

HFC Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:56 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: Riki Hokama Proposed Bill 6.04.041

From: Laurie Pottish <pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:50 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Riki Hokama Proposed Bill 6.04.041

May 19, 2020

RE: Riki Hokama proposed bill 6.04.041

Aloha Council Member Yukilei Sugimura:

Whether you like cats or don't like cats I implore you to vote down this bill and endorse in every way possible the proven method of Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage (TNRM in the future) to reduce the number of free roaming cats. Here are just a few examples locally where this is happening successfully. We all agree there is a problem.

Our very own Maui Humane Society has shown a 32% decrease in feral surrenders since beginning an aggressive TNRM program in 2015. Prior to that euthanizing 75,000 cats produced no decrease in population. With more funding more sterilization could be done. I am not sure why Maui Humane Society was not included in these discussions from the start.

This is from David Tamanaha, Vice Chancellor for Administrative Services at Maui Community College on October, 2016. I would be happy to forward the entire email if you so desire. "The experience at UH Maui College has been very positive. Prior to the TNR program, there were more than 200 feral cats on the college campus. The campus is 78 acres with 54 buildings. We have presently 38 cats on the campus, all of which have been neutered. **Why are we not employing Trap and Remove?** It is our strong belief that if a cat colony is removed by euthanasia, NEW unsterilized cats are certain to move on to the college campus. This phenomenon is the vacuum effect and it is documented worldwide. Trap and remove may temporarily reduce the number of feral cats, but two things will happen: intact survivors continue to breed and other fertile cats from our neighboring properties will move on to the campus. Maintenance personnel will have an ongoing challenge and volunteers from the college and community will diminish."

Also on Maui there are numerous businesses & resorts on the West side that have turned to TNRM programs after years of hiring pest control companies to try to eradicate the cats to no avail. The Honua Kai Resort & the Westin Koa adopted the program in 2008 & the Papakea Condominium Project has been employing this method successfully since 2000. There are numerous other success stories I have not listed.

On February 12, 2016 Senator Mike Gabbard, *Chair, Water, Land, and Agriculture Committee*

responded to my email regarding a similar bill: “We made the decision to defer SB 2450 indefinitely because of the overwhelming testimony in opposition to the bill. This means the bill will not be moving forward this session and is essentially dead.”

This is from the Honolulu Star Advertiser, Island Voices section July 29, 2018. “In June of 2018, Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell, City Council member Trevor Ozawa and the entire Honolulu City Council are to be commended for their support of trap-neuter-return (TNR) to manage their community’s population of unowned, free-roaming “community” cats. Last month, the Council unanimously approved a budget that allocates \$300,000 for TNR efforts in Honolulu through June of next year. We applaud Caldwell and the Honolulu City Council for their commitment to TNR. It’s the right decision not only for the city’s community cats, but for the community itself and for the wildlife we all want to protect. Honolulu’s practical approach to managing its population community cats should be a model for the rest of Hawaii.”

PLEASE listen to the proven statistics & oppose this bill. Do not legalize animal cruelty & criminalize compassion.

Thank you for your time,

Laurie Pottish
Pukalani, HI 96768