

## HFC Committee

---

**From:** Tamara Sherrill <tamara@mnbg.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 2:43 PM  
**To:** HFC Committee  
**Cc:** Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** testimony for Healthy Families and Communities meeting  
**Attachments:** 20200507\_MCA\_CatTestimony\_FINAL.pdf

Aloha mai kākou,

Attached is a letter of testimony for the meeting of the County of Maui Healthy Families and Communities Committee scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

Tamara Sherrill, Executive Director  
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens  
150 Kanaloa Ave., Kahului, HI 96732  
[www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)  
[tamara@mnbg.org](mailto:tamara@mnbg.org)  
Office: (808) 249-2798 ext. 205  
Cell: (808) 357-6082



May 7, 2020

The Honorable Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Support for **PROHIBITION OF FEEDING FERAL ANIMALS**

---

Aloha mai kākou,

On behalf of the Maui Conservation Alliance (MCA), we would like to voice our support for amending the Maui County Code, Chapter 6.04.040, relating to feeding feral animals. We support the new definition of “feral animal” and adding the new section “6.04.041 Feeding of feral animals prohibited.”

Feeding of feral animals causes changes to animal behavior by making them dependent upon feeding by people, and causes concentrations of these animals. Concentrations of animals pose health and safety threats to native wildlife as well as humans. These include (but are not limited to) spread of disease (such as toxoplasmosis), predation on and disturbance to native wildlife, aggression by concentrated animals with other each other, other animals, and humans.

Specific examples include: predation by feral cats and rodents on native birds such as the endangered nēnē (Hawaiian goose), and native 'ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed shearwater) which are found near harbors; and mortality of endangered nēnē and endangered Hawaiian monk seals from disease such as toxoplasmosis. Additionally, our members have observed feral cats and mongooses being very aggressive with humans in areas where they are fed illegally.

We appreciate the opportunity to support amendments to protect native wildlife species and people. If you have any questions or want additional details, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Me ka mahalo nunui a me ke aloha no,

Steve Robertson, Chair  
Tamara Sherrill, Secretary

The MCA is a cooperative partnership of more than thirteen government, private and non-profit organizations who are the key leaders in the management of Maui's native ecosystems. MCA is committed to accelerating conservation management on Maui's highest priority conservation needs.