

HFC Committee

From: Hanna Mounce <mounce@mauiforestbirds.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 20, 2020 1:30 PM
To: HFC Committee
Cc: Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Please support all measures to control feral cats across Maui

Aloha Chair Hokama and Councilmembers,

Thank you for keeping the issues of feral cats across Maui on your agenda. All sides can agree that this is a serious issue that is facing our islands and that we need to take meaningful steps to battle this. While it is going to take a variety of ways to address the depth of this issue, what we can do now is to stop the ever-expanding threat. Cats are still increasing across Maui. There is debate about what the numbers of free-ranging cats really are but whether there are 40,000 or 400,000 is really irrelevant. What is clear is the impacts that they are having on our communities and on our wildlife. Even if we assume that the lowest estimates of free-ranging cats are accurate, the TNR efforts across Maui are nowhere even close to the critical numbers that are needed to be effective (71% to 94% depending on the research you cite).

As a conservation biologist, I am representing Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project.

We support the feeding ban that has been proposed but furthermore, we support enforcement of the feeding bans across County Parks that is already in law and not enforced. We also hope that the committee can take this one step further and make it mandatory that cats are considered pets and treated as such. We need licensing and responsible pet ownership the same as we have for dogs.

Mahalo,
Hanna

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