



## Hawaiian Humane Society People for animals. Animals for people.

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Hawaiian Humane Society celebrates the passage of Bill 59 by the City & County of Honolulu

**HONOLULU, HI (January 29, 2020)**— With strong support from the Hawaiian Humane Society and community members islandwide, the Honolulu City Council successfully passed Bill 59 into law—the most significant and progressive advancement of municipal animal welfare legislation the island has seen since 1995. This modernization of Oahu’s animal ordinance embraces national animal welfare best practices and strengthens protections for pets across the island.

The life-saving provisions of Bill 59 benefit animals in the following ways:

- Mandates microchipping for pet cats and dogs. This will improve return-to-owner rates and help lost animals get home more quickly.
- Reduces the mandatory minimum hold time from nine days to five days for animals with identification, aligning Oahu with the national standard of three to five days. This provision gives Hawaiian Humane legal ownership of abandoned animals more quickly, thereby allowing the organization’s veterinary staff to address their health and behavior needs in a timelier manner and reducing unnecessary stress on healthy, friendly animals otherwise ready to find new homes.
- Gives the Hawaiian Humane Society the authority to spay/neuter dogs brought in as stray three times in a 12-month period. This will encourage owners to keep their pets safe and eliminate the dogs’ ability to contribute to pet overpopulation.
- Raises the mandatory hold fee from \$2.50 to \$10 per day (after the first 24 hours) which is still lower than, but closer to, the average cost of care. The hold fee has not been raised since 1983.

The Hawaiian Humane Society is grateful to Councilmember Ann Kobayashi for sponsoring the bill, the Honolulu City Council for passing this much needed update to Oahu’s animal welfare laws and to all of the community members who advocated for life-saving positive change. The ordinances detailed in Bill 59 go into effect on July 1, 2020.

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*The Hawaiian Humane Society is an education and advocacy organization that shelters, protects, rescues, reunites and rehomes animals. It is Oahu's only open-admission shelter that welcomes all animals. Established in 1883, the non-profit organization is not a chapter of any group as there is no national humane society. Visit [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org) to learn more.*