal control contract. And therein lies the motivation to keep their paws on lost and found efforts.

The BEST way to save lives is to prevent an animal from entering the shelter in the first place!

HB 1287 will help the public return lost pets to their owners. We don’t need the archaic animal control model. We just need the animal control contractors to get on the technology bandwagon and use the tools that were created to save lives. Michelson Found Animal registry allows owners to create an account online and update their contact information every time they move. Its all at their finger tips. But HHS still uses a piece of paper that people have to fill out and mail in. Animal

“control” is obsolete. Animal “welfare” is the 21st century model that engages people helping animals in their communities. We are saving lives. And we are saving tax payer money.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HUMANE SOCIETY MICROCHIP REGISTRATION FORM

Please fill in all information.
MICROCHIP REGISTRATION

MICROCHIP # _____ DOG CAT OTHER _____

CLINIC WHERE IMPLANTED _____

MALE FEMALE NEUTERED

PET'S NAME _____ AGE _____

WEIGHT _____ COLOR _____

DESCRIPTION / BREED _____

OWNER'S NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

DAY PHONE _____ NIGHT PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

I agree to release the information provided here to the Hawaiian Humane Society and that all information is kept confidential

 Hawaiian Humane Society
2700 Waiālae Ave., Honolulu, HI 96826
946-2187 • fax 955-6034
HawaiiHumane.org

SIGNATURE

DATE

HHS-06/13

PRINT

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HB-1287

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 12:41:03 PM

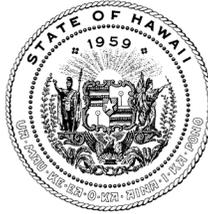
Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kemtis Kunanuraksapong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this. We need to increase efficiency and reduce wasted tax money. Streamline the process and make a difference on everyone (human and pets)

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



LATE

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

10:00 AM

Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1287
RELATING TO MICROCHIP IDENTIFICATION

House Bill 1287 proposes to require dog and cat owners to microchip their pets, if the pets are not licensed. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department recognizes that dogs and cats are defined as “predators” in HRS §183D-1. Both dogs and cats can be destructive of wildlife by their predatory nature. It is therefore in the best interest of Hawaii’s wildlife that all such pet animals be reunited with their owners rather than becoming lost or stray. Lost and stray dogs and cats can negatively impact wildlife and can wreak havoc on seabird and endangered waterbird nesting areas. If lost and stray animals can be more quickly and efficiently be reunited with their owners, such impacts could be significantly reduced.

The Department also recognizes that with microchips being more affordable, unobtrusive, permanent, and relatively easy to obtain and register, identifying and returning pets to their owners should become easier as long as the microchip registries are kept up to date.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1287

Submitted on: 2/9/2021 6:43:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Celeste Kato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 1287/SB 1387.

Requiring Hawaii's pet owners to microchip their pets is the first step in reuniting lost/missing pets with their families. The next, and probably even more important step, would be to require the animal control contractors to utilize a national microchip registry like Found Pet Alerts/Michelson Found Animals, which is FREE for the lifetime of the pet.

Instead of continuing to use an archaic, slow, and ineffective system that they currently use, this FREE registry would expedite the return of a lost or missing pet to their family. If your pet is found, you receive a voicemail, an email, AND a text message from the finder.

Statistically, lost pets are found within one-mile of their home. So Found Animals Alerts allows your pet to be returned home more expeditiously, avoids the burden of driving to animal control - for both finder and owner, avoids the undue stress placed on the pet by entering the shelter, saves you money from trying to retrieve your pet from animal control, and saves tax payer money by avoiding the costly and inefficient animal control process.

By requiring veterinary clinics to release the microchip number to the finder or rescuer, pets and their families can be reunited faster without having to involve the Hawaiian Humane Society. All a rescuer/pet finder would have to do is file a found animal report and the pet owners are contacted by the Found Animals registry. No private information is given to the pet finder. The pet is not stressed by being taken to the Humane Society. There is no risk of the animal being euthanized by mistake at the Humane Society. By not releasing the chip information, animal lives are put at risk.

Remember - the number one way to save lives is to avoid taking an animal to animal control in the first place. The more we can return lost pets directly to their owners, the more lives we will save.

Thank you.

Celeste Kato

HB-1287

Submitted on: 2/10/2021 9:28:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/10/2021 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Hammond	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of this bill. I believe that it is a way of protecting your pet from getting lost or even stolen. Study shows that pets that have microchips are most likely to be returned in comparison to pets that don't have one. I had a friend that "lost" her dog, although her dog was trained and never ran away from home. It wasn't till over a year later her dog was brought to the humane society and she was contacted about her dogs return. She had to retrain her dog to eat dog food again and feel normal to be back home. I think had they put a microchip, the dogs return would have been way sooner than a year.