

HFC Committee

From: Michelle Smith <smithmichelleg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:07 PM
To: HFC Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Prohibit the feeding of feral animals

Aloha Committee Memebers,

I'm writing in support of amending Maui County Code, Chapter 6.04.040 which prohibits the feeding of feral animals. Providing supplemental resources to feral animals, specifically cats in colonies, is highly detrimental to both animal and human health. By feeding colonies of feral cats, their numbers are allowed to increase, thereby counteracting any population control measures that have been attempted. Increased animal densities lead to the spread of disease and infection, both throughout the population as well as into the environment and into the delicate wild species that inhabit Maui.

Feral cat populations, in addition to other introduced mammalian predators, have severely decreased the reproduction rate of ground nesting birds. I have personally participated in annual seabird banding events where burrow after burrow contained a healthy, dead, Wedge-tailed Shearwater chicks, predated on by a feral cat that entered the burrow and dispatched the chick, then left it there, only to move on and repeat the process in the next burrow. Providing bags of food to feral cat populations is only allowing their numbers to increase, while not increasing their quality of life, and destroying the populations of our native birds. Feeding feral populations is a lose-lose situation and should discontinue and be punishable.

Mahalo,
Michelle Smith