

## HFC Committee

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**From:** tailwind . <shyaura@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 6:35 PM  
**To:** HFC Committee  
**Subject:** Bill 6.04.041 testimony

Thank you for allowing me to testify regarding this bill. I am testifying opposing this legislation. Please consider these facts.

1. Free roaming cats are presently under the competent management of various volunteers and non profits in Maui County at no cost to the taxpayers. This management has reduced the population humanely by a rigid TNRM (trap neuter return manage) policy in large supported by Maui Humane Society's robust free clinics and community education programs.
2. Feeding bans have historically failed to do what TNRM has managed to do. They are ineffective costly and inhumane. In some cases possibly they conflict with existing animal cruelty laws. They certainly violate state of the art worldwide accepted methods of population control and human decency.
3. It is evident from comments on a circulating petition general consensus is a culture/community that practices this policy is considered backward in their thinking uneducated and cruel. With this in mind all the animal lovers will avoid a place they deem as supporting animal cruelty. At a time when Hawaii is trying to reopen from covid and attract tourism this is a very unfavorable issue with all animal lovers.
4. Cats deprived from food will begin to roam further being more of a nuisance killing more birds and generally it will backfire. Meanwhile without rodent control the mouse and rat population will expand. Then there is the issue of 30,000 dead cats on the island. The police have better things to do than pick up stinking bodies and it is not the job of the humane society to clean up the mess. It will bring disease and be offensive.
5. The cats under management right now get vaccines sterilized and vet care. Without management which includes feeding these animals will become sickly spreading disease which is what the bill seeks to avoid.
6. The toxoplasmosis issue is slanted and biased based on flawed research and opinion not fact. There is no evidence any monk seal caught toxoplasmosis from a cat. It is more likely it came from pigs and fresh water run off.
7. It will be costly and difficult to enforce.

While all this is clear to animal welfare people I'm sure it's as clear as mud to most lawmakers. Herein I'm trying to supply you with 50 years of my own experience in a short dossier you will be able to read without it becoming tedious. However I would be more than happy to arrange a group of cat welfare professionals to meet with you to discuss a plan that will work for everyone.

Here are 2 places to start for more information

[www.alleycat.org](http://www.alleycat.org)

[www.bestfriends.org](http://www.bestfriends.org)

Thanks for your time. Please reconsider this legislation.

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