

HFC Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:30 AM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: 6.04.041 Feeding of feral animals bill

From: fred staff <laurelnfred@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 8:20 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Fwd: 6.04.041 Feeding of feral animals bill

Council committee members,

I am writing again in protest and against Councilmember Hokama's outrageous bill criminalizing the feeding of feral animals. Starving animals, especially feral cats who are specifically targeted in this bill, is nothing short of animal cruelty. This is not who we are in Maui County or Hawaii. We are animals' advocates, caretakers and helpers. Starving animals will not decrease their population. It has been shown through scientific research and expertise, over and over again, that neutering and managing established cat colonies decreases their population, and decreases the number of sick or diseased animals. Providing food for them keeps them from raiding garbage and killing birds for food. Ranches and golf courses all over the state provide for colonies on their property to help keep their rodent populations in control. Toxoplasmosis is also transmitted through goats, sheep and rodents. Monk seals suffer at the hands of human destruction of the environment, not cat poop. And there is no better way to control the feral cat population than by trap, neuter and management of the colony.

Do not support this cruel, inhumane, non- Hawaiian piece of legislation.

Laurel Shepherd, MD, MPH

----- Forwarded message -----

From: fred staff <laurelnfred@gmail.com>
Date: Thu, May 7, 2020, 8:18 AM
Subject: 6.04.041 Feeding of feral animals bill
To: <county.clerk@mauicounty.us>

To the Council,

My name is Laurel Shepherd and I am a resident of Kihei.

I am opposed to the bill proposed by Councilmember Hokama prohibiting feeding of feral animals.

First, toxoplasmosis is endemic in the natural world and poses no health risk to humans unless they are immunosuppressed or pregnant and cleaning litter boxes of feline feces, eating undercooked meat, consuming contaminated water, or receiving blood transfusion or organ transplantation. The organism is also found in pigs and sheep.

Second, numerous studies have conclusively shown that the most effective, if not the only way to control feral animal populations is to spay and neuter them, then returning them to their habitat. In Maui the population of feral cats declined by 25% in just 4 years of the Maui Humane Society's spay and neuter program for feral cats. Previous attempts at extermination were grossly ineffective and in humane. Starving animals will continue to reproduce and are at much higher risk of disease and death.

Feeding cat colonies is a way for people to get to know a colony, trap them and neuter them. The feeders can also keep an eye out for ill animals or new litters of kittens.

Maui is a community of people who are kind to animals and to humans. Making it illegal to feed feral animals will not stop the kindest members of our society from feeding starving animals.

What the council should consider instead is a proposal to fund trap and neuter programs throughout the county along with Maui Humane Society. Public Service Announcements regarding who to contact to help control a cat colony population through neutering should be produced.

Sincerely

Laurel Shepherd, MD, MPH

Fred Staff, RPh