

HFC Committee

From: Petra DuPont <mdpd251275@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 3:08 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Opposition to the proposed Bill "Feeding Ban of Feral Animals 6.04.041"

Aloha Council Members,

I have been a Maui County resident for over 30 years, and I have been involved in caring for, feeding and spay/neutering feral cats.

The proposed feeding ban will not solve the feral cat problem, in fact I would venture to say it will exacerbate the issue.

TNR has been practiced all over the world, and is an effective, proven strategy to reduce feral cat populations. On Maui, the best known example is probably UH Hawaii, Maui Campus, who successfully reduced the cat population from 300 before TNR to now approximately 30. This is a great example what can happen if TNR efforts are supported, and the volunteers can openly trap and feed.

Prior to 2015, Maui has tried to solve the feral cat problem by euthanizing approx. 75,000 cats. We know that this did not solve anything. Since 2015, MHS estimates a 25% reduction in feral cats based on surrenders, and the number of cats being spayed and neutered, ending the reproductive cycle for these animals. MHS made spay/neuter available to the public as a free service, funded by a grant!

Current TNR supporters often have to "hide" their efforts. With the support and collaboration of Maui County, they would be so much more effective in the common quest to reduce the feral cat population. I encourage the council to take a closer look at the successful implementation of TNR at UH Hawaii. Maui Campus.

I urge the County Council to vote down this cruel, ineffective and inhumane bill!

Respectfully,

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