

# **BILL041(24)**

## **Testimony**

**MISC. COMM. 373**

HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)

## **HOUSING, SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH (HSH)**

### **Meeting**

Meeting Date: Aug 21, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 8

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Name:<br>Lynn Ishii                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Email:<br>ljishimobile@gmail.com   | Zip:<br>96786                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Position:<br>Support               | Submitted:<br>Aug 19, 2024 @ 01:40 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>In support of Bill 41 Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats. The intent behind my support is flexibility in funding in order to attract more clinics to participate in this humane and thus vital program. Mahalo.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                    |                                       |
| Name:<br>Laurie Foster                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Email:<br>laurie@bcrhawaii.com     | Zip:<br>96816                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Position:<br>Support               | Submitted:<br>Aug 19, 2024 @ 02:47 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>"In support of Bill 41 Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats."</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                    |                                       |
| Name:<br>lois crozer                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Email:<br>lbc@hawaiiantel.net      | Zip:<br>96734                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Position:<br>Support               | Submitted:<br>Aug 19, 2024 @ 06:18 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>There are WAY too many animals who don't have homes and many who are mistreated due to ignorance, financial need, or otherwise. By ensuring fewer animals are being born, this increases the chances that all pets are taken care of. I support the Hawaiian Humane Society suggestion that this bill be approved. Thank you.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                    |                                       |
| Name:<br>Jennifer Chiwa                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Email:<br>jennifer.chiwa@gmail.com | Zip:<br>96814                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Position:<br>Support               | Submitted:<br>Aug 20, 2024 @ 04:10 AM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Council Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health. Please support Bill 41 regarding the public spay and neuter clinic for dogs and cats which, to my understanding, the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) strongly supports. I am aware of the points the HHS will be making in their testimony, and I strongly agree with and support all of these points.</p> <p>Mahalo to Council Member Tupola for introducing Bill 41, and mahalo to Council Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health for this opportunity to testify.</p> |                                    |                                       |
| Name:<br>Alana Reis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Email:<br>arkeis07@gmail.com       | Zip:<br>96818                         |

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| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Position:<br>Support                   | Submitted:<br>Aug 20, 2024 @ 11:37 AM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha, I am in support of Bill 41, Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats. I believe it is important to make it easier for organizations to opt in and stay in with this program to help reduce the feral and stray population of cats and dogs, in service of these animals, so that more may be able to find loving homes.</p> |                                        |                                       |
| Name:<br>Anne Forshey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Email:<br>annejforshey@gmail.com       | Zip:<br>96706                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Position:<br>I wish to comment         | Submitted:<br>Aug 20, 2024 @ 11:59 AM |
| Name:<br>Kim Tomey                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Email:<br>kimtomey@aol.com             | Zip:<br>96744                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Position:<br>Support                   | Submitted:<br>Aug 20, 2024 @ 03:08 PM |
| <p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please pass Bill 41. Neutering programs are essential to controlling the feral population.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                        |                                       |
| Name:<br>Stephanie Kendrick                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Email:<br>skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org | Zip:<br>96826                         |
| Representing:<br>Hawaiian Humane Society                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Position:<br>Support                   | Submitted:<br>Aug 20, 2024 @ 03:53 PM |
| Name:<br>Wayne Niide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Email:<br>niidew@aol.com               | Zip:<br>96816                         |
| Representing:<br>Self                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Position:<br>Support                   | Submitted:<br>Aug 21, 2024 @ 04:20 AM |

Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health  
Wednesday, Aug. 21, at 1 p.m., Honolulu Hale

[Bill 41](#) (2024) Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinics for Dogs and Cats. Addressing the administration of the public spay and neuter clinics for dogs and cats. Proposes moving the details of the program from ordinance to administrative rules, making them easier to update as market conditions change.

I AM IN FAVOR OF BILL 41:

I applaud Councilmember Andria Tupola for introducing this important bill supporting Spay and Neuter clinics for dogs and cats. I understand that the Committee on Housing, Sustainability, and Health is poised to address many timely and important issues for the people and families in Hawai'i and I am thankful that Bill 41 is under consideration.

We own (a neutered) rescue pup adopted from the Hawaiian Humane Society and are forever thankful for the Humane Society's efforts to care for and provide us with healthy, lovable pets.

We have a solid need to address animal over-population and we have entities that are willing to help address this need. Addressing outdated reimbursement rates and outdated rulesets will create a fairer system for all and will ensure that this critical city service remains effective and successful for us all.

Thank you for your consideration and for the opportunity to endorse Bill 41.  
M A Forshey/Ewa Beach, HI/[annejforshey@gmail.com](mailto:annejforshey@gmail.com)



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Aug. 20, 2024

To: Chair Matt Weyer  
Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina  
and Members of the Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health

Submitted By: Steph Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Support for Bill 41 (2024), Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic  
for Dogs and Cats  
Wednesday, Aug. 21, 1 p.m., City Council Chamber

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Mahalo for considering the Hawaiian Humane Society's support for Bill 41 Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats.

The Hawaiian Humane Society has been a fierce advocate for the city's spay/neuter programs. We lobbied for their creation – of the owned pet program, Neuter Now, in 1985 and the Free-Roaming cat program, Feline Fix, in 2018. We have come before successive administrations and city councils over the years to advocate for increased funding for both programs, which have been made an enormous difference in our community.

Since its inception, nearly 230,000 pets were spayed or neutered thanks to low fees supported by the Neuter Now program. In just seven years, more than 40,000 Free-Roaming cats were spayed or neutered under Feline Fix. These programs are popular and impactful.

As the administrator of these programs, we have shared with councilmembers our struggles to attract and retain participating clinics given the outdated reimbursement rates set by city ordinance. We are hopeful that this bill will address those concerns.

A decade ago, 25 clinics participated in Neuter Now. Today five participate, including the Ginny Tiu Community Spay/Neuter Center at the Hawaiian Humane Society. As one of the only remaining providers, our clinic is booked out months in advance, leading to frustration among pet owners who are trying to do their part to prevent pet overpopulation. Despite

being a nonprofit with a different overhead structure than for-profit clinics, even Hawaiian Humane is losing money at the current rates.

By moving the details of the public spay/neuter program from ordinance to administrative rules, making them easier to update as market conditions change, this measure is an important step toward rebuilding these vital programs. We need our local veterinary clinics to step up and help. To do so, they need reimbursement rates that better cover their expenses.

As the administrator of the animal services contract, the Department of Customer Services knows these programs well and it makes sense to move their parameters into its administrative rules.

Under this program, the city subsidizes surgeries for pet owners on government assistance and for Free-Roaming cat caregivers who are volunteering their time to help reduce the population of cats living outdoors. Pet owners who are not on government assistance pay the fees established by the program directly to any participating clinic. We will work with the department to make sure as this transitions into administrative rules that there will still be a subsidy for low-income residents and cat caregivers.

We recommend delaying the bill's effective date until July 1, 2025, to avoid changes during the current fiscal year that could reduce the number of pet owners and cat caregivers who are able to receive services.

We urge you to support Bill 41 and allow for the establishment of reasonable reimbursement rates so that we can once again enlist our private veterinary clinics in supporting the vital work of reducing pet overpopulation. Mahalo for your consideration.

**Date:** August 21, 2024

**To:** Committee on Housing, Sustainability and Health Agenda

**From:** Wayne Niide

**Re: BILL 41 (2024) – PUBLIC SPAY AND NEUTER CLINIC FOR DOGS AND CATS.** Addressing the administration of the public spay and neuter clinic for dogs and cats.

I am in **support** of Bill 41 Relating to the Public Spay and Neuter Clinic for Dogs and Cats.

I have assisted in the **Trap, Neuter, Return and Manage (TNRM)** program(s) and there are challenges in securing services to address the **Neutering** of Free Roaming Felines.

Increasing the ability to have access to a participating clinic will greatly help in the humane Management and optics of the Free Roaming Feline population in our Community.

Please support Bill 41.

Respectfully,

Wayne Niide