

HFC Committee

From: Lesley J. Milner
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:55 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: My Testimony for the Bill Proposal of Ordinance amending 6.04.041 at your Council meeting May 21, 2020.

Testimony for HFC-24

From: Duvall, Fern P <fern.p.duvall@hawaii.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 10:40 AM
To: Lesley J. Milner <Lesley.Milner@mauicounty.us>; County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Makalea Ane <Makalea.Ane@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: My Testimony for the Bill Proposal of Ordinance amending 6.04.041 at your Council meeting May 21, 2020.

Subject: Testimony for the Ordinance amending 6.04.041 at your Council meeting May 21, 2020.

Lesley and or Clerk:

Honorable Council Chair Alice Lee, Mr. Rikki Hokama, and other Committee and Council Members:

RE: Testimony on the Bill for Ordinance to amend the Maui County Code, Chapter 6.04.040, relating to Feeding Feral Animals

transmitted back to Mr. Hokama's Committee for review and resubmittal for May 21, 2020 meeting

I am the Program Manager for the Native Ecosystems Protection and Management section of the Maui Division of Forestry & Wildlife part of the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. It is my express function to hold in trust, and be the best possible steward for the unique and wonderful native ecosystems, and unique native Hawaiian species of Maui Nui. I have been doing such management and oversight since 1984 for the Division. Too much of my work has been management of the negative impacts of feral non-native species on Hawaiian species of wildlife of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

In my tenure and work my staff and I have continually witnessed, and witness frequently, devastating significant impacts of free-ranging cats on Maui's native waterbirds, forestbirds, and seabirds. Free-ranging cats are documented predators of the native wildlife on the land, and pose danger in our coastal oceans, by generating the toxoplasmosis oocysts for infections to Hawaiian Monk seals, dolphins, and, to us and our children. Cats are the sole shedder of toxoplasma oocysts into the sands, garden soils, and eventually our waters of Maui Nui.

Cats on the landscape are a huge numerous problem island-wide. I am reminded of a recent University of Hawaii survey which determined over 85% of all residents wanted to see less cats on the landscape. Maintaining the presence of cats on the landscape, which feeding of them by people ensures that Maui's people, our Native wildlife, and yes even the cats themselves are threatened. All cats being actively fed by someone should be eventually placed into Lanai style "cat sanctuaries" where they are safe, fed, and pampered by their feeders.

For the Ordinance Language: I would suggest the final Ordinance language in question will not only continue the present prohibition of feeding of the non-native cats on Maui Nui parks, but will extend that prohibition to all County lands. It is mostly desired that the language of the Ordinance require that cats be treated in all considerations to be like per dogs, which and require that the county's cats be registered, and micro-chipped for identification purposes.

Sincerely and with Aloha!

Mahalo and me ke aloha mai Maui Nui

Dr. Fern P. Duvall II

Native Ecosystems Protection and Management – Maui Nui Program Manager

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