

## HFC Committee

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**From:** Bryan Berkowitz <bryan@bryanberkowitz.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 20, 2020 12:55 PM  
**To:** HFC Committee; 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:** Testimony re: Feral Animal Management on Maui (HFC-24)

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

My name is Bryan Berkowitz and I am the Co-Founder and President of Na Koa Manu Conservation (NKMC). NKMC is a local, Maui based nonprofit organization founded to protect and recover native Hawaiian bird populations by supporting conservation research and management activities, established 5 years ago.

NKMC strongly supports bill 6.04.041 "Feeding of feral animals prohibited".

Estimates indicate there are 300,000 - 600,000 feral cats on the island of Maui, roaming from the coastlines to the summit of Haleakalā. The cat colony supporters say 40,000. I believe that was from a study contracted by the Maui Humane Society that resulted in an estimate of 40,000 - 500,000. The exact number doesn't matter, it's their impact on the environment that does. These animals are classified as an invasive species and kill native Hawaiian wildlife and spread toxoplasmosis which is harmful to both marine mammals as well as humans. Population estimates of the Hawaiian Monk Seal are 1,400 in the entire Hawaiian Island Chain, with just 300 in the main Hawaiian Islands. Populations of endemic (found only here) species of Hawaiian seabirds and forest birds are in the hundreds or thousands.

The feeding ban is a step in the right direction. Ultimately we need to reduce the number of feral cats on the landscape, and Trap Neuter Release just isn't doing that. We support cats being treated as pets, which is better for the cat and better for our community, along with licensing and registration just as dogs are required. We support the enforcement of current laws in place that forbid the feeding of feral cat colonies in County Parks.

Thank you.

-Bryan  
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