

HFC Committee

From: Tonya Anderson <pumpkinspicellama@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 13, 2020 5:51 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: Fwd: Feral animal feeding ban please

Good evening,

I am writing to implore you to please pass the bill for a ban on feeding feral animals.

There seems to be some confusion that somehow banning feeding of feral cats may not be the solution for native wildlife. The best solution and the right solution for the native Hawaiian ecosystem is to remove the cats. Feral cats are defined as an invasive species and should be treated with as much seriousness as Zebra Mussels and Lake Trout. Remediation was necessary in both of these cases to preserve important wildlife resources. If removing the cats makes members of the public squeamish, the first small step is to reduce their populations by halting their food source.

Simply put, every bird species at one point early in their life is unable to fly because they are young and still learning. It is at this point that they are most vulnerable to ground predation. Not just vulnerable—the reality, especially in areas where feral cats are maintained (fed and not exterminated)—they disappear. Birds cannot survive and grow their populations though intense cat predation. Cats kill indiscriminately, meaning they kill to satisfy their prey drive and not to satisfy their hunger.

As a Hawaiian I hope you realize the incredible endemic diversity that exists in your state. These animals are found no where else and have thrived for thousands of years acquiring unique mutations perfectly adapted to their island environment and evolving into fascinating colors, shapes, and gorgeous examples of life histories—that is until invasive species followed humans to the Islands. You already are aware of the toll they have taken, resulting in hundreds of extinctions already lost to your people forever. Allowing cats to run free will only continue this decline for the native wildlife that was there first. I again implore your to consider putting your unique and impressive wildlife trove ahead of colonies of cats, pets made by people for people, that were irresponsibly freed and have no place in the wilderness. I implore you to begin to right this wrong and be the leader in wildlife conservation this nation can look to in the times ahead.

Thank you

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Yours,
T. Anderson

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