

HFC Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 3:47 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: Opposition to the proposed bill "6.04.041" - Thank you for taking the time to read this important letter

From: H. Miller <ahmilleris@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 8:26 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Opposition to the proposed bill "6.04.041" - Thank you for taking the time to read this important letter

RE: Opposition to the proposed bill "6.04.041" Feeding of feral animals prohibited. NO person may feed or deliberately introduce any food material, substance or attractant directly to, or in the vicinity of, any feral animal.". The Bill introduced by Rikki Hokama intends to make cat and other feral management a crime and promotes cruel starvation of these animals.

Dear Maui Councilmembers:

Each of the Hawaiian Islands has its own unique distinction, ambiance and feeling which sticks in our minds and hearts forever. Maui being a lush island of flowers, foliage, waterfalls, open land, clean air, healthy, healing, animals on land, beautiful ocean and aquatic life is such a respected and lovely experience for visitors and locals.

This inhumane bill is darkening and disturbing. If proposed devastation is allowed to occurs of inhumane starvation, untreated neglected illnesses, sick animals, spread of sickness and disease, cruel pain and suffering, death in the public streets, all will overshadow any thought we have had of Maui previously and will have a lasting negative affect for all going forward forever! Unimaginable! NO ONE HAS EVER SAID THEY WONT GO TO MAUI BECAUSE OF THE CAT OR OTHER FERAL ANIMAL POPULATION. BUT THEY WILL SAY I WONT GO TO MAUI BECAUSE OF THE INHUMANE STARVATION, SICKNESS AND KILLINGS.

SOLUTION: If Maui council and Maui Visitors Association is truly willing to find a way to help resolve feral populations, it would be much more effective if they teamed up with the experienced professionals in this area by budgeting and designating adequate monetary values and physical assistance toward the support and continued TNR and care efforts of Maui Humane Society (MHS), specific nonprofits and other programs that would immediately assist in following up with successful humane management solutions.

Fortunately, long studies of various solutions have been tested and tried all over the world. **It has been found that TNR (trap neuter return) along with flea treatment, vaccinations, veterinary care, feeding etc is an**

effective and successful humane solution to reduce feral animal's populations and is internationally accepted as a humane method. Any other methods of starvation or killings is not humane, healthy nor well received by people around the world!

There are several various threats to the Hawaiian monk seals decline, including the following:

- Human encroachment on the seal's habitat.
- Food limitation due to habitat degradation.
- Extremely low levels of genetic variation and consequent disease
- Tiger shark predation, particularly of young pups, contributes significantly to the dwindling number of Hawaiian monk seals
- Drowning when seals get caught up in illegal lay nets
- Toxoplasmosis was the cause of death of two seals so far in 2020 and there is absolutely no proven evidence it came from the feral cats or other animals on the land. It is just as possible a monk seal caught toxoplasmosis from an animals being slaughtered upstream with the filth and disease washing off contaminating land and waste into the oceans.

If the cats and animals are starving, they will look for other food sources such as birds etc

It is my understanding that there were not widely visible public notices known of this bill trying to be passed **timed it in the middle of coronavirus pandemic lockdown** and when the community is planning safety and responsible reopening. This is severely inappropriate as with any bill or project, there must be proper timely notification and information provided for people to be educated, to do research and have an opportunity weigh in,, especially with something as important and devastating as this proposal is.

Thank you so much for your consideration to throw out this bill and for supporting MHS and others in continued humane management solutions.

Sincerely

Heidi Miller

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