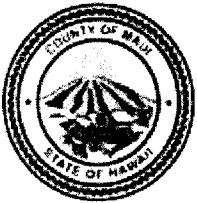

From: Kelly King
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2020 1:19 PM
To: HFC Committee
Subject: FW: please stop permitting feral cat feeding at parks

With Aloha,



Office of Councilmember Kelly Takaya King

South Maui Residency
Office: 808.270.7108
200 South High Street, 8th Fl
Wailuku HI 96793
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From: Stephen Sussman <sasussman@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2020 12:34 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: please stop permitting feral cat feeding at parks

Dear Honorable Council Member:

I frequent Kanaha Beach Park, which has a large population of these cats and an active group of misguided feeders of them. Since they started feeding them, the population has greatly increased. The amount of cat feces on the grass has also increased. I and others step in the feces regularly.

About 2 weeks ago I walked through the park around 4 in the afternoon, and was astounded at how many cats were all over the park now that there are so few people there. There are well over a hundred of them. Feeding these animals in any park leads to an increase in the cat population in the park. If they weren't fed in the park, they would be forced to move out of the parks as they hunt for food.

These cats are a nuisance to the human users of the park. The park exists for we humans, not for the cats. They are possibly a hazard to the endangered monk seals.

I like cats, and have cared continuously for my own cats for decades. Every cat was adopted from an animal shelter or was a feral cat that just showed up and was friendly. We have also trapped cats in our yard. They climb up to our yard from adjacent gulch. We brought these cats in for spay/neuter, and then released them back into the gulch, which is miles from the ocean. I am in favor of spay/neuter/release programs. I am not in favor of all the cat feeding in public parks, especially ones near the ocean.

Sincerely,

Stephen Sussman, MD
Haiku, HI.