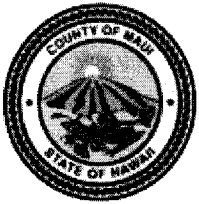


HFC Committee

From: Raynette Yap
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 8:23 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: Please oppose proposed bill 6.04.041

From: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 6:08 PM
To: HFC Committee <HFCCommittee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: FW: Please oppose proposed bill 6.04.041

With Aloha,



Office of Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
South Maui Residency
Office: 808.270.7108
200 South High Street, 8th Fl
Wailuku HI 96793
mauicounty.us

From: Donna Willinsky <donnawillinsky@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 7:04 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Please oppose proposed bill 6.04.041

RE: Proposed Bill 6.04.041

Dear Kelly,

I'm writing to express my professional and personal opinion as to why it's important to care for and support managed colony cats island-wide. As a former Los Angeles County Director of Animal Welfare, I know first hand how challenging the situation can be when the number of animals in need is greater than the number of available homes. With regard to non-owned, unadoptable cats, often-times the easiest option *seems* to be to euthanize or simply stop feeding them. I understand the frustration officials must feel to make choices that will make the situation better. As an expert, however, I can tell you that euthanizing or starving them out is not an effective solution.

The reason it has never worked is because cats will continue to breed, even without people feeding them. They might survive for a short time on bugs, rodents, and garbage. They usually live just long enough to breed

a litter or two before they succumb to malnutrition. The kittens in turn, will survive just long enough to breed as well, and the endless cycle of breeding continues. Before long, Maui will be overrun with sick and dying cats and kittens. Cities that have tried killing off their feral cats are disheartened to find new (*unfixed*) kittens and cats very soon after, greatly increasing the problem because these cats are not fixed.

What IS an effective solution is known as TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage.) This strategy is used worldwide to lower cat populations from major metropolitan cities to rural countrysides. Caretakers humanely trap cats and see that they get spayed and neutered. Once cats have recovered from surgery, they are returned to their colony where a dedicated caretaker provides regular food and fresh water. Here's why it works: A healthy colony naturally limits the amount of cats it will support. The cats of the colony will keep other, unfixed cats out so the breeding cycle stops there. Supporting fixed, healthy colony cats helps stabilize the population of community colonies and, over time, reduces them. Nuisance behaviors such as spraying, excessive noisemaking and fighting are largely eliminated and no additional kittens are born. I would be happy to provide data on the efficacy of this internationally implemented program, citing Italy as a major participant with astoundingly positive results.

I urge you to vote in favor of colony caretaking and support those who are doing the work that provides an effective solution. Maui's cat overpopulation has shrunk significantly over the past decade, thanks to volunteers and officials who have been practicing TNRM. I respectfully urge you to consider offering them your support so that they may continue to do what's best for Maui.

Sincerely,

Donna Willinsky

Former Director of Animal Welfare, Los Angeles
Board member, Save Maui Cats, Inc
12512 SW 62nd Avenue
Portland, OR 97219
(323) 828-2280

A few (of the thousands of) National organizations that support TNRM:

ASPCA
BOS SPCA
CHI SPCA
DC SPCA
LA SPCA
SF SPCA
TX SPCA
NY SPCA
Friends of Felines
The Humane Society of the United States
The TRN Project
Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
Alley Cat Allies
Animal Alliance
Feral Cat Coalition
Friends of Felines
Neighborhood Cats
Anti Cruelty Society
Humane Rescue Alliance
Feral Cat Alliance
Maui Humane Society
Disneyland

Please view link for list of national government agencies supporting TNRM.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_governments_supporting_trap%E2%80%93neuter%E2%80%93return