



Curb Pet Animal and Free-Roaming Cat Overpopulation

Support [HB220](#) / [SB998](#)

Rep. Scott Nishimoto and Sen. Karl Rhoads

Why is it needed?

Pet animal and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation result in to animal suffering across our state. Unplanned breeding of pet animals fuels high populations at animal shelters statewide. Unchecked breeding of Free-Roaming cats degrades the quality of life for innocent animals, increases threats to wildlife and creates nuisance issues for human beings. The number one barrier to addressing these issues identified by local animal welfare groups is insufficient access to free or low-fee spay/neuter. The state does not allocate any funding to address these issues.

What does it do?

This bill would allow compassionate state taxpayers to support a dedicated Spay/Neuter Fund that would make grants to organizations committed to reducing pet and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation.

Grants would prioritize providing free spay/neuter for Free-Roaming cat population management, providing free or low-fee spay/neuter for the pets of low-income pet owners, and providing low-fee spay/neuter for animal welfare nonprofits offering dogs and cats for adoption.

Why does it matter?

Lack of access to free spay/neuter is an obstacle to the humane reduction of Hawaii's Free-Roaming cat population. The animal welfare community and an army of volunteers represent the only large-scale effort to address this issue, but funding is needed to support their work. Uncontrolled breeding of pet dogs and cats means more animals in shelters than families looking for pets, leading to the need to ship animals out of state to find homes. With additional funding for spay/neuter, we can do better for the people and animals in our community.

