

HFC Committee

From: Arianna Feinberg <ariannafeinberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 12, 2020 10:16 PM
To: HFC Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Support Feral Animal Feeding Ban

Dear Council Members on the Healthy Families and Community Committee,

Please SUPPORT amending the Maui County Code, Chapter 6.04.040 to ban the feeding of feral animals. I am sure you are hearing a lot of push back from the vocal minority/feral cat community. Thank you for your courage to bring this to your committee and I implore you to look past their supposed numbers and really look into whether those that sign petitions or testify are really even Maui residents or that their statements are truly evidence-based. To prove my point, please consider this study from 2014, which shows that 86.9% of Hawaii survey respondents want a reduction in our feral cat population.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24372971> Additionally please consider this study that supports Hawaii residents' support of feral cat reduction through live traps as most preferred and TNR as least preferred. https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/a4be/b5bdc07975172fc8e84948a2f5c029ec1cdc.pdf?_ga=2.252988681.1268755871.1589167585-1050783708.1589167585&fbclid=IwAR2BdoialCRFKZqxrOg0joAbHvNepdHz9C7txlSuwXmqNKIWZzt-iglu7FQ

Cat owners need to take responsibility for their animals by keeping them on their private property, tagging, licensing, and keeping them up to date with vaccines/flea/tick protection. Feral cats are different than owned cats and are invasive species that are actively attacking our endangered native birds. By feeding feral cats, their population increases as their carrying capacity increases. Can you imagine it being ok to feed a predatory invasive species like mongooses? Unfortunately, I've witnessed feral cat feeders unintentionally feeding mongooses with their dry cat food strewn about Kanaha and Keopolani Parks. This human-provided food just makes these invasive species procreate more successfully and makes them stronger to better hunt our endangered birds. A feeding ban is a step forward in the direction of reducing the number of invasive feral predators on our island.

Lastly, to counter the argument for TNR, I beg you to read this literature review published by the University of Florida. https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/uw468?fbclid=IwAR1PGeJtEC14IdYYoxHkPCxh5tKWfe8n2_HJKyABuY8rgTZvuLhC0MdJXPQ

I wish this County Council would go further than this bill but this is a good start. Hopefully one day we can put forward laws and resources to eliminate feral cats with the use of lethal traps.

Thank you so much for your thoughtful consideration of this important issue!

Mahalo,
Arianna Feinberg
Makawao, Maui
ariannafeinberg@gmail.com