

HFC Committee

From: sharing lawrence <alohasharing@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 18, 2020 11:27 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Healthy Families/Communities

Aloha Office of Council Services

RE: Riki Hokama proposed bill 6.04.041

This is my written testimony to oppose this bill and be heard on this upcoming council meeting this Thursday, May 21, 2020.

I am a 25 year resident and property owner in upcountry Kula. I am a practicing dental assistant in my field of dentistry. I am also a feral cat caretaker in my neighborhood for 23 years and currently undertake and care for two colonies that represent about 20 ferals. I have utilized the TNRM program through the Maui Humane Society this entire time. I use to have 4 colonies in this area and the numbers were over 55. I have been grateful for this support that MHS offers as this endeavor would have been impossible without them. I have seen my cats age out of the system after years of managing them. They grow old as we do and their end of life cycle is as it should be. I am there for them in this time too. Many of my neighbors see me everyday tending to the feeding/management of their food and water dishes. Also the surrounding area that it stays clean and environmentally safe and out of the way of anyone using the area. They support me by dropping off food and letting me know they are so appreciative of what I do for the neighborhood. I invest my time and effort in overseeing that my "stations" do not cause anyone a problem. Throughout the years, my neighbors have seen me firsthand practice TNRM and given me permission to enter their fields and set up a station where I can safely trap and secure dropped off pregnant cats that someone has

dumped. Again, this takes time and effort and I am all in. I need Mr. Hokama to support my efforts.....I take this work seriously. In Maui and surrounding islands, there are feral cat caretakers doing the same....without pay, without complaint, without support. When someone in a leadership position as Mr. Hokama is in, does not make an effort to understand the gravity of this proposed bill, I see his leadership void of intelligence, integrity, and the basics of understanding people such as myself in the community already making progress. Please, Mr. Hokama.....we have feral homeless people in our communities.....are we not to feed them too????

WE, as feral caretakers, are the community representatives for Healthy Families and Communities.....we are putting forth the legwork to reduce the numbers of feral cats.....in a humane and careful effort to balance out the negligent behavior and disregard for animal life. This proposed bill is a complete insult to me, my family, my Kula neighbors.

Sharing Lawrence
Kula