

HFC Committee

From: cassi meng <casmeng@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 8:17 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Proposed Bill 6.04.041: TESTIMONY
Attachments: May 7th 2020 Testimony.pdf

Aloha,

This is testimony for the proposed bill 6.04.041." Feeding of feral animals prohibited. No person may feed or deliberately introduce any food material, substance or attractant directly to, or in the vicinity of, any feral animal."

I have included my testimony as inline text in this email as well as attached as a PDF.

Mahalo,
Cassi Meng
808-866-4522

May 7, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this in regards to the proposed bill **6.0.041**. "Feeding of feral animals prohibited. NO person may feed or deliberately introduce any food material, substance or attractant directly to, or in the vicinity of, any feral animal." **As a citizen of Maui, I object to this bill** and hope my opinion contributes to the council's decision to not approve.

- **Feeding bans punish compassionate people**
- **Feeding bans do not address reproduction and nuisance behaviors**
- **Cats will not leave areas with feeding bans**
- **I support TNR as a humane solution to cat overpopulation**

We have had several animals (cats, chickens and rabbits) over the years that have started feral and were tamed with patience and compassion and became loving and loyal members of our family. Cats help keep the rat and mice population under control. The chickens decimate the overpopulation of roaches, cane spiders and centipedes around our property. Due to them we no not need bait, traps or exterminators. A vast majority of the animals we have taken in or fed over the years have been spayed and/or neutered thanks to the amazing efforts and resources provided by the Maui Humane Society.

"Cats are scavengers and will search to find food. If a feeding ban is enacted, the cats often will stay in the area and find a new source of food. The cats will eat garbage, scraps or other animals which do not provide cats with the nutrients they need. Malnourished cats are more susceptible to diseases and parasites. Because feeding bans do not address reproduction at all, the malnourished cats will often give birth to sick kittens who will die at a young age."

"Feeding bans actually create more nuisance behaviors than they eliminate. The bans encourage cats to search through garbage, fails to spay/neuter cats and leads to the spread of diseases. Cats without a solid source of food will wander around towns more than cats who have an area where they know they will be fed at. The feeding bans also make trap-neuter-return (TNR) almost impossible because the cat

caretakers cannot lure the cats to the traps with wet food. TNR ends these nuisance behaviors while also stopping reproduction. Cat caretakers are compassionate people who want to help cats in their area. Compassion should not be criminalized but encouraged. Without cat caretakers feeding and TNRing cats, many more cats would suffer. Further, the enforcement of feeding bans is very difficult and resource intensive. Areas that want to address cat overpopulation should instead implement TNR.” SOURCE: Alley Cat Rescue.

Again, as a citizen of Maui, I oppose this bill and if it is passed it will not stop myself and others like me from doing what we feel is right.

Thank you for your time and consideration on this matter.

Mahalo and Best Wishes,

Cassi Meng

May 7, 2020

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