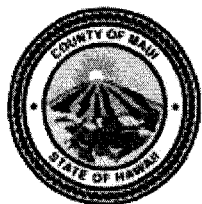


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**From:** Kelly King  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:21 PM  
**To:** HFC Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Proposed bill 6.04.041 regarding the feeding of feral animals

With Aloha,



**Office of Councilmember Kelly Takaya King**

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**From:** Kelli Uderitz <kellimaui@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Proposed bill 6.04.041 regarding the feeding of feral animals

Aloha, my name is Kelli Medeiros and I am writing in regards to bill 6.04.041 in regards to the feeding of feral animals. I am a colony caretaker of four cat colonies some being large hotels. We implemented a strong trap, neuter, release and manage program about 4 years ago and I would like to provide you with some facts about our program. I would like to mention that our cats on property are flea treated monthly, given veterinary care when needed, have reduced our problems with disease carrying rodents, and have many visitors that come yearly and not only love them, but bring treats and lots of love for them. I am providing the numbers of reduction for you.

Colony 1 started with 125 cats, now has 30  
Colony 2 started with 45 cats, now has 4  
Colony 3 started with 20 cats, now has 7  
Colony 4 stated with 30 cats, now has 6

This is a reduction from 220 cats down to 49, which is over a 75 percent decrease in cat population. Due to our cats being regularly fed, we no longer have problems with cats in our restaurants or hanging out near guest rooms hoping to be fed. We also have many birds living on our lush property. Next, I would like to touch on some facts that are easily available on the internet.

## Birds

90 percent of our native birds, which reside high in the rainforest, not in our subdivisions, are killed by avian malaria. Due to climate change, mosquitoes are able to live at higher elevations every year. This is the number one cause of death of kiwiku and honeycreepers, and has been identified as the biggest threat to Hawaii's native birds.

The leading cause of seabird death is false light, which they mistake for moonlight, and then fly into power lines. An estimated 1600 sea birds are killed yearly from power lines.

## Monk Seals

The top causes of monk seal death in Hawaii are as follows

1. Insufficient food source
2. Sharks, 14 juvenile seals were relocated from high predatory areas
3. Entanglement. Hawaiian monk seals have the highest rate of entanglement of any marine species. 12 monk seals were freed from fishing nets last year and 3 died on Oahu in 2019 from entanglement. 5 were freed from man made sea walls. 21 seals had fishing hooks removed.
4. Male seal aggression. 9 juvenile seals were killed by aggressive male seals.
5. Habitat loss. Climate change and the rising of our sea levels, combined with hurricanes have devastated atolls that were used as pupping grounds

While disease comes in at number 7, there are many diseases. Distemper, leptospirosis, and others that are often associated with raw sewage spills into our ocean. Leptospirosis is rampant in our streams and rivers and is spread by rodents, goats, and wild pigs. If you have a dog, you know this is why you get them a lepto shot!

We currently have a record high seal population that has increased 2 percent every year for the last seven years. We have had 48 pups born this year!!! In my opinion, our intense trap/neuter/release program has helped to increase seal numbers.

## Legality

Hawaii state law S 711-1109 defines cruelty to animals in the second degree as

Overdrives, overloads, tortures, beats, causes substantial bodily injury to, or starves any animal, or causes the aforementioned.

HumaneSociety.org defines animal cruelty as

- a. depriving an animal of food or water, shelter, socialization and veterinary care
- b. malicious torture, maiming, mutilating or killing of an animal

## Starving Animals

Things that starving animals experience are as follows

- a. increased aggression
  - b. increased hunting in larger scale areas
  - c. susceptibility to disease
- and the following painful conditions, which surely would be considered torture

- a. loss of muscle and body fat
- b. skin lesions
- c. degeneration of liver and heart, which happens slowly and is painful
- d. anemia

I would like to point out that during my research, when you search " benefits of starving animals" nothing comes up because there are no benefits to starving animals.

#### Animal abuse and the psyche

Common personality traits of people who encourage or engage in animal abuse are, antisocial behavior, violence, lack of empathy, and risk factors for other illegal activities. According to the National PTA Congress, children who are taught to extend justice, kindness, and mercy to animals become more empathetic adults, more humane, law abiding citizens, have less interaction with law enforcement, and are in every respect more valuable citizens to their community.

#### Solutions

1. fencing the bird reserves. Kealia pond just started fencing the bird reserve, this should have been done years ago.
2. A dedicated committee of caretakers who can be contacted to help in areas that need help with TNRM
3. Public education as to why we need to fix all animals, not just feed the friendly cat, but stop it from breeding
4. Focus on the real problems like climate change and mosquitoes and the other man made causes destroying wildlife, trying to blame a cat is like trying to put a band aid on a machete wound.

I hope that this information is helpful, the bottom line is that our TNRM is working, cat numbers are reducing, monk seal numbers are increasing and starving animals is not only illegal, but a cruel suggestion that implies anyone has the say over what is allowed to eat or survive. This would almost certainly equal more bird deaths as well. Visitors will be disgusted buy Maui if this allowed. I implore you as a community member and voter to please vote against this atrocity of a bill and allow the citizens of Maui to continue being the empathetic, caring people that we are.

Thank You!!

Kelli Medeiros