



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **25 - 226**

FILED

AUG 6 2026

PURSUANT TO ROH Sec. 1-2.5

RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PROGRAM FOR THE RESCUE AND REHABILITATION OF NEGLECTED, ABUSED, OR ABANDONED EQUINES.

WHEREAS, the neglect, abuse, and abandonment of equines is a long-standing problem in the City and County of Honolulu ("City"); and

WHEREAS, the care of equines is a high-cost endeavor, often requiring expensive food, veterinary care, living quarters, gear and equipment, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, equines may be neglected, abused, or abandoned for various reasons, including an equine owner's financial difficulties, unexpected illness, or loss of interest in raising equines, an equine's injury, misbehavior, or unmarketability, additional expenses to care for an aging equine, or a need to decrease herd size; and

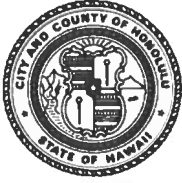
WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, limited alternatives exist to provide for the continued care of neglected, abused, or abandoned equines, or for the rehabilitation of injured equines; and

WHEREAS, under Section 46-1.5, Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS"), the City is authorized to provide for public pounds, regulate the impounding of stray animals and fowl, and provide for animal control officers; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 3, Article 5, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, the City has tasked the Department of Customer Services to contract for an animal control contractor to perform animal control services ; and

WHEREAS, HRS Section 711-1109.7 establishes a petty misdemeanor for an owner or any person in possession of an equine to leave the equine without the intent to return and retrieve the equine; and

WHEREAS, HRS Section 711-1109(4) establishes a minimum penalty of a misdemeanor for causing substantial bodily injury to, or starvation of, any animals, including equines; and



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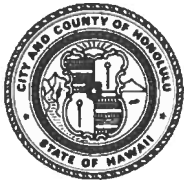
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WHEREAS, while the criminal laws of the State of Hawai'i prohibit the neglect, abuse, or abandonment of equines, few, if any, programs exist within the City and County of Honolulu to provide for the rescue and rehabilitation of neglected, abused, or abandoned equines; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to develop and implement a City program to rescue and rehabilitate neglected, abused, or abandoned equines; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it requests the Department of Customer Services to develop and implement a program for the rescue and rehabilitation of neglected, abused, or abandoned equines; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that should the Department of Customer Services decide to implement this program through a contract with an animal control contractor, the animal control contractor is urged to contemplate implementing this program by retaining an existing organization that already provides for the rescue and rehabilitation of neglected, abused, or abandoned equines; and



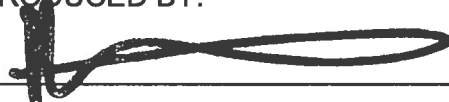
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BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor, the Managing Director, and the Director of Customer Services.

INTRODUCED BY:



DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

AUG 6 2025
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

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