

# HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

## MINUTES

May 21, 2020

Online via BlueJeans Link

**CONVENE:** 1:34 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Riki Hokama, Chair  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember Tasha Kama  
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King  
Councilmember Michael J. Molina  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez (out 4:59 p.m.,  
in 5:25 p.m.)

**STAFF:** Lesley Milner, Legislative Analyst  
Rayna Yap, Committee Secretary

**ADMIN.:** Karla Peters, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation  
Todd Allen, Waiehu Golf Course Superintendent, Department of  
Parks and Recreation  
Chris Kinzle, Parks Maintenance Superintendent, Department of  
Parks and Recreation  
Michael Hopper, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the  
Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Anne Pitcaithley (HFC-24)  
Steve MacKinnon, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Humane  
Society (HFC-24)  
Bryan Berkowitz (HFC-24)  
Bryan Kortis (HFC-24)  
Arianna Feinberg (HFC-24)  
Martin Frye (HFC-24)  
Sarah Haynes (HFC-24)  
Michele Hondo (HFC-24)  
Vicki Stanton (HFC-24)  
Nikki Russell (HFC-24)  
Carolina Cabral (HFC-24)  
Hanna Mounce (HFC-24)  
Jenny Miller (HFC-24)  
Rebecca Sydney (HFC-24)  
Larry Feinberg (HFC-24)  
Kelly Medeiros (HFC-24)  
Catherine Cordeiro (HFC-24)  
Linda Banziger (HFC-24)  
Donya Izbicki (HFC-24)

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

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Kawika Davidson (HFC-24)  
Donna Sterling (HFC-24)  
Emily White (HFC-24)  
Nicole Ferguson (HFC-24)  
Kelly Maguire (HFC-24)  
Alena Ornellas (HFC-24)  
Erin Brothers (HFC-24)  
Emily Drose (HFC-24)

**PRESS:**   *Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

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CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Okay. We will come to order. This is the Council's Committee on Healthy Families and Committee *[sic]*. This is our regular meeting of May 21, 2020. It's about 1:34 p.m. And I'll have our Members state if they're present. Our Vice-Chairman is Ms. Sugimura. Okay. I saw Ms. Sugimura wave. We also have --

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Ms. Kama. Hi, good afternoon, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Kama. We have Ms. King joining us also this afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Good afternoon. How are you doing?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for joining us. Also, we have Mr. Molina.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good afternoon from Makawao, Mr. Chairman.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Mr. Molina. We also have Ms. Paltin from West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinala mai Napili.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha. And, of course, we have our colleague from Molokai, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinala, Chair, mai Molokai.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, aloha. And also, who may be joining us is our other two non-Members, Ms. Lee, and Mr. Sinenci. Before we start, Members, our public testimony, we will provide each individual three minutes to talk on an item and three minutes only. We would ask that they give us their name, please, if they represent an

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

organization. If in their official capacity they are a paid lobbyist or a spokesperson for a specific entity, we ask if they would share that information. The Chair will also announce that regarding the three items: the Coronavirus report, opportunity zones, as well as the feral animal management items, we'll have discussion, but we'll have no decision making on any item this afternoon. And we will not be focusing on any specific legislation. We are here to get the information, have a general discussion, and then move forward to something more specific in future meetings. But then again, yeah, this is to just have us start off the discussion regarding the three areas that we've posted for today's Committee hearing. If there are any questions, share with them now or we'll start with our public testimony. Okay. Seeing no requests for clarification, I would like to ask our Committee Staff, Lesley, if you would assist us please and have our first testifier share their information.

MS. MILNER: . . . *(Inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Hello? Can you hear us?

### **. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

MS. PITCAITHLEY: My name is . . . yes, I can hear you. Thank you, Council. Am I the first?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yes, yes. Why don't you share your comments with us, please?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Yes, thank you. My name is Anne Pitcaithley. I've been a Maui resident for the last 26 years. I'm strongly opposed to the bill on banning the feeding of feral cats. I help feed one of the cat colonies for the last . . . I've helped feed them for the last six months, in which the manager for that colony, she traps, spays, neuters, and returns them and feeds them and otherwise cares for them, looking after their health needs. Killing cats, the feral cats, via starvation it's not just cruel and inhumane, it's been shown to be ineffective. Sick and starving cats will resort to killing birds. It must also be considered that mongoose, they kill the birds, starving cats will cause them to migrate into communities seeking food, will also prevent the efforts of the trapping, spaying, and neutering. I believe that the Maui Humane Society has the most expertise on this issue, and they've had great success in offering free spaying and neutering. And I believe that tax money, our taxes, should best be spent supporting a compensation for people who trap, spay, and neuter. And I also support a more severe penalty to be imposed on those people who dump their pets, which is such an extreme, cruel, and heartless act. I just really want to praise the Maui Humane Society and all those dedicated volunteers that spend their own time and money in managing the cat colonies. And that's all I have to say.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Well, we thank you very much for you sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon. Members, any requirements for clarification on testimony provided, please? I see Ms. Paltin. Ms. Paltin, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, thank you, Chair. I'm sorry, I didn't catch your name.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. PITCAITHLEY: My name is Anne Pitcaithley.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Anne, I just wanted to clarify when you said that you bring in a cat for, cats for medical treatment, can you clarify, does that include like for toxoplasmosis, or like, what is this treatment that you're talking about?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Oh, if one of them are hurt, or injured, or have an eye infection or respiratory infection. I don't do that. I just help feed. But I know that they do that, yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who does it?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: No, they're, to my knowledge they haven't been tested for toxoplasmosis. And I actually don't believe that there's a scientific finding or evidence to support that cats transmit toxoplasmosis to monk seals. I haven't found one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And are you a scientist?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: No, I'm a healthcare professional.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paltin.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: But I'll leave that up to the experts who are testifying today.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Well, thank you very much for your comments this afternoon. Now, Les, our next . . .

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Our next testifier please, Les?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Steve MacKinnon, from the Maui Humane Society.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. MACKINNON: Good afternoon. I'm Steve MacKinnon, I'm the CEO for the, with the Maui Humane Society. And over the past several months I testified before your Committee on a number of occasions on the topic of feral cats. At the Chairman's request we provided data and studies about successful TNR programs that the County could model after. In that submission alone, we provided over 15 studies with over 80 references and citations of in-depth peer reviewed studies, government documents, and other support material outlining trap, neuter, and release programs, also known as TNR. And they are the only successful program in addressing the overpopulation issue. Here on Maui, after taking a deeper dive into our own data, we found our cat intake has actually decreased by 32 percent since we launched our own TNR program in 2015. Dr. Andrew Rowen, the former Chief Scientific Officer for the Humane

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

Society of the United States, in his written testimony to this Committee has stated that his belief that declining cat intake into Maui Humane Society is a valid indicator of a declining outdoor cat population. I'd also like to direct the Committee to the written testimonies of citizens who have been active in TNR on Maui for a number of years, Kristy Fallon began practicing TNR in 2008. Since then, she's worked in Lahaina on six colonies that in total started out with 340 cats. Today, there's only 75 remaining, a 75 percent decrease. Kelly Medeiros started doing TNR four years ago. Four colonies that started out with 220 cats are now down to 47, also a 78 percent decline. University of Hawaii in Maui has stated in the past they had over 200 cats on campus, implemented the TNR program and reduced that population now to about 30. Maui's blessed to have active, caring volunteers that these folks are, and that there's many, many similar cases that we could describe. Meanwhile, while we're being pressed to provide proof TNR works, those advocating for a feeding ban have failed to do the same. They have not named a single example of a similar sized community that passes a feeding ban or any other cat related law and saw lower cat numbers as a result. And speaking as a former Chief of Police with four different cities, I can assure you that compliance of such a ban is likely to be very low and enforcement impossible. At Councilmember Paltin's suggestion, I've already reached out to a small cross-section of groups concerned about this issue to begin a conversation. By no means am I suggesting we'll find a quick solution. But we recognize the importance of having an open dialogue involving all the viewpoints. If the Committee wishes to take action, there's many progressive steps the Council could take to reduce the island's free roaming cat population, including supporting our spay and neuter efforts, educating residents to keep pet cats confined, and establishing a campaign to decrease abandonment and more. Reactionary failed policies like feeding bans only impede progress. I urge you to reject the proposed bill and would work, hopefully you would work with us to implement humane effective approaches. Thank you very much for this afternoon to where I can give this testimony.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. MacKinnon, and gosh, you were perfect three minutes. You did it perfect.

MR. MACKINNON: I worked very hard on that, sir.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much. And again, yeah, with no objection, Members, we'll accept the written testimony from the Maui Humane Society. And, Steve, I'd like to also acknowledge that we did receive from the U.S. Humane Society from Ms. Danielle Bays, we also received written testimony from the United States Humane Society as well on this subject. So, I just wanted to share that with you that we did receive it from the main --

MR. MACKINNON: Very good.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --office of your association.

MR. MACKINNON: Okay.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, thank you very much for that.

MR. MACKINNON: Thank you. We appreciate the review.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, I'll ask the Members for any clarification. But I will just, I'd like to ask you one question at this time. Steve, you have any other comments you can, you'd like to share with us regarding other types of feral animals and management in this County besides cats? You have any other comments you would like to share with us this afternoon?

MR. MACKINNON: Other than, Mr. Chair, I think we've worked with some of the other Councilmembers on the Committee where we've had discussions with other groups that have been concerned about the pigs, the deer, and the chickens. And we're prepared to work with any group as far as coming up with a humane solution for each of those areas.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Great, yeah, thank you. And, you know, I think you're right. I don't think there is one specific silver bullet, Steve. I think we're going to need to look at a variety of approaches and solutions that fit our County's unique region. So, yeah, we'll be looking forward to your participation because we're trying to find as many ways to address it instead of just one way that might not fit everyone's satisfaction. So, we appreciate your participation. Members, any need for clarification, please? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. MacKinnon, for reaching out, for open dialogue. The one clarification I had was when you said about more aggressively addressing, you probably didn't say pet dumping, but you know what I mean, would the Humane Society have the capacity to, if we aggressively talk about it, to accept the animals that people are dumping?

MR. MACKINNON: Well, we certainly would love to work with the County as far as a program for education for the community and the dumping and to let people know that we have an open admissions policy, meaning that if you have a cat you're no longer able to keep, they can bring to us. So, yes, and we have the capacity to accept those animals. The last thing we would want to see them is to abandon them out in the field which just adds to the problem we're talking about today.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, thank you so much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Any other Member would like a clarification from Mr. MacKinnon? Okay. Seeing none, Steve, thank you very much and again . . .

MR. MACKINNON: Councilmember Sugimura is raising her hand.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Mister . . . Chair Hokama? Yeah, hi.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, I'm sorry. Ms. Sugimura?

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so, thank you, Mr. MacKinnon, for being here. And I look forward to learning more about . . . my interest is complaints that I got regarding feral chickens. And I look forward to talking to you later at another time maybe about that and seeing how we can help with that growing problem. You did meet with my office regarding the feral axis deer and pig problem that is growing in Upcountry. So, my office is working on something, but I look forward to kind of digging through that and working with you on that, on those three items. So, thank you.

MR. MACKINNON: Absolutely, we look forward to it as well to work with you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you for bringing that, those components up. It's all part of the overall discussion. So, thank you. Any other clarification, Members? If not, can we go to the next testifier please, Lesley? Thank you. Thank you, Steve.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Bryan Berkowitz, to be followed by Bryan Kortis.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. BERKOWITZ: Hi, this is Bryan Berkowitz. Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can, Bryan.

MR. BERKOWITZ: Hi, thank you. Aloha, my name is Bryan Berkowitz. I'm with Na Koa Manu Conservation. Thank you for allowing us to testify. Again, I'm testifying in favor of the feeding ban and any discussion that will result in fewer feral cats on the island of Maui. A lot of the information put out by Maui Humane Society and Bryan Kortis in their videos is often factually incorrect and strongly minimizes the impacts of feral cats on the landscape, downplays monk seal deaths, bird kills, and toxoplasmosis in humans. I encourage you to pay attention to actual scientific data from the State of Hawaii DLNR, American Bird Conservancy, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, and Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project. Intake at the Humane Society is decreasing because people aren't bringing in the cats anymore because they're not accepting them. So, of course, the number's going to be decreasing. And unfortunately, probably results in people dumping them which is not good. There's already an ordinance in place, 13.04A.070 prohibiting the management of cat colonies in County spaces. And that's simply not being enforced. I believe the Code says there's supposed to be a permit, and to my knowledge, nobody has any permits. So, anyone feeding any feral animals in parks like Kanaha they're already violating the law, and we need to enforce this. Cat people claim to not want to hurt any living creature. Meanwhile, they're feeding them bags of cat food which is made of dead animals. That's all I have. Thank you very much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Bryan, for your testimony this afternoon. Members, any need for clarification? Having none . . . yes, Ms. Paltin?

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat that Code that you mentioned? Was it 13.040.07A?

MR. BERKOWITZ: Yeah, I can, I'll read it straight from the Code. It's very simple. It's in the section called General Prohibitions applicable to all Parks and Recreation Facilities. A6, establish feral animal colonies. B15 manage . . . these are prohibited activities, so, it's prohibited to establish feral animal colonies, it's prohibited to B15 manage feral animal colonies, any colony management authorized by a permit, license, lease, or contract issued in accordance with this Code must be designed to reduce and eliminate the colony. And then, D8, new feral animal colonies shall not be established, only existing colonies may be maintained as authorized as per 13.04A.070(B)(15).

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And your main concerns with the cat colonies are bird kills, monk seal disease, and toxoplasmosis? Are those your top concerns?

MR. BERKOWITZ: Correct, and yeah, I mean, these are invasive species that are being fed and treated very differently than any other invasive species that we have. So, I don't know why cats get a pass.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. And have you reached out to the Humane Society to address this issue on a more comprehensive way than the TNR program?

MR. BERKOWITZ: I was present in one meeting with the County Environmental Coordinator and some reps from Maui Humane Society and conservation folks. There was dialogue going back and forth. And I'm not sure if there was a follow-up. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Bryan. Any other question for the gentleman for clarification? Okay. Having none, Bryan, thank you very much for sharing your comments with us this afternoon. Les, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Bryan Kortis, to be followed by Arianna Feinberg.

MR. KORTIS: Yeah, okay, thank you. Good afternoon, Councilmembers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Good afternoon.

MR. KORTIS: Good afternoon, Mr. Hokama. Just real quickly, there are no permits in the Parks because the Parks Department has failed to set up a permitting system. I was on a committee that tried to do that, but the Parks Department dropped it. It's also not true that the Maui Humane Society is not taking in cats. They have an open admission policy. But what I would like to focus on this afternoon, I am representing Neighborhood Cats and the Humane Society of the United States. I'd like to speak on what has become an important issue in the Committee's deliberations, which is how best to, and how best to manage the County's feral cat population, and that is what is a realistic estimate of how many cats are on the island. According to the



**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

conservationists, there are hundreds of thousands, and they argue that because there are so many, a spay neuter program can only reach a small percentage and is therefore ineffective. So, Dr. Fern Duvall of the Department of Land and Natural Resources testified to this Committee on March 10 that there are 300 to 400,000 cats on Maui. To arrive at this estimate, according to his testimony, you can look at it at Page 43, he took a count of cats that had been performed in a two-and-a-half acre section of downtown Kahului and multiplied those numbers by the acreage of the entire island. We know from decades of research by conservationists that feral cat density, which is the number of cats in say a square mile, varies greatly according to the landscape. So, it's well established that cat density is highest in urban areas and far lower in natural settings. Downtown Kahului has a relatively high density of cats, and it defies both conservation research and common sense to assume as Dr. Duvall did that the same density exists in the West Maui Mountains or the slopes of Haleakala, or in the middle of the cane fields. It would be as though you were trying to estimate the number of cars on Maui and the way you went about it was by counting the cars in a parking lot in downtown Wailuku, and then multiplying that number by the total acreage of the island. Obviously, you would end up with a grossly exaggerated figure. But that's exactly what Dr. Duvall has done with the cats. The other conservationists you're hearing from, they're just parroting Dr. Duvall and it's the old truism that if you say something often enough, people will believe it's true. Dr. Andrew Rowen, the former Chief Scientific Officer of the Humane Society of the United States who has done a fair amount of work with outdoor cats on Maui, he has submitted written testimony to this Committee estimating there are 30 to 50,000 outdoor cats on Maui. I have also submitted detailed testimony using published conservation research to estimate between 33 to 62,000. If you have any questions about this, I'm happy to discuss further. Finally, I believe anyone's use of highly flawed data like this on such an important point raises questions about their credibility on all aspects of this feral cat issue. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Kortis. We appreciate your comments this afternoon. Members, you have any questions for clarification purposes from Mr. Kortis? Seeing none, Mr. Kortis, we appreciate your comments and we look forward to you continuing to participate with us. Thank you very much.

MR. KORTIS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Les, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Arianna Feinberg, to be followed by Martin Frye.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. FEINBERG: Hi, my name is Arianna Feinberg. I'm a born and raised Maui resident and I live Upcountry. I'm not representing anyone but myself. I'm just a active volunteer in the conservation community. I would like to; I'm testifying specifically about the feral cat issue. I think that we should be treating feral cats like they're harmful invasive species that they are. They actively are killing many endangered birds and

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

are harmful to our endangered monk seals. In trying to, in response to our testimony that we sent in, Councilmember Paltin kind of requested that we maybe try to reach across and try to understand or work together with, within the cat feeding community. I went through the Humane Society's videos and was kind of looking through to try to understand. I was very struck, Bryan Kortis, the previous testifier, he made a video on May 8 where he basically broke down everything that the conservation community would be saying with his own kind of rebuttal and for his, you know, community be sharing. I thought that it was interesting that he was talking about why a sanctuary on Maui would not work in comparison to why a sanctuary on Lanai works, and he said that it costs \$1,000 per cat and that if we have 40,000 cats, which is their estimate, which I would say is still so many cats. Forty thousand cats is a lot. Anyways, that's a different issue. But he, that that would cost \$40 million which isn't feasible. But also, in that same conversation, a direct quote from him is that while you are catching cats here on the islands, the ones you haven't caught would still be reproducing and it would be very difficult to get ahead of the curve and actually lower the population. This is our entire point about TNR. There are many studies that show, and in my written testimony I sent you a study specifically from the University of Florida that said that you need at least 70 percent TNR rate in order to get ahead of this population curve. So, if he's saying the same thing for a sanctuary, it's the same philosophy that applies for all of TNR. So, I just encourage you guys to find solutions that are a lot more efficient to remove these cats from our landscape at a rate of much, of higher than at least 71 percent. And even if, you know, I don't know how many cats there are, it seems like this data is outdated, it would be nice to know. But even at the low estimate of 40,000, they're, when they're talking about these colonies, it's just a couple hundred cats. In comparison to 40,000 that, like we're hardly making a dent. So, anyways, thank you guys for bringing up this issue and taking it seriously. Have a great day.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Feinberg. We appreciate your comments this afternoon. Members, any clarification requests on her testimony? Thank you very much for joining us this afternoon, Ms. Feinberg. Next please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Martin Frye, to be followed by Sarah Haynes.

MR. FRYE: Aloha, Council. My name is Martin Frye, and can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can, Mr. Frye.

MR. FRYE: Okay. Thank you very much. I work for the Maui Nui Sea Bird Recovery Project and I want to especially thank the Council for keeping this item on the agenda. And I would also like to request continued efforts to move forward with the previously proposed policies that were prior to this issue of the feeding of feral animals ban which we're now discussing, that were proposed surrounding the issues of licensing and registering all owned cats on the island which is something that could bring the level of cat ownership commensurate with that of dogs which is to say, I'd like to suggest that we move forward with treating cats like dogs in the ways that they're regulated here on the island. Other areas of importance could include gathering geospatial data

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

about cat colonies, understanding more about the health and the conditions of the cats living in those colonies, as well as verification of the identity of individual cats involved with TNR practices and the approaches that we might consider to continuing with discussions about permitting processes for such colonies. Of course, giving a permit to approve a community cat colony would then imply that if any animal from that colony were found to have harmed an endangered species, then the owner of that animal would become reasonably liable of violating the Endangered Species Act. So, it makes sense in that way that community cat caregivers have gone right up to, but just short of, accepting the full responsibility for the ecological impact of their practices. That is to say, not just giving the cats food, but also taking into consideration the feces of the cat, its veterinary record, and of course, impacts on the environment. So, one thing I've recently witnessed is feral chickens and other pest species feeding from the food that's left at outdoor cat colonies. This is just one example of one of the unintended consequences of that practice that has environmental impacts that go beyond the current scope of regulation. So, yeah, my group will continue to seek areas of compromise with other groups that prioritize environmental and human health in the search for solutions to the overall problem of overpopulation of feral animals. And I have reached out already to some of those groups and will continue to do so. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Frye . . . *(inaudible)*. . . this afternoon. Members, you have any questions for the gentleman? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. . . . *(inaudible)*. . . I really liked your testimony. I was wondering if you could clarify the geospatial data and how that, I really don't know anything about what you said, but it kinda sounded good.

MR. FRYE: Yeah, sorry if that was a little quick. So, what I'm referring to is, I saw an article in *The Maui News* from 2015 where Mayor Alan Arakawa was quoted saying that there were as many as 300 plus unofficial cat colonies on Maui. And he said that that . . . the interview's available online, but he said in . . . that the Feline Foundation of Maui was in charge of that record, and that group is now defunct. And so, that is Maui Humane Society's kuleana right now to . . . they have a Community Cat Coordinator and a program to sort of promote best practices and coordinate the efforts of the caregivers. But the reference that I made to collecting data about that being geospatial data, the reason that's important is because with the geographic information that's assigned to each of those colonies, we would have a lot better understanding of, you know, where they are and where there are potential impacts that would really harm native species above and beyond just cats on an urban landscape, so to speak. But also, those cats that are being cared for in near urban environments such as sensitive areas like wetlands and the coastlines that do border the communities where people live. One thing that hasn't been brought up lately in the discussion is that many cats are being unofficially cared for at resorts and hotels along, right along the coastline. And so, those typically aren't people who are speaking as homeowners. But they are members of our community who are doing that.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I was wondering if you had an idea of how to get geospatial data or if you were just reading off of *The Maui News*. That was my main question, I guess.

MR. FRYE: Yeah, you can take a GPS point, you know, with any phone or device that's enabled for that. So, that's the type of data that I would guess Maui Humane Society would be the closest to being able to obtain. That is to say they're working closely with community cat caregivers. So, the type of geospatial data that I'm talking about would be essentially the location of those colonies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

MR. FRYE: It would help us also count them and know are there over 300 as was suggested by Mayor Arakawa, have they gone down, and, you know, are they near very sensitive areas.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I understand.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay, . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Paltin. Thank you, Mr. Frye. Any other questions for clarification? Okay. Having none, Mr. Frye, we thank you for sharing your comments with us this afternoon.

MR. FRYE: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Les?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Sarah Haynes, to be followed by Michele Hondo.

MS. HAYNES: Hi there, I'm Sarah. Thanks for giving me a chance to speak. I just wanted to touch on something the last person said regarding the hotels, I think that's a really good topic because I think you probably know that a lot of these hotels instilled feeding bans and it didn't work, you know. Their staff still fed 'em, or they ended up getting more and more cats. It caused a vacuum and they found that it was better just to stick with who they have, get them spayed and neutered, and let the population dwindle over time.

MS. MILNER: Sarah, we can see you talking but we can't hear you.

MS. HAYNES: Oh, I'm sorry. Hold on.

MS. MILNER: Okay. We can hear you now.

MS. HAYNES: Well, that's . . .

MS. MILNER: I don't know what happened.

MS. HAYNES: Oh, okay, that's weird. It was on the whole time.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I was able to hear you.

MS. HAYNES: Okay. I'll make it quick. Oh, okay. I'll just repeat it really quick. I just wanted to mention since we were, since the last person spoke about hotels and I know this has happened in many places besides Maui as well, hotels have done feeding bans. And maybe you should reach out to some of those hotels. I think that would be really helpful to reach out to some of these hotels and find out about these feeding bans they did 'cause they didn't work. And most of the hotels have turned around and gone with management. It creates a vacuum, other cats come in, there's problems with super hungry cats running around versus waiting until night and coming out for their food. So, maybe that would be a good move to call some of these hotels that used to have feeding bans that stopped. You might get some good information there. That said, I know there's a lot of people that are going to say the same thing over. So, I'm just going to try to focus on some solutions. You know, I've never seen in, as a feeder I've never seen anybody enforcing the dumping of cats. I try to do it as much as I can. I bring a microchip scanner out; I've brought many cats back the Humane Society that I find that are obviously so terrified. If we can't enforce animal abandonment, which is a huge problem, how on earth are we going to enforce feeding? It's not just the feeders that feed, the official colony takers that feed these cats. It's also tourists and people like that, and right now we have to sort of do it undercover. And if we could have signage saying hey, these cats are managed, they've been fixed. If you see a problem, call this number. I think that that would be a more effective way to handle it and I think it's really going to affect tourism as well. Some other solutions, so, I'd like to see enforcing of dumping pets, I would love to see a spay and neuter . . . for all animals on the island honestly. I think that would be super helpful, dogs, cats, everything. I wish to see more money towards spay and neuter. Most people are doing this out of the goodness of their own heart and they're trying to help the conservationists too. I mean, a lot of people love birds as much as they love cats, I do. And I am, you know, actively spaying and neutering to try and solve the problem. I'd like to see y'all work a little bit more with the Humane Society and their efforts at TNR and the expenses around that. I'd love to see a sanctuary for the particular areas where bird breeding is active and where you're having trouble. I certainly understand that you would want to move those cats and I would like to help in that manner. And lastly, my understanding is that there's some pretty good predator fencing programs going on, on other islands and I'd like to see some of that. So, I think starving them just doesn't really give a solution. Now you've got cats running around desperate and moving into other areas, and the feeders are going to stop trapping because they're not going to want to bring 'em back to that scenario. I just think it's going to become a real mess. And I'd love to see fewer cats on the island, and I'm game with working with anybody to help do that. Thanks.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Sarah. We appreciate your testimony and your, we appreciate you sharing some of your ideas regarding solutions which we appreciate. So, Members, any questions for clarification with Ms. Haynes? Seeing none, Ms. Haynes, again, we thank you very much for your participation this afternoon.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, I had a question about the microchipping.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, okay, Ms. Paltin?

MS. HAYNES: Yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Proceed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Does the microchip have information of where the cats go? Or it's only to identify like who the owner of the cat was?

MS. HAYNES: It only identifies the owner. It's sort of like a barcode at the grocery store for a price tag. It's not going to tell you the route. Unfortunately, it's not like a GPS chip. But it does, you know, the Humane Society's got great information. So, when I bring a cat, when I scan them, I can get an answer . . . *(inaudible)*. . . searching for it, or you know, that they think their neighbor dumped it. Thank God, you know, I've returned some to some really devastated families. I had one cat, the cat had been missing for three years and a neighbor had trapped and dumped it. And I found it and I could tell this cat was social, it was in the bushes crying. They call attention to themselves if they're not indeed feral and they're scared. And you know, made a family very happy to return their cat to them after somebody had trapped 'em. So, it's, you know, there's a lot of pets that end up in this cycle also.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was also wondering, you know, when you were talking about the hotels. On the West Side, to do anything to bring it central is kind of cumbersome. Do you know of any of the spay programs where they come out to West Maui and do like a mass spaying? Like my neighborhood has choke at-large cats and, you know, I wouldn't mind spaying them. But like to grab a cat and to get all the way Central is kind of cumbersome. Do you know of any folks that come to the West Side and do spaying?

MS. HAYNES: I do, I do. I've only been on the island two years. But I do know some people. There's a woman named Linda Banziger. She's one of the top trappers. I know she's trapped 450 cats this year. You guys might reach out to her. She goes into the most remote areas. And in fact, you know, she was telling me that she went to Hana about six months ago and she said, wow, the numbers have dwindled. I usually leave with 50, 60 cats. I left with . . . *(inaudible)*. . . So, she might be a good person to reach out to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . probably am not going to give you the, enough statistics.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. HAYNES: You're welcome.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Haynes. We appreciate it. Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Haynes? Thank you, Ms. Haynes. We appreciate your sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. HAYNES: Thanks a lot, you guys.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay. Members, we're going to have our next testifier and please keep the questions to clarification of testimony presented, yeah. We got a long list of people wishing to share comments this afternoon. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Michele Hondo, to be followed by Vicki.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. HONDO: Aloha, Members. Can you hear me? Hello?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Michele, yes, we can hear you.

MS. HONDO: Thank you --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. HONDO: --good. Hi, my name is Michele Hondo. I am a resident of Wailuku and a lifelong resident of Maui. I am testifying today to voice my strong opposition to the bill to ban the feeding of feral animals. I believe this bill is not an effective solution to solving the overabundance of feral cats. Studies have shown that the most effective means of controlling the feral cat population is through trapping and spaying and neutering. The Maui Humane Society does have a program already in place, and it has proven effective. In addition, I feel it is inhumane to essentially starve these animals and criminalize those caring, compassionate people that care for them. I thank you for your time and attention.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Ms. Hondo, for your testimony this afternoon. Members, any questions for our guests on her testimony? Ms. Hondo, thank you, that was very straightforward and precise. We appreciate your comments this afternoon with the Committee.

MS. HONDO: Thank you, Chair Hokama.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Les, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Vicki, to be followed by Nikki Russell.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. STANTON: Aloha, Riki, and Members.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, Vicki.

MS. STANTON: My name is Vicki Stanton, hi, and I represent the small cat community in Honokowai, and I just, I'll be honest, I'm, I just want to say that there's a stigma about

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

cats in Hawaii, and I believe it has to stop. There's . . . I just want to tell you, there's these so-called environmentalists, or I don't . . . people calling in and they're trying to confuse you about this issue by bringing up toxoplasmosis and oh, the birds, they care about the bird community. They're just trying to throw curve balls at you to get you from finding any empathy towards these cats. So, you don't have to be a cat person or an animal person to know that this ban would be wrong. We all feel hunger the same, right? So, how could you not empathize with that? We may look different, but our capacity to suffer is the same. There was a Council representative that asked me last time on May 8<sup>th</sup> if I would still feed the cats even if the ban went through, and I kind of sat there and I didn't know what to say. But I wanted to just follow-up and just let her know that at first, I thought in my mind like oh, well, you know, you know, how would you feel? But I wanted to just ask her, you know, if your friends, if your dear friend was crying outside and outside your door and you . . . 'cause they're hungry, and you didn't feed them, like would you still just ignore them? And don't worry, you don't have to answer. So, I just wanted to, just, to just put that out there. There's a lot of different invasive species that have been brought to this island. How do you think the cats got here, right? They came here on ships with humans. There's also overpopulation of humans right now, there's cars, there's buildings. These things weren't here right? But they get a pass, you know, 'cause . . . yeah. But anyway, I just want us to look at the direct victims. And the toxoplasmosis is not an imminent threat. These people calling in trying to . . . *(inaudible)* . . . trust me, confuse you about the issue is they're acting like it's, oh it's imminent and it's not. The tourists love the cats. If you have ever spent any quality time on the West Side of Maui where the boardwalk is, you would see so many people smile when they pass by. It's just a . . . they love it. So, anyway, yeah, as you can tell, I have a lot of random thoughts and I'm a big animal lover. I just want to say, I think maybe one more random thing 'cause I'm not sure how much time I have left. But I feel like . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, you need to wrap up, Vicki.

MS. STANTON: Yeah, one last thing, I feel like if we're, if anything, the people that are opposing this ban are downplaying the birds. The ones that are for these bans are downplaying the cats. And if you're saying the cats are eating food that is made of animals, then I'd want to, you know, cats are obligate omnivores. Omnivores, they need meat. And if you're going to say that, are you a vegan? And if you're a vegan, then you wouldn't be opposing this bill. So, I just wanted to, you know, leave those thoughts with you. And I appreciate you listening. I appreciate it very much. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon, Vicki. We would ask, again, I missed your last name so if you could please repeat your last name for the record please, Vicki, we would appreciate that.

MS. STANTON: Oh, Stanton, S-T-A-N-T-O-N.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We thank you very much, Ms. Stanton, for your --

MS. STANTON: Oh, thank you.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: --comments this afternoon. Members, any questions for clarification on Ms. Stanton's testimony? Okay. Having none, again, Ms. Stanton, thank you for sharing your thoughts with us.

MS. STANTON: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Nikki Russell, to be followed by Carolina Cabral.

MS. RUSSELL: Aloha. My name is Nikki Russell. Are you able to hear me, Councilmembers?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we are.

MS. RUSSELL: Wonderful.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you. First, I wanted to say that we do, Maui Humane Society does provide spay neuter services for animals on the West Side. We actually have volunteers who would be willing to come out and help with that if we're able to get the community to help us with that. Once again, trap, neuter, release, spay neuter is something that the community needs to do as a whole. We can't depend on one person. We can't depend on one company to do these things. It definitely needs to be a community effort. For those people who are concerned about the birds, about the monk seals, I encourage them to please help us track the un-spayed, un-neutered animals in our community so that we can figure out how to help with that. It's important to know that when we do microchip animals, that if you are at a veterinarian's office, if you're at the Maui Humane Society, that when you scan that microchip, it actually does bring it back to the name. But then, associated with the name is actually the area where the animal would have come from. So, that is, that information is available. There was also an implication earlier on, that Maui Humane Society was only doing about 200 spay neuters. Just so you know, they do about 3,500 a year, about 12,000 in 4 years. And then, as far as whether or not trap, neuter, release works, there are studies, and I'm . . . that's in my testimony that I sent in. There are studies that do show that spay neuter works. It's a matter of, you know, animals that live out in the wild. Their lifespan is not as long anyway. But then, also, doing a spay neuter helps that they don't procreate, and it just means that the numbers are going to decrease. I mean, there are . . . if you listen to the testimonies or read the testimonies, I've read some of the letters that have been sent in and it's quite amazing to see people who are testifying to their own successes across the island for doing spay neuter at the hotels or in their community just privately in their neighborhood. And let's see here, it's looking . . . and I misspoke, it is not 3,500 spay and neuter per year, it's 7,500 per year. So, I apologize as far as what Maui Humane Society is doing. So, I just, I'm sorry, I got a little derailed. But the . . . we're

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

definitely . . . I would like to encourage, again, our community to step up, step forward, and help with the spay neuter effort. Starvation is not something that's going to help control the population but making sure that they don't procreate will definitely assist in that, so.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Are you done, Ms. Russell?

MS. RUSSELL: Yes, I am.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, thank you very much, first, for sharing your testimony with us this afternoon. And I'll ask the Members if they have any questions for clarification on your comments. Members? Okay. Seeing none, Ms. Russell, we thank you once more for sharing with us your thoughts.

MS. RUSSELL: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, our next . . . thank you for participating.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Carolina Cabral, to be followed by Hanna Mounce.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. CABRAL: Hi, my . . . everybody can hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. Cabral.

MS. CABRAL: Oh, okay. Well, my name is Carolina Cabral. I volunteer to feed the cats in my neighborhood. And I believe that is very cruel to stop feeding there. I think for the birds, there is a bigger threat than cats that they can . . . threat them. I have two years living here in Maui. I moved from San Diego. Over there, there is also programs TNR and it works very well. Originally, from the country I moved it was a lot like in my neighborhood where I grew up. It was a lot of, lot of cats like, you know, just like having it more and more cats. My mom actually, she started doing that, something like that, like the TNR. And right now, that neighborhood, she's still living there, there is like less cats. So, what the Humane Society's doing here is amazing because it's not just one person doing it, it's like in the whole island. And they have the numbers that they . . . you can . . . they can tell you how much have decreased the numbers. Another thing, these cats, you can tell that they are, they belong to someone because when you're feeding them, they go to you. If you put a towel there, they'd rather sit with you on the towel than be on the rocks or something. They are very, like they . . . you can tell that they need love, like somebody just dumped them. I think the problem here is not the cats, it's more the people who is being . . . just dumping them like they are trash. I think we should focus more and educate the people that is doing that, then just on the cats. The cats, if they are neutered or spay, they are not going to have more, and at some point, it's going to be less. But if people continue doing and doing like dumping them, so, the problem is going to still there. So, I think the solution is like focus on the people, like what we can do so the people stop doing

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

that. So, educating the people I think is to start, and then, do something so everybody commit to a spay and neuter their pets, not just cats or dogs. So, I think that's the best way to stop that. So, and I think that's it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony, Ms. Cabral. Members, any questions for our lady on her testimony presented? Okay. Seeing none, thank you very much, Ms. Cabral.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Hanna Mounce, to be followed by Laurie Pottish.

MS. MOUNCE: Good afternoon, Chair, Councilmembers. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi. Yes, Ms. Mounce.

MS. MOUNCE: Okay. Thanks. So, my name is Dr. Hanna Mounce. I'm representing Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project. I've testified about feral animal issues in the past. I get really emotional about it. So, I'm just going to apologize for that, which is often why I don't testify. But the Committee has been presented with scientific research over and over, you know, stating the impact that these animals have in our community and that we need a diversity of control methods to be able to tackle this. And, you know, I hear people saying a feeding ban isn't the only solution and no one ever said that a feeding ban was the solution. We know that feeding wild animals increases fecundity. If we are constantly battling an increasing population, how are we ever going to get a head of this? It is like such a simple first step to take to just stop the increases, and then, we can work on other solutions together. I, our organization fully supports the step in banning the feeding. But we also want to see it enforced with licensing and responsible pet ownership. When I think about this issue, what just baffles me so much is, you know, these ideas of these wild animals starving. And it's like, okay, if these are wild animals, they should not be being fed by people. And if they are not wild animals, well then, they should be owned and they should be taken care of, and they should be fed and treated as pets. You know, I don't understand how our community can overlook the risks to our children, our health, our ability to enjoy parks, our ability to grow food in our property, you know, the unfathomable detrimental effects it's having on wildlife. Either the last testifier or the one before said that the, you know, these . . . the loss of native species is not eminent. Well, I'm sorry, I disagree. Extinction here is eminent. The species that I work on, there are between 80 to 150 left on the planet. And I pick up dead birds killed by feral cats. I feel like as a Maui community that is completely unacceptable that we let that continue. And this idea that it's inhumane to not feed animals, but it is completely acceptable to allow sea birds to be ripped apart and eaten alive, to allow our native species to disappear, to allow pregnant monk seals to die on the beach. I don't understand how any of that is not inhumane. You know, goat breeders Upcountry watch late-term miscarriages from their animals 'cause people are managing cat colonies next door to them, and I'm, I . . . it just mind boggles me that the only inhumane action that people care about is the one they see in front of them and they don't care about the inhumane effects that are happening because it's out of sight. We're happy to help. I've sat in meetings with Maui Humane Society. I would really like to see this idea of this open

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

admission policy clarified. I myself had a feral cat a few months ago. My son who is six has banded sea birds with me for the last three years and he likes to explain to people how horrible it is when he's picking up these sea birds that have been ripped apart by mammals. And we ended up with this feral kitten. I took it to Maui Humane Society. I went through the process and I was presented with a piece of paper that I had to sign saying I would bring that animal back to my property and release it or they wouldn't take it. I just, I don't understand how that's an open admission policy. I also don't understand how intake when you're not accepting cats can be any kind of indicator of decline. TNR, we have all kinds of data. Yes, TNR works if you catch more than 74 percent of the animals. If you catch 29,000 cats a year and neuter them, fantastic. But if you're not, it's not working.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Ms. Mounce, you need to conclude in a sentence please.

MS. MOUNCE: Yeah, I'm great. Thank you, guys, for addressing this and I hope we can take the first step in a multitude of steps that is going to be necessary to address this issue.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with us. I see Ms. Paltin has a question for clarification. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Dr. Mounce. I have two clarification questions. The first one, do you know what the date, like roughly the year was that you tried to open admit the kitten?

MS. MOUNCE: It would've been in 2019. But late 2019, I could actually find it from the photos on my phone with my kids with the kitten. But it is the, what I was presented with, the information I was presented with when I took the kitten there was paralleled the information that is online and also the information that I was given in our meeting with Maui Humane Society by the folks working on feral cats on that they are not euthanizing or accepting cats that are not re-releasable, or sorry, adoptable. So, that's what they told me. Unless we know this animal is adoptable, we're not taking it from you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, my second clarification question was, you know, when you're talking about the endangered sea birds that are ripped apart, do you have a list of geographic areas that are say, more sensitive than others?

MS. MOUNCE: We do. We can map that out. And I mean, I appreciate that, you know, I visited all the predator proof enclosures, the previous testifier said hey, we could put up predator proof fences around these highly sensitive areas. Yes, that is a solution. But why do our native species then just get this postage stamp of our island to inhabit, and the cats get all of the rest. I just feel like as citizens of Hawaii, we should give some respect to the native species over the invasive mammals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Any other question, Members, for Dr. Mounce? Okay. Having none, thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon. Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Laurie Pottish, to be followed by an individual logged in as Maui Humane Society.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Can you repeat it please, Les?

MS. MILNER: It appears that Laurie Pottish has fallen off. We will keep an eye to scout to see if she reconnects. But we will move ahead --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: --to Maui Humane Society, to be followed by Rebecca Sydney.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Do we have someone from Maui Humane Society --

MS. MILLER: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --that would like to make comments?

MS. MILLER: Hi there, good afternoon.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. MILLER: How are you guys? We knew that this was going to be a long day for you and thanks for all getting online and having an open discussion about this. I wanted to let you know, of course, as you know, we're definitely in opposition of this bill. But I really wanted to give some kudos to you because it really seems like you're starting to understand that there are multiple issues at play and that one solution isn't necessarily the only practical way of solving the problem of having too many cats on the island. Again, Maui Humane Society, we don't feel that cats have a right and birds don't have a right. We love all animals and we want to make sure that all animals are treated in a humane fashion. We definitely want . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Oh, what happened? Okay. We lost your sound, your audio.

MS. MILNER: You're still unmuted, but for some reason we're not hearing you on our end.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Do we need a recess, or how shall we do this?

MS. MILNER: We can either recess or we can go to the next testifier and try again after that.

MS. MILLER: Can you guys hear me?

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. MILNER: Oh, she's back.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, yes, we can. Why don't you finish your . . .

MS. MILLER: I'm sorry. I'm sorry about that.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no need apologies.

MS. MILLER: But I just wanted to reiterate one of the, one of the statistics that Steve MacKinnon, our CEO had mentioned and that is that when we started trap, neuter, and release in 2015, since then, over the next 5 years we had a 600 percent increase in the number of surgeries that we did. And this was really an enormous number that we took on by bringing in people from the Mainland who came and they kind of did a working vacation. They bring their whole vet staff and their team, and we would just bang out hundreds of cats in a week or in a weekend. And so, as we did those surgeries over the last five years, we've noticed that our cat intake, the number of cats that come in has dropped by over one-third. And we have done 82 percent less cat euthanasia. So, for us, from a humane perspective, we are seeing those results. We really are seeing the decreases in cats that are coming in. And if we can continue to focus on getting more grants from our granters like PetSmart and Petco, and the County, we'll be able to increase these numbers even more. And we just want to say absolutely, let's do it in combination with predator-proof fencing. Let's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the birds as much as we can. But we just gotta say we really got these stats here that are showing it's working, and we would love to have your support.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. And thank you for sharing your comments. If you don't mind . . .*(inaudible)*. . . please that's speaking for the Humane Society. Can we have your name please?

MS. MILLER: Yes, my name is Jenny Miller.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Miller. We are aware and know Mr. MacKinnon . . .*(inaudible)*. . . your name with us. Members, any questions for the testifier? Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, thank you, Ms. Miller. I was wondering if you could clarify for us what you mean by intake?

MS. MILLER: That is the number of cats that the public brings to the Maui Humane Society.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it doesn't mean that you accept them, it just means that people bring them?

MS. MILLER: Our intake number is based on the number of cats that come in and are intaked into the shelter and admitted into the shelter, that do come into the shelter. If we are looking at saying oh, well what about a feral cat that we put back into the

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

community after we spay and neuter, that cat is still going through the intake process because we bring it in, we spay and neuter it, and microchip it so that that's all encompassing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, so, do you also keep a tally of cats that are turned away?

MS. MILLER: We don't turn away cats. The only time that we would turn away a cat is if somebody brought it in a trap and it was already spayed and neutered. We're bringing the cats in so that we can spay and neuter them basically. So, we would never turn a cat away unless it was already spayed and neutered, and it just needed to be returned . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, whatever the case that the cat is turned away, do you keep a number, a tally of that in that as well? Or do you count . . . *(inaudible)* . . . --

MS. MILLER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --seems like it wouldn't be counted as an intake. What is that number called?

MS. MILLER: When it's . . . well, it's either, if it's a cat in a trap it's a TNR, that's a trap, neuter, release cat. We also have issues, or times where people bring in cats that they don't want, and they say I'm not going to return that cat. We do intake on those as well. We assess all of the cats that come in to see if they are, if an adoption is feasible based on their behavior. If they're a fractious cat, which means that they're feral and that they're untouchable, there really are cats that cannot be touched, we'll do the spay and neuter surgery and then we'll return them to the community. But we would never turn away somebody that had an intact cat and needed surgery. We actually provide that service for free for community feral cats, and it's a \$10 charge if it's an owned cat. So, we do not just simply turn away cats.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what happens if the cat isn't of age to be spayed or neutered?

MS. MILLER: Well, they do have to be two months or two pounds. So, we would ask that individual, especially at this time with COVID, or depending on our population, how many cats we would have at the time, we would ask them to continue to look after that cat until it made the weight of two pounds or two months.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that cat, how is that cat counted as you didn't spay or neuter it, you're not taking it in, is there a count of those cats?

MS. MILLER: No, that doesn't happen very often because people bring them back to get spayed and neutered once they meet the criteria.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if they don't meet the criteria and the person doesn't want to continue to care for it, you don't have any . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. MILLER: At that point we would determine the best course of action . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I lost you. I couldn't hear what you're . . .

MS. MILLER: Our fosters would take it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you for that response. Any other further questions, Members? Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. Aloha, sorry, testifier --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Jenny Miller.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --Miller, Jenny Miller? Okay. Are you still there, Ms. Miller?

MS. MILLER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay, okay. So, I guess your video isn't on. Does the Maui Humane Society have a trap and neuter and release for dogs, or is that a program only for cats?

MS. MILLER: There really isn't a need for dogs. What we have for dogs is a low-cost spay and neuter service. So, people can bring in their dogs. It costs \$20 to get them fixed, and vaccinated, and microchipped. If somebody is bringing in a feral dog, or I mean not . . . there's really not that many feral dogs. But if it's a stray dog, we will do an intake and bring it into the shelter. We never ever release or adopt out an animal that hasn't been fixed. So, that is a service we provide.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you release dogs back?

MS. MILLER: No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Oh, okay.

MS. MILLER: But I don't even . . . we, I mean, the case of a feral dog would be very, very rare.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, is that the reason why you only release cats is because there's so many?

MS. MILLER: Yes, and cats can live outdoors in communities and they've sort of built these colonies that they live in. Dogs are just very different creatures and I actually can't



**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**May 21, 2020**

---

think of a feral dog that we've had in here that didn't come around with some love and some foster care to become a pet. So, they're just very different characteristics.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Miller.

MS. MILLER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Anyone else has a question? Having none, Ms. Miller, thank you very much for sharing your thoughts with us this afternoon.

MS. MILLER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Lesley, our next testifier?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Rebecca Sydney, followed by Larry Feinberg.

MS. SYDNEY: Yes, hello, I'm Rebecca Sydney from Upcountry. And I definitely oppose the bill that will criminalize anyone feeding a feral animal. This is a real personal issue. My husband and I lived in a really nice neighborhood in Pukalani for six years. And in those 6 years, 38 cats, or pets went missing. Nobody knew what happened. We thought they were dead. In just one year, 13 cats went missing and one of them was ours. Luckily, a neighbor told us that two of hers were found in Kula 200 and one was in Haliimaile. So, she suspected neighbors capturing them, dropping them off. So, every night I was out late at night searching for my cat. I went to Kahului, I went to Haliimaile, everywhere, couldn't find it. Four months later, a man from Spreckelsville called me and says hey, I think I found your cat. He came . . . this is four months after he was abducted, he came to his yard, he said he was skin and bones, and he started feeding it. If this bill were to pass, he would be a criminal. But he fed my cat. He was able to pick it up and see the tattoo ID, and that's how we were reunited. So, one of the happiest times of our lives. And this neighborhood in Pukalani, we never found out who was abducting all the cats. We had a police officer live next to us, and one night he just came home and beat his dog to death. He killed his dog. That is something that should be criminalized. We were afraid to report him 'cause he's a cop. Another neighbor in that neighborhood threw severed cat heads in our yard because we called the Humane Society 'cause he was mistreating his dog. Like, these are things that are serious and need to be criminalized. Finally, we moved, we got out of there, now we're living in Makawao next to a man who has a Pit Bull and it hasn't been out of its cage in two years, no love, no attention, no walking. This is a crime and we're living by it again. My husband actually works in Kihei and assists with a cat colony. All the cats are fixed. None of them reproduce. And occasionally, people drop their cats off there, their pets. They drop them off there. So, you cannot assume that feral cats are all feral. There are so many evil people in the . . . you won't even believe what I've been through with cats and neighbors. So, it's not true that all these cats that are out there are feral. Some people want their cats back. And regarding the

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

sea birds--I'm an astronomer and I'm very familiar with the petrels that are number one endangered sea birds--I have rescued so many petrels because of lights from hotels that are put in the trees, you know, the big bright lights. They draw the petrels. And of course, the cats are going to get them because they're lost and disoriented. So, that's pretty much a human thing. I wouldn't blame the cats for destroying the sea birds. It's more human. And I don't think it's right that we . . . we need to actually criminalize people who hate, torture, and kill pets instead of criminalizing those who love animals. There are solutions and not all of these ferals are ferals. They're like 38 from just one neighborhood dumped from a neighbor who probably hates cats. But anyways, I just think it's unfair and humans are, need to be more criminalized when they torture their animals, their pet, instead of people feeding a fixed feral. That's all that I want to say. I oppose this bill.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much for your comments this afternoon. We appreciate your, sharing your thoughts. Members, any questions for our lady that shared her thoughts? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify when you said these ferals that are not feral, were the cats in your neighborhood like kept in the houses of the owners or were they roaming?

MS. SYDNEY: Just like our cat, it's indoor, outdoor. So, they go in and out. But the . . . what we learned later is the neighbors were luring them with food and then capturing them and dropping them, our pet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions for our testifier, Members? Having none, thank you very much once more for sharing your thoughts with us. Les, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Larry Feinberg, followed by Kelly Medeiros.

MR. FEINBERG: Hello, can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Mr. Feinberg, we can hear you.

MR. FEINBERG: Okay. First of all, thank you very much for bringing this bill to the Council. I'm in favor of it. And it's not . . . everybody's talking about cats, everybody's talking about cats. This is not just for cats. Everybody should remember that it's for birds, it's for deer, it's for all invasive species shouldn't be fed. And the chickens are the worst. And each and every one of you, most of you that I'm looking at, have been here all your lives and the chickens are getting out of hand. Now, if the cats ate the chickens that would be a good thing, but they don't. It's a crazy kind of thing. And everybody is very, very PC. They care about oh, the poor little cats and they go, and we spayed and neutered 'em. Yeah, they spayed and neutered 'em so they can't multiply. But they still go out and eat everything. And the people that are feeding

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

them, let 'em feed the homeless people, let 'em feed the local homeless people. I say that the homeless people from LA, from California should go back on the plane, and they should get rid of them already. But I'm very, very, very extreme. I really appreciate you guys, what you're doing, and people have to understand it's not about cats. Part of it's about cats, but chickens, everybody has them in their neighborhood, they make noise, they make mess, they're dirty, disgusting awful chickens. You can't even eat 'em. You know, if you could eat 'em, and I try to run 'em over. My wife used to yell at me if I try to run 'em over. They're, you know, it's a terrible . . . that is the big terrible thing, chickens, mongoose, the deer. I walk out in the cane field, they try to kill all the deer. There's still deer out there. The pigs, the deer, they're eating everything, they do everything, you know, it should be open season on them all the time, and that includes cats. I mean, everybody goes, oh they're all just starving and starving. I don't care if they're starving.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Not fair, and they eat everything.

MR. FEINBERG: Just shoot 'em. Get rid of 'em.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's a jerk.

MR. FEINBERG: Get rid of all of 'em.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I know him, I've met him.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's his name?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Larry Feinberg.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mute the audio, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mr. Feinberg, you still have the . . . you still have your opportunity to share comments with the Committee.

MR. FEINBERG: Okay. Yeah, well, that's basically what I want, and the other thing is what's your other, COVID? You said there's three things on the item, on the . . . today.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, and the third item was a status regarding opportunity zones in our County.

MR. FEINBERG: Well, the County's in a lot of trouble. You know, I mean, I listen to the Mayor every Thursday morning and he talks about oh, it's a new normal, it's a new normal. Meanwhile, you guys just did your finances for the next couple of years. I don't know where you're going to get the money. Nobody has any money anymore. The County's running out of money, the State's running out of money, and the

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

government's running out of money. And that's what our tax base is all about. Oh, I'm like, look at that, I'm looking at myself on TV. I'm clear on the computer, but on the TV I'm all messy . . . so, as far as that goes, it's going to be very, very, very, very difficult for the County of Maui to recover from this because if there's only 200 people coming in and bringing their money, all the hotels are out, all the restaurants are out, and you have been a long standing Councilmember and seen the growth of Maui and our growth, you know, we lost 800 jobs with the sugar cane company and nobody even knows what a pineapple bug is. You haven't seen a pineapple on this island in years. And the whole cannery is now a mall. It's a, you know, the whole world is different. And, you know, everybody says oh, the tourists, the tourists, it's terrible, terrible, you know, all those cars, sure. But we have to be smart about it because if we don't bring that money back to the island, all the people that are talking about it, they won't have a . . . they don't have a job. There is no jobs. And there won't be any money to pay taxes, and there won't be any money for the roads, and there won't be any money for the schools, and there won't be any money for anything. And it's a terrible thing. But we're lucky that we live on Maui. I've been here for over 35 years. The reason I'm testifying is because you saw my daughter earlier. She came on and, you know, I think you guys are doing a great job. It's a tough, tough, tough job and it's going to get tougher when we run out of money. You know, that's just the reality of it. And people want to keep their head in the sand. They don't want to talk about that at all. You know, I try to call into the Mayor, the Mayor goes, oh, don't worry, everything's . . . we . . . it's great. Meanwhile, it's not so great. It's a terrible thing, you know, whatever. You, your . . . if anything, all of you guys are well aware of it, and you, and Molokai and Lanai, you're definitely aware of it, you know, you see what's going on there. I mean, no tourists on Lanai, what else do you guys have? They've got rid of all the pineapple. It used to be the whole thing, everybody, you know, everybody and your family, and your cousins, and your friends, and everybody worked for the pineapple company. Now, there's no pineapple company. They gotta work for the three, two hotels there, you know, the market. There's hardly any jobs anywhere.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Wrap up, Mr. Feinberg.

MR. FEINBERG: Okay. Thank you very much. You guys are all doing a great job, and I really appreciate each and every one of you. And one of the things is that people have to understand, it's not just about cats. All these people calling in about cats. Forget about the cats, get the chickens, chickens everywhere. They make mess, they make noise, they're terrible. Who needs chickens? And I love to eat 'em, but --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Larry.

MR. FEINBERG: --. . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much . . .(inaudible). . .

MR. FEINBERG: --442nd chicken, they don't even do anymore. Okay. Thank you very much. Have a great day. Nice seeing a lot of you guys I've recognized.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Same here, you be safe. Any questions --

MR. FEINBERG: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: --Members, any clarification? Mr. Feinberg, thank you so much and you be safe.

MR. FEINBERG: You too, aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Next testifier please, Lesley?

MS. MILNER: Next testifier is Kelly Medeiros, to be followed by Catherine Cordeiro.

MS. MEDEIROS: Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, yes, we can.

MS. MEDEIROS: Hello?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, we can hear you.

MS. MEDEIROS: Hi, my name is Kelly Medeiros. I'm a 33-year resident of Maui and I live in Wailuku. I have four cat colonies. I've been doing trap, neuter, release for about 10 years. One of my colonies is at a large resort that has implemented a TNR program in the last four years. My colonies are started with 125 cats, and now we have 30 over 4 years of continuous TNR. Our cats are fed daily in designated feeding stations on our property. So, we no longer have cats present outside of our guest rooms or in our restaurants, and we have virtually no rodents anywhere, including in our restaurants. Our cats are flea treated every month, and when we get them fixed for free, our colony cats at the Humane Society, they are given a microchip and a vaccine. I would like to touch on the point that the microchip actually does state where the cat is from, all the way to the point where if they scan my cat that got brought into the Humane Society and it said this cat belongs in the Longs parking lot in Kahului. So, the microchips do actually say on the colony cats exactly where the cats go. I would like to say that the best part of my experience was having the guests tell me how great and healthy our cats look there. It's been over a 75 percent reduction in our cat numbers on the property, and overall, I started out with 220 cats in all 4 of my colonies, which has now been reduced to 49 cats total. People want to blame the cats for the bird deaths. The number one cause of our native bird death in Hawaii is avian malaria, which is caused from mosquitoes. It's actually also due to climate change because every year the mosquitoes are allowed to live higher and higher in warmer conditions and attack our native birds. I would also like to say that the number one cause of sea bird death is false light from streetlamps, and birds hitting the powerlines and the street poles which then usually if it doesn't kill 'em, they get run over. So, 1,600 birds died last year alone from powerlines. Monk seals' number one cause of death are insufficient food, sharks, and entanglement, with

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

monk seals being the largest rate of entanglement of any marine species. We also have a record high number of pups born this year with an annual increase of 2 percent of monk seal population over the last seven years. So, to me, anyone who works for NOAA, which is where I actually got this information off their website, 2020, that would indicate that the trap, neuter, release is working because if cats are technically being blamed for monk seal deaths, the population's increasing. So, cruelty to animals is defined as depriving an animal of food or water. Starving animals expand their hunting areas and hunt in riskier areas. Starvation is a slow and painful death involving organ shutdown, skin lesions, and anemia. This is no way to fix any problem. The proven method of humane population reduction where starvation has no recommended benefits that I could find through extensive research, and it will also not stop reproduction in any way. TNR is the only way that you can manage this. So, I do have some solutions. Some of them are to bury our powerlines and reduce the false light from streetlamps, fence bird sanctuaries. Kealia Bird Pond just started fencing half of their bird pond. I've lived here 33 years, that sanctuary's been here as long as I have, and just now, they started fencing it. I would also like to focus on the real causes like climate change, fishing nets, and loss of habitat, which are all man-made problems. You can't blame a species that is also technically a man-made problem from people dumping and not fixing their animals on the decline of our entire environment. It's just ridiculous.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Medeiros, can you conclude please?

MS. MEDEIROS: I would like . . . pardon me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: You're going to need to conclude, please.

MS. MEDEIROS: Okay. I would also enjoy having a committee of TNR representatives that can go out and just trap areas that need it and work with the public. And that's all I have to say. I would like to ask you to please oppose this inhumane bill.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We're not making any decision, and we are not actually having any specific discussion on the proposed legislation at all today, Ms. Medeiros.

MS. MEDEIROS: Yeah, I understand that. I just wanted to give you guys some facts and numbers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, we appreciate all the information and your thoughts regarding this subject. So, thank you very much. Members, any . . . yes, Ms. Kama, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, just, you know, I've been, listened to all the testimonies and it seems as if, you know, the feeding and the spay and neutering program is really, does wonderful things to keep the population down because, you know, so, they see a decrease in numbers as, you know, they continue this. So, I just want to ask, so, is the cat population decreasing, especially she was talking about

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

those, the 200 that she started out with and now she's down to 49 cats in the colonies that she has been serving. So, where do the cats go?

MS. MEDEIROS: So, the cats die from natural causes, probably my oldest colony cats are about nine or ten years old. It's a proven fact that outdoor cats generally live a less long life than cats that are indoors like a pet cat. I do want to say that many of my colony cats are friendlier than my own pet cats. But I do also have colonies in urban areas. And so, there is definitely a number of cats that, you know, could be hit by a car. I've also had people take cats from my colonies and call me and ask me if it was okay if they adopted that cat which of course I give them permission to change their microchip into their name. I would honestly rather have my cat be hit by a car than die a slow painful death from starvation.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

MS. MEDEIROS: Anything else?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Kama. Anyone else has a question for Ms. Medeiros? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Medeiros. I have a question if you can clarify about that flea treated every month. Is that something only you do, or does all the cat colonies do that?

MS. MEDEIROS: I can only speak for myself. And because it is an out-of-pocket expense that I incur, I do treat all of my colony cats. So, 49 cats a month I treat myself out of my own pocket. I do know that one of my good friends who does the colonies on the West Side also flea treats her animals at the resorts over there. And I do believe that some of the resorts pay for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you need to take those cats in to flea treat them? Or do you flea treat them onsite?

MS. MEDEIROS: No, no, no. No, it's just like flea drops like you would put on your own pet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, like Frontline or something?

MS. MEDEIROS: Yeah, yeah exactly like Advantage or Frontline.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MS. MEDEIROS: You're welcome.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else has a question? Okay. Having none, Ms. Medeiros, thank you so much for joining us this afternoon.

MS. MEDEIROS: Thank you for your time. Have a great day.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. Sugimura? Yes, Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair, so, just a question for you, point of information, how many testifiers do we have more, your total list, just curious.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We have approximately 13 more people waiting for their turn.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, my plan is to go through this and well take a short break and go through the three items.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. So, Les, if we can have our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Catherine Cordeiro, followed by Linda Banziger.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. CORDEIRO: Hi, can you folks hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can, Ms. Cordeiro.

MS. CORDEIRO: Oh, okay. I just, you know, everybody kind of covered everything that I kinda wanted to say. But I do feed feral cats and I just wanted to know, I mean, to let you folks know when I first started that had a couple cats and then more was coming and more was coming. And then, so, I started feeding them. I called the Humane Society and they directed me to people who could help me, and they came out and helped me catch every single cat there was. It took us two days and got 'em fixed, and brought 'em back, and I had a lot of cats. And now, there ain't very much, I mean, there, from I don't know how many, I had a lot, but there's just a few now because they do get old and they end up dying and, you know, but they're all very healthy cats. They don't all look scrubby and like how before you used to see cats around cause people now are feeding them. And I think it'll be horrible to tell people not to feed the cats that they've been feeding. They're tame, they're beautiful cats, and I would never stop feeding them even if you folks would pass the law, I would never stop feeding them. I could not pass by a cat or any animal and say well now I can't feed you. I think that is very, very wrong, and I think either trapping and fixing and I think is doing the job very well and the cats are looking really healthy and good. So, there's not sickness around the place and they still do, you know, kill the mice and stuff. You know, they might not eat 'em because they're eating food, but they do kill 'em, they play with 'em and they kill 'em. You know, so I just wanted to let you know that please do not pass that bill. Just giving a heads-up, and that's all I wanted to say.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Cordeiro, for spending the time with us this afternoon. We appreciate it. Any questions for Ms. Cordeiro, Members? Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Sorry, Chair, now I'm just really curious. So, that we have cats that are now dying, is there a cat graveyard somewhere? I mean, where do they go to die? 'Cause if they're all dying someplace, I mean, I'm just imagining what happens when, I mean, I see them on the road, and they don't look good. But, you know, somehow, they're, they disappear the next day. But what . . . where do they go to die, does anybody know that? Does anybody track that?

MS. CORDEIRO: Well, it's like any other animal. I'm presuming they go and hide in a bush or something and die, you know, and whatever it is, some get run over by a car, you know, and people just pick 'em up off the road, the Humane Society comes out and pick 'em up. It's all different ways that they die. We don't really know. We just know they don't come back to the colony, so something happened, you know. And then, people do drop off other cats too at the colonies, you know, that don't even belong there, and they come, they're all skinny. But when we feed 'em, they come beautiful cats again. You know, so, I don't know --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

MS. CORDEIRO: --how would they, you know, old age, they do die. All animals die. Birds, you find 'em dead all over, everything, mongoose.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right, yeah. Thank you, Ms. Cordeiro. We appreciate you responding. Any other questions for Ms. Cordeiro? Okay. Having none, thank you once more for joining us --

MS. CORDEIRO: All right.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --this afternoon.

MS. CORDEIRO: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Linda Banziger, to be followed by Donya Izbicki.

MS. BANZIGER: Hi, am I on?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, you are.

MS. BANZIGER: Hi. Okay. So, I've been intimately involved with all of this since about 2012. Many of the colony caregivers, I've been very heavily involved in TNR. I'm a community volunteer, all free, I've fixed almost 700 cats. So, I see two key issues that are the problem here. Number one is management, and number one is the feral cat

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

colony. I've been in touch with Jay Pedimer [sic] at the Maui Nui Seafood [sic] Recovery Project, and also Andrew Toney who's at Meadowlands wetlands area where they have feral cats. I have a very small feral cat sanctuary in Haiku and I'm willing to take on these cats. And I think this is the answer to the problem is nobody wants to take responsibility for these cats. I think that if someone would step up to the plate and do that, that we could do this. And I'm willing to do it. I've asked the Humane Society for help. But at this time, they're not willing to have a trapping teams or a feral cat sanctuary. But I'm willing to do that. So, my place is Surf Cat Ranch and anybody that has free roaming cats I'll be more than happy to come help you. As a community we can solve this problem. This is a solvable problem. We can do this. We need to get the cats off the beaches and, you know, come to a resolution. We don't have to take the cats out of Kahului, or Wailuku, or wherever they are. We just need to manage them. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for your comments this afternoon and your kind gesture of offering a personal solution if I could say it that way. But yeah, I appreciate your testimony this afternoon. Members, you have any questions for . . . (inaudible). . . --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I can't hear.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --and then, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo Chair. Oh. Did our testifier, is our testifier still there? Sorry.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, she is. Did we lose her?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I just . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, Ms. . . . (inaudible). . . why don't you ask your question first, and then we'll go to Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, I was just, I just wanted to find out what she mentioned. She had asked the Maui Humane Society for help and I was just wondering what that request to the Maui Humane Society was. Oh, okay. I see her back again.

MS. BANZIGER: Hi, sorry. Well --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, yeah, could we . . .

MS. BANZIGER: --what I'm really asking for is trapping teams because we have Kanaha, we have Mala Boat Ramp, we have Honolua Bay. I've been going to these places for the last year and a half and I've been very successful. Mala Boat Ramp, the first time I went there were cats literally everywhere. I caught 30 the first night and then I went back four months later, and I could hardly catch any. If we manage these areas, we won't have this cat problem. That's it, we have to manage these areas. And I'm more

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

than willing to volunteer and help. But I'm one person, you know. So, I would like the Humane Society to step on board and help manage Maui, manage these colonies.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your response. We've received hundreds of testimony and, you know, perhaps they would love to help you with this, with trapping.

MS. BANZIGER: Oh, that'd be great.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, there's a lot of people, there's a lot of people.

MS. BANZIGER: This is a solvable problem. We can do this. All we have to do is manage these colonies.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We'll connect everyone, perfect. Mahalo for your solutions-oriented response. And mahalo, Chair Hokama, for bringing all of us together to solve this problem together.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Ms. Paltin, you have a question you would like to ask?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, thank you. I was wanting to know how many cats you have and the approximate cost per cat per year, or per month, whatever timeframe you can break it down if you can?

MS. BANZIGER: In terms of the cats that I have?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The sanctuary, the Surf Cat Ranch.

MS. BANZIGER: Well, Lanai Cat Sanctuary claims it costs them \$1,000 a year per cat. Mike Willinski, who's on the West Side feeds over 400 cats and he says he can feed 'em for five cents a day. I mean, we don't have to feed them caviar. We just have to have a safe place for them to be, and I need some help with veterinary care. You know, that's one of the main expenses is veterinary care. I think saying it costs \$1,000 a day to feed a cat is unreasonable.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then --

MS. BANZIGER: Not a day, excuse me, a year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --so then, can you clarify what you mean by a trapping team? What is that?

MS. BANZIGER: Okay. So, what I've done this last year is identify places where there's lots of cats like Mala Boat Ramp. Someone gave me a lead there's lots of cats there. So, I went there, I bought 20 traps, okay, and I have a cat mobile, my little Honda Odyssey.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

And I went there, and they were literally just jumping into the trap. I think I trapped 29 cats the first night. So, I thought to myself, well, this is easy, we just have to identify these places where these cats are, and we need to get 'em fixed. You know, we can put 'em back, but let's get 'em fixed. But nobody has identified this as the issue and the problem, and this is what we need to do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thanks. And how many cats did you say you have at your Surf Cat Ranch, and what is your total capacity?

MS. BANZIGER: Well, we have eight acres. It's not all fenced yet. I don't want to take everybody's cats, but what I'd like to be able to do is to take cats from like Kanaha where they're endangered, or places where, you know, these bird sanctuaries so that they have a place to go. That's been the whole issue. Like even Waianapanapa, you know, they kill the cats that are there, they do. I mean, they won't admit it, but they do because I've had the staff down there say we'll take care of it. Okay. So, if I take these, bring these cats to my place, at least they get to survive, you know, or any of these State parks where they don't want to have cats. I mean, some places can't have cats.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you for your service.

MS. BANZIGER: You're welcome.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Anyone else has a question? If not . . . yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Is our testifier still there?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we show she's . . .

MS. MILNER: She's still connected, she's just muted right now.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. I'm sorry, I forgot your name because there's just a number under your picture.

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. BANZIGER: It's Linda Banziger.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, Linda, okay, Linda Banziger. Well, thank you very much for what you're doing and for your creative ideas. I just wondered, are you operating as a non-profit or just as a singular volunteer?

MS. BANZIGER: Yes, I just got nonprofit status.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. BANZIGER: And I'm pretty much a singular volunteer although I have a few people helping me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. What's your nonprofit called?

MS. BANZIGER: Surf Cat Ranch.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, that is the nonprofit. Oh, okay. I didn't know if that was just a place.

MS. BANZIGER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay.

MS. BANZIGER: Yeah, I'm really new. I'm really new. But, you know, I just saw that this was the missing piece of what we need to do to solve this problem here.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, I appreciate what you're doing. I just wanted to suggest that maybe you could kinda keep your eye out on the Human Concerns' grants, you know, look at the grants that are available because –

MS. BANZIGER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: --no, as much as we all appreciate that it's coming out of your own pocket and you're willing to do that, you know, we, I feel like we should, you know, the County should give you some assistance.

MS. BANZIGER: That'd be great. I need some help. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Anyway, thanks for what you're doing. I appreciate it.

MS. BANZIGER: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else has a question, Members? If not, Ms. Banziger, thank you so much again for your participation this afternoon. Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Donya Izbicki, to be followed by Kawika Davidson.

MS. IZBICKI: Aloha, my name is Donya Izbicki, and I have submitted testimony, lengthy I'm afraid, and the one problem of waiting to testify is that you hear so many comments. And I would just like to sum up a few. I see a, very much a need as a former caretaker mentioned Kelly, of the caretakers who are successful and confident in their efforts, perhaps get together and have a committee, maybe even be a County-appointed committee which will rotate. I hear so many questions that are excellent questions. But maybe the wrong person is answering them in an incomplete fashion. Eventually

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

they get answered. One comment I want to make is why don't you take the cats home? There's a, a very efficient worldwide group called alleycatallies.org. They have a terrific poster that shows a cat sitting there. It says, she's not homeless, she lives outdoors. You must recognize that we have very strict rental rules here. Most people can't even have a pet and that's one reason. And a lot of people who start colony work, feeding stray cats, because they're outside, they can't take 'em in. I just want to mention that little minor fact. Okay. Now my next statement has to do with the Feline Foundation. I wasn't going to bring it up. But I am a founding board member. This particular group, the Feline Foundation of Maui functioned for a good ten years with great efforts. The group folded for the mere reason that we just didn't have enough volunteers. I for one as a board member took phone calls and you would . . . the same kind of questions you're asking, complaints, people who wanted help. We required at that time that if you wanted to become a caretaker, that you fill out a form listing the location, the number of cats, and that you get the approval of the landowner or manager. We found that that was very difficult to do in most cases. Even to this day, a lot of the caretakers, I hate to mention, but I've been on this island since 1983 doing TNRM and I would like to give credit to those caretakers who have been so severely demeaned and criticized because they couldn't get the approval and yet they're out there like slaves nightly at their own expense in the middle of the night when they don't hurt the birds, feeding the cats, trapping the cats, applying flea medicine, doing all the things that you would do with a pet cat. And the colony work doesn't . . . it just begins there. I would like to clarify that among the free-roaming cats besides the dumped ones which may be pets, caretakers are compassionate enough to distinguish between the colony members. In other words, if a lost cat shows up, perhaps they can re-trap it and find the owner. How do you find the owner? Because of the identification . . . oh sorry, the identification is either an ear tattoo or a microchip. Am I still on? Sorry, when the Feline --

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . (inaudible) . . .

MS. IZBICKI: --Foundation was functioning, we actually had a tattoo artist and I would like for you to know, in case you ever come across a stray, that in the ears, the tattoos fade. But you can stretch the ear with oil, and you can see that the code that is imprinted denotes the year the cat was fixed, by which veterinarian, and where. And it's traced to whoever brought the cat in. Now, if you move and don't change your phone number, then you'll never find out. So, there is an active ID system. The older system was tattoos, the new system is microchips. There's also an ear cut or notch, and that has changed to what we affectionately call ear slashing 'cause the notches and the cuts can become invisible as they grow. Okay. I'm going to get back to the reason why I called. I was asked to testify on behalf of some of my successful colonies. And I in fact do have funded successful colonies and I'd like to read this to you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. You're going to need to do it in 20 seconds, please.

MS. IZBICKI: I will do it. I have funded colonies --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

MS. IZBICKI: --where I have had tourists at these colonies go to management on behalf of the cats and request funding. And I did receive checks and approval from two very large colonies that are timeshare colonies. And even in the absence of being able to feed at this time, I'm getting the management thanking me for doing so. And it's very important that you understand that the welfare of the tourists seeing the cats in good health, not fighting, not going into the common areas, I have testimony on that and I'm sorry I can't go further than that. But thank you for your time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, we'll, we also submit any testimony you wish to submit to us, Donya. So, you know, that's also another way to, for us to get your information. But thank you again for participating this afternoon. Members, any questions for clarification?

MS. IZBICKI: I can't hear.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. There's no request for clarification, Donya. So, thank you very much for sharing your comments with us this afternoon. Les, our next testifier, please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Kawika Davidson, to be followed by Donna Sterling.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MR. DAVIDSON: Aloha, can you guys hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Kawika, we can hear you.

MR. DAVIDSON: Oh, aloha, Riki; aloha, Maui County Council. Mahalo for this opportunity today. My name's Kawika Davidson. I'm a beneficiary Hawaiian Home Lands Kahikinui, Lot 57. I presently can't get to my lot but oh well. I've been head of an organization called Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana for the last 25 years. We've been managing the upper forest area of Kahikinui. And since we're talking about cats, for 25 years we have set traps for cats, dogs, and mongoose. Every year we've caught at least 200 to 300 mongoose, 50 cats, and upwards of 5 dogs a year. And the purpose of that was to keep those particular type of animals out of the forest so that we can protect our native birds, native species. And we chose that avenue because we chose native species over non-native. Anyway, so, I was here today to speak on behalf of the axis deer feral animal control issues that we have here on Maui. KGLMO, Kahikinui Game and Land Management Ohana, we've been managing the upper forest for like I said over 25 years and we have well vetted members that hunt the area, have managed to keep the animal counts down, and actually do other things besides hunting like fencing, ungulate displacement, and so on and so forth. And I'd like to volunteer our expertise and long-term use of lands on Maui with all the available hunters on Maui to manage this particular issue with axis deer specifically. I believe every island should be managing their own animal resources. Molokai should be doing their own management. Lanai should be doing

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

their own management and not be dictated and mandated by DLNR out of an office on Oahu. So, that's where I'm at. If you folks have any questions, I'd love to hear them.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo, Kawika. We thank you for your mana`o this afternoon. And thank you for bringing up other components for feral animal management. I'll ask the Members, but I do have one, you mentioned the axis deer and again yeah, it's a countywide problem, but for Kahikinui area, you have any other issues as it regards with other species like feral pigs and the feral goats in the Kahikinui region that you folks have issues with regarding feral management?

MR. DAVIDSON: It's always been an issue. But the hunting club has managed to keep numbers at bay. We had upwards of 85 members at any one time. And unfortunately, most of us have to work, but the constant pressure on the animals will keep the numbers down. And it's only been within the last few years that we've been allowed to shoot cows, yeah. So, but we've gone, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands has gone outside of Maui County and chose another avenue for managing those animals which I find distressing because we got so many Maui families here, and so many hunters on Maui that have the ability to manage this issue.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right, we appreciate that comment. And again, when we have the State representatives, we will ask them about their program for game management in Hawaii regarding public lands and private lands and what their strategy and short-term goals are regarding ungulates or feral animal management. So, we hope you would participate with us, Kawika, and --

MR. DAVIDSON: Absolutely.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -- . . . *(inaudible)*. . . area of kuleana. We appreciate that. I know Ms. Kama was first, and then I'll recognize Ms. King after. Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Kawika, for being here and testifying before our Committee. I was, I've been looking forward to you coming here for such a long time. I'm very elated that you are here. But I have a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Kama, we lost --

MR. DAVIDSON: And your question?

CHAIR HOKAMA: --we lost your audio, Tasha.

MS. MILNER: You're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you. I got it. Thank you. I read sign language, Riki.

MR. DAVIDSON: All right.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. So, continuing on, Kawika, you know, I'm looking towards probably diversifying the economy with some kind of ranching, farming kind of industry. So, and I know that you've been working with the hunters for years and years. Is there an opportunity to develop a beef jerky brand coming out of Maui, or doing something with our axis deer because it's food? And the coronavirus, in terms of what has been done and what we look forward in the future doesn't seem bright. But is there an opportunity for economic opportunities that could come out of doing this type of hunting and gathering?

MR. DAVIDSON: You're absolutely correct. Because of this coronavirus epidemic, we have put a chokehold on people's food supplies. Presently, I don't think an economic advantage would be available, only because we got a lot of families that need food straight up. And we have the ability to take care of that food resource without going to economic resources. We don't need the money to take care of our people. We have enough manpower and skill availability to manage that. Later in the future, maybe yeah, when we get over this shutdown of the economy. But right now, I know we have the ability to take care of all of our people, whether it's on Molokai, Lanai, or Maui, you know, every island has their skilled people that are taking care of their own people.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, how . . . okay, so, as opposed to waiting until after COVID, I want to know if it's something that can be taken on even right now, even if all you do is just plan it, or design it, or discuss it, or, but bring it to a place where step one is this, step two, but the final outcome would be we have deer for sale, we have jerk meat for sale, we have, I don't know, whatever, whatever you can make from a deer so that it could actually feed the entire island.

MR. DAVIDSON: I agree, we absolutely can do that. That will be a planning process that we will need to do with our individual islands.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Good discussion, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Kawika.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you, Ms. Kama. And again, Members, yeah, that is exactly the type of discussion when we do bring up the item that the Chair has intended that that will be part of the overall discussion parameters. Are there other questions for Mr. Davidson? Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here, Kawika. Just as an aside, were you part of that discussion in that project that Phyllis Robinson was doing several years ago where she was exploring the, she was actually hired to do that project with the axis deer on Molokai, the USDA certification?

MR. DAVIDSON: No, I wasn't.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. 'Cause I think that's the first step, just widening that certification is important if you're going to bring this into the economic development

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

realm. But my question for you is when you started talking about the feral cows, because I was actually surprised when I found out there were feral cows on the island and I have a friend who actually is one of the hunters. How close, I mean, is that close to becoming an actual, as big a nuisance as the axis deer as far as them coming into people's yards and eating their gardens and their trees and things?

MR. DAVIDSON: On the homestead in Kahikinui, yes, it's an issue. The animals actually go down into the lessee's lots and, you know, destroy their plants and cows don't care about a fence, they just run the fence over. But it can be managed, you know. Right now, at this point in time we're not allowed to hunt on Hawaiian Home Lands. Hawaiian Home Lands has said no to its own people. So, we'll have to be working with the Department to get us to manage our own resources.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, that's really shocking to me that subsistence is such an important part of the Hawaiian community and that you wouldn't be able to do that on your own land. That's, something's wrong there.

MR. DAVIDSON: Yeah, yeah, it is interesting.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I mean, we, that, I think that should, needs to be part of the discussion too and bringing in Hawaiian Home Lands. But you know, I just, I just wondered because I was shocked the first time I heard about someone hunting a cow 'cause, you know, when you see cows out in the pasture you're thinking how fast can they run? But apparently, they're pretty cagey. So, if they're close to becoming a problem like the axis deer, I think we need to kind of include them in the plan.

MR. DAVIDSON: I totally agree, yeah. And the whole process of keeping Hawaiians from hunting on Hawaiian Home Lands is against HRS 101, you know, native gathering rights.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right, yeah, I don't understand that. That needs to be looked at, I think. Have you been working with the State Legislature on that?

MR. DAVIDSON: No, I haven't. Right now, we're working with Hawaiian Home Lands.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. All right, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good discussion, yeah, thank you, Ms. King. We'll have that discussion with the item when we bring it up. But these are all very good components of the greater parameter. So, yeah, thank you very much. Thanks, Ms. King. Anyone else for, has a question for Mr. Davidson, Kawika? Okay. Kawika, mahalo for your mana`o this afternoon. And we look forward to you participating with us in our future meetings as we move this forward.

MR. DAVIDSON: Mahalo iā 'oe.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha. Lesley, our next testifier please?

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Donna Sterling, who will be followed by Emily White.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. STERLING: Aloha everybody, Chair Riki Hokama. I am Donna Sterling, a resident of Kahikinui for over 20 years and have recently experienced cattle coming through our property to where we are in . . . we're worried about our safety. So, to answer your question about are they coming into the homestead area, yes, they are, and the reason is because the fenced-in area above where the forest is reforesting is locked. Therefore, cattle are coming down closer as summer comes down into the homestead. I'm here today, I already submitted my testimony to Chair and Council, is that we're at the point not only for deer, axis deer and cattle and goats and pigs around Kahikinui and around other areas throughout Maui Nui. I think this is an opportune time for everyone who is impacted or has experienced, ranches, farmers, to have a joint meeting somewhere and bring in the State to have a dialogue where we can come up with solutions of managing game management both for feeding our Maui Nui people, possibly economic, possibly. But the time is so good right now during this virus to expound on meetings. And I'm thankful that KGLMO has an opportunity to sit and participate at the table when needed. And because of this impact for the animals in the homestead area, we have come up with another association in the Kahikinui Kuleana Homestead which is called Kahikinui Hawaiian Homestead Association. We're just in the works. Before the virus hit, we were moving forward in membership and being acknowledged by Hawaiian Homes. But I would sincerely ask that the Council have more participants at the table, and that includes hunters, ranchers, and farmers. And that's, you can read my e-mail, I think all of you got it. Thank you. Any questions?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, thank you very much for your testimony this afternoon. We appreciate your thoughts and your gesture of offering. Members, any questions for our testifier at this time? Okay. Having none . . . yes, Ms. Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Donna, did you say that Kahikinui has another, homestead association?

MS. STERLING: Yes, we have formed a Article 7 corporation with the State. We are in the process, we were before the virus came, of going for a nonprofit status. We did announce it at the meeting this year at Hawaiian Homes Commission meeting that we do have a new association.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Can you send that information on to the Committee?

MS. STERLING: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We will follow up for you, Ms. Kama, and share that information when we receive it from Donna. So, thank you for that request. Any other questions, Members? Okay. Having none, thank you, Donna, for your mana`o.

MS. STERLING: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Emily White, to be followed by the individual logged in as K MAGU.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. WHITE: Aloha everyone. Aloha, Councilmembers, Chair Hokama.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi.

MS. WHITE: I think you can hear me okay. Hi.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. White.

MS. WHITE: Thanks for all of your patience. It sounds like there's been a lot of us today. And in the interest of time, I'll probably read off my list here. My name's Emma White, and I'm from Oahu but have been a Maui resident for about ten years. And I'm a professor at Maui College. I have degrees in Environmental Science, Law, and English, and one of my favorite things to do with my students is to think about, to have my students come up with things that they see are problems in our community and to look at solutions and to weigh those pros and cons of each solution and then suggest those solutions to a decision maker is one of my favorite writing projects. And what comes up again and again, year after year is the feral cat issue on Maui. So, I've kind of seen all the sides of the argument just from that in addition to maybe some of my experience in environmental science and environmental law. And over the years I've sometimes not gotten involved with this issue because I've seen an overwhelming power that the feral cat feeders have and they've kind of drowned out a lot of the voices of people, for example like my students. And so, I've sort of stayed out of it. But I've noticed, and I have hope with this Council and I've seen how much you care and how much you've been listening. So, I decided to speak up today. And in also my capacity as a professor at the college, as you know, and has been mentioned by Maui Humane Society, we created a feral cat feeding program, a cat colony program. And I was part of that discussion and kind of, as Chair of Policies and Procedures Committee at the campus created all the rules for that program. And it's been a spectacular failure. I just wanted to let you know that we have more cats than ever. The other day when I was getting a few things out of my office I saw a feral cat not only leave feces, but pounce on and grab the wing of a kōlea, a native bird. I see more cats than ever. I see more feed strewn about than ever. I see mongoose eating the feed. I hear from many members on campus that they're very unhappy with the cat feeding program. But because of a few vocal outsiders that came in from, I believe it was a

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

lobbyist and some feral cat colony supporters, they convinced us to sort of support it. And there was about two people also on campus who supported that. And so, we decided to give them the chance to do that. But we have seen no reduction in cats. I would also beg you to consider that allowing self-reporting of numbers as a success, it's not good science. It's sort of like letting a drug addict report their own usage of a drug. It's not always going to be accurate. So, I'm just, you know, letting you know what I see there. Last semester and several semesters before that we had pregnant students who could not work in the agricultural section of the college's fields for fear that the cat feces there would give their unborn children toxoplasmosis. In addition to that, we just need multiple measures. This ban is just one part of the solution and I would ask you not to throw the baby out with the bath water. I hear a lot of arguments about oh, well, the lights are bad for the birds, and humans are bad for the birds, and we need to bury our powerlines. Well, these are all issues. But that doesn't mean that we can't grab on to one really smart solution that can make a huge difference that we can do actually pretty quickly, and that's to deal with our feral cat problem. So, I would ask you to look at it that way instead. This is part of a multi-pronged approach. I'd also like to point out that supporting feral cats --

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Ms. White.

MS. WHITE: --is also considered cruel. Am I running out of time?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. White, yeah, yeah, you're going to need to wrap up please.

MS. WHITE: Okay. I just want to let you know that PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, says that they do not support trap and neuter, they do not support managed cat colonies, they do not support feeding. They believe it's cruel and they support euthanasia instead. We could all come to a compromise and support trap and neuter if we could actually get to that 75 percent threshold. Right now, we're only possibly at 10 to 20 percent. So, if we really want to make a difference, we need to not only ban feeding to . . . and also either just create more opportunities for trap and neuter because right now we're not going to address the issue. Thanks everybody.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. White, for your testimony this afternoon. Members, any questions for Ms. White on her testimony? Okay. Having none, Ms. White, thank you once more for your participation. Lesley, our next testifier, please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is the individual logged in as KMAGU, to be followed by Nicole Ferguson.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: KMAGU, you are muted.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, let's move on.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Nicole Ferguson, to be followed by Alena Ornellas.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Ferguson, are you available?

MS. MILNER: Ms. Ferguson, you're muted. I will unmute you from my end. You are unmuted.

MS. FERGUSON: Okay. Great, thank you. Okay. So, thank you for your time, Councilmembers. I'll make it super . . . *(inaudible)*. . . I previously taught zoology and microbiology at Honolulu Community College and Maui College, both. One thing I wanted to point out today that I think hasn't been addressed much is the impact of toxoplasmosis on native birds. Recent studies conducted by Thierry Work who's with USGS, showed that in Nene that were sampled, they did blood tests on Nene and they found that on Molokai, they found that 48 percent of the Nene were infected with toxoplasmosis, and they found that on Maui, 23 percent of the Nene were infected with toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis usually is not cleared by the animal. It kind of remains throughout its lifetime. We know that at the peak of infection, a single cat can release into the environment 55 million cysts in a single day. That's a truly shocking number, and we know that cysts can actually stay infectious in the soil for approximately a year and a half, so about 18 months. It's completely unacceptable that the cat population has been allowed to continue in Maui and Hawaii as a whole for both native birds, monk seals, for human health it's not acceptable. I've seen them at Maui College myself. I've seen them across the islands. So, I'll stop there and open myself up for questions if there are any. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Ferguson, for your testimony this afternoon. I see Ms. Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ferguson. I just was wondering as a scientist if you knew how easy it is to test cats for toxoplasmosis. Like when the folks bring them in for trap, neuter, release, could they run a test on them for the toxoplasmosis fairly easily and economically?

MS. FERGUSON: Yeah, great question. So, there's two ways that you can do it. You can check the feces for the oocysts or you can do a blood draw. The checking the feces is kind of tough because the oocysts look like a lot of other parasites that cats get. Cats have a whole range of parasites that they can get. So, the feces way is kind of tough. The easier way is to do a blood draw where you test for antibodies. So, the antibodies will tell you not the current health state in terms of toxo, but whether . . . *(inaudible)*. . . So, if you do a blood draw for toxo on cats, you'll find a pretty high infection level most likely. Work that was done by Chris Lepczyk, who was previously at UH Manoa--he's left for the Mainland since--but I believe that data that they were coming out with from the Lepczyk lab was showing that it was pretty high levels, at least on Oahu when they were working over there. So, I think that the issue is if you take a cat, let's say to the Humane Society and they say it doesn't have toxo, that cat could get it like the next day, right? Or if you take a cat to the Humane Society and they say okay, they have antibodies based on the blood draw, like it's probably already done the damage to the ecosystem and to native species that it's going to do. So, if it was something that was

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

less common, I think that'd be a good solution, right? Like if it was like, you know 1 in 1,000 cats have toxo or less it could be a good approach. You just take them in, you test them, and you, you know, contact trace the cats. I'm just kidding. But given the levels that we've seen, I don't think that that is actually a workable strategy at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. FERGUSON: I think it's too; I think there's too much of it for that to work.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Ms. Paltin. Members, any other questions? Okay. Thank you, Ms. Ferguson . . .

MS. FERGUSON: If I could just add, just to clarify, I support the feeding ban. I just wanted to make that really clear. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Ferguson. We appreciate your comments this afternoon. Thank you for participating. Les, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: We have heard from KMAGU and they are now able to unmute. So, we will go with them and then move to Alena Ornellas.

MS. MAGUIRE: Hi, can you guys hear me now?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MS. MAGUIRE: Yay, okay, great. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity, Councilmembers, to be able to speak on this. We appreciate your time. Hi, my name is Kelly Maguire. I am the Director of Veterinary Services at the Maui Humane Society. I'm here today to respectfully note my strong opposition to the feeding ban proposed to the Council as a solution to decrease the feral animal population. I grew up here on Maui, and I've raised my own family here. I've served the animals and our community at the Humane Society for 27 years. As you can imagine, I've seen a lot in my service. Today I expect you'll hear a lot of numbers and opinions and research and data cited by experts and scientists. I'd like to speak to you today about my own experience, not the Mainland or the Mainland research projects but my own experience right here in Maui in my own hometown. For many years, the Maui Humane Society euthanized lots of feral cats. It was explained to us as employees that since they couldn't be adopted, they needed to be euthanized to help control the feral cat overpopulation. So, we euthanized every single day. In my time, we euthanized tens of thousands of cats. Burn out was high and our public reputation was a roller coaster. And you know what, killing those cats made absolutely no dent in controlling the feral cat population. In fact, we are seeing even more cats. Business owners and property managers attempted feeding bans, threatening to fire employees, or fine property owners if they were caught feeding. The result was more cats being fed because of public sympathy and the population in these areas grew. What we were doing was not working. So, we not only looked at other successful programs across

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

the nation that controlled overpopulation, but we also looked to our local successes on our own island. We noted that in areas where spay and neuter, or TNR, where responsible colony management was taking place, they were having success in actually lowering their population numbers on their properties. We needed more community involvement though. We applied for grants to be able to make spay and neuter more affordable for people. We made trap rentals free. We educated property owners and businesses to the benefit to the responsible colony management programs. We recently stopped euthanizing feral cats unless they were suffering. As we effected this positive change, we saw an even greater support. People wanted to be part of a solution that was effective and humane, both for the cats and for our native species. This was about having us all come together and agree that we all wanted less cats on our landscape and putting resources collectively to do something humane and effective together. As more efforts go into this common goal, we will see more and more community members willing to participate. With shelter intake numbers going down and our spay and neuter participation going up, we are seeing success across our island. You'll hear from some of them today or have heard from some of them today. I'm here today not just to tell you about the success of spay and neuter , and TNR, and other areas across our nation, but to share with you about the success that is starting to emerge right here in Maui, in our own hometown, in our own community. The proposed feeding ban is not only inhumane and ineffective, but it's an archaic thinking that starving the cats will somehow lower the population. I can tell you from my own local direct experience, it just won't work. There are better ways, and Maui is better than this proposed ban. We can do better and we are doing better. So, let's continue this good work. And that's all that I wanted to say. I'm not sure if you guys wanted to have me answer a couple of misinformation that was given about intake questions you had?

CHAIR HOKAMA: If the Members have a question for you, Ms. Maguire, then you can respond. So, I'll ask the Members now, any questions for Ms. Maguire that you need for clarification, Members? Okay. Seeing none, thank you, Ms. Maguire for . . .

MS. MAGUIRE: Thank you so much.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We appreciate your participation. Okay. Next, I think it's Alena Ornellas? Hi, Alena, we can see you.

MS. ORNELLAS: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MS. ORNELLAS: Oh, aloha mai kākou. 'O au o Alena Waipuilani Ornellas no kumuiluilii au mai 'Iao and I wanted to testify in favor of the feeding, the ban on feeding feral cats. . . .(inaudible). . . of 'Iao Valley. I've witnessed firsthand the negative effects of colonies in this valley in particular. During the evening times, in the morning times, especially you'll see high volumes of cats near the bathroom area of Kepaniwai Park, and by that gate entering into Kepaniwai Park. And obviously, it's a habit for them for people to come and feed them. And I've seen them multiple times injure kōlea that come and



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

visit and flock in that area. They're not even eating the food 'cause there's so much abundance of food. People come and drop off food for the cats all the time that they're not even eating it. They're actually using this food as bait. And we have witnesses seeing them like sit on the side, watch chickens or kōlea's come and eat this food, and then, they come and pounce, and pounce on top of our kōlea's. So, you know, I'm completely for the ban on feeding feral cats. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Yeah, I guess that's all I gotta say. I do feel that there has to be a negative impact in the microorganisms of the environment around because of all the fecal matter. And, you know, honestly, if these people really love these cats, take 'em home, take 'em home, or go give 'em to Donna, or somebody else who has the facility of a sanctuary. And just to let any, all the listeners know, I will be totally against 'Iao becoming a sanctuary for these cats. If people aren't allowed to flock in here, cats have no business in here. And that's all I gotta say. If anybody got questions I'm here.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Mahalo, Alena. We appreciate your testimony today, your mana`o. Thank you. Members, any questions for clarification for Ms. Ornellas? Okay. Having none, yeah, mahalo, Alena.

MS. ORNELLAS: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Lesley, our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is the phone number ending in 7969.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. BROTHERS: Can you hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MS. BROTHERS: Hello? Oh, okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, we can hear you.

MS. BROTHERS: Okay. I was listening to the testimonies and most of what I would contribute has probably already been covered. But one thing I haven't heard anybody address is what will it look like if you pass this bill and make it illegal to feed feral cats, what would that look like? All of these hundreds of people who have donated their time and money for years and their compassion to care for these cats that end up being like pets, like we love these cats. Okay. We know them individually. They all have individual personalities. Like what would this bill look like? All these people, like Linda Banziger, like thank you, Linda, for everything you've done for these cats that, you know. But what will happen? You will turn all of these compassionate people, animal lovers, into criminals? What, you're going to arrest them or like you're going to have some enforcement team deputized to go around and check cat colonies to see if anybody's feeding them and then arrest them or fine them, turn them into criminals? I mean, that is just so draconian in itself. Like, and you'd have to hire new

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

people, like instead of this army of volunteers who goes to feed these cats out of compassion and caring for other living creatures that have a right to be on this earth. Instead, you're going to have a, get a team of new jobs created to go out and turn these people into criminals. I mean, I just can't imagine a more un-aloha thing to do on, in Hawaii. I mean, I just can't even imagine it. Have you guys thought about that, what it would look like if you pass this bill?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Are you done with your . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. BROTHERS: I can't hear anything. Well, I asked you a question. Like have you thought about how you would enforce this bill if it's passed. I mean, if I only get one chance to talk. Then I would like to also say that, you know, I have yet to see, like I've for the last 24 years I've been running on the beach every other night and I have yet to see a cat on the beach. Okay. And I've only once ever seen a monk seal, and there were all kinds of, you know, whatever people there guarding the monk seal. But I've never seen a cat down there. So, I'd like to see the evidence that there exists any truth that, you know, toxoplasmosis from cats is damaging monks, monk seals. I mean, I just, where's the foundation for this claim? And also, like, I mean, yeah, cats can kill birds. But not in any kind of numbers that would compare to what they would have to do if they don't get any food otherwise. I mean, it's just, it's so cruel. And plus, what I understand in all my years of looking after a colony that are my pets basically, I, they've never done anything that is risky to any other species, you know. I haven't seen anything that, anything anybody would have to worry about. So, I just don't see why everybody that, like the last person who testified, not the last person, the last person before had to phone back . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . in 20 seconds please?

MS. BROTHERS: Well, I just think that you should look more into what Linda Banziger suggested of having these cats taken to a sanctuary. Also, by if you, like what I've understood is that if you kill off all these cats, like the remaining cats, a lot of which are dumped here by people moving to the Mainland, their pets that get dumped, that's still going to be happening. And so, they're going to breed, and when there is a space in a stable, what previously was a stable colony, the cats by instinct they breed more in order to fill that space. So, I think this is not only not going to solve the problem, it's going to exacerbate it, and then what do you do when you've already criminalized all the people. Who's going to solve the problem then?

CHAIR HOKAMA: You forgot to share; can we ask for your name please? You forgot to share that with us.

MS. BROTHERS: Erin, Erin Brothers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Erin, yeah, thank you very much for your testimony and participating this afternoon. Members, you have any questions for clarification for our testifier? Okay. Having none, thank you very much, Erin, again for participating with

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

the Committee prior to our discussion of the item. We appreciate your thoughts. Lesley . . .

MS. BROTHERS: Okay. Thanks for your time, aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Our next testifier please?

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is Emily Drose, to be followed by an individual logged in as Coordinator.

MS. DROSE: Aloha, Council, are you able to hear me?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, we can.

MS. DROSE: Hello, thank you for taking time today with all the madness going on in the world to discuss these issues. Of course, I just wanted to touch on some information in previous testimony, and also in my own regarding the feral cat population. I think it is important to understand in regards to toxoplasmosis if we're concerned about the amount being shed into the environment. Again, it comes back to having less cats. It goes back to spay neuter, keeping them from reproducing. And also, according to the CDC, pork, lamb, venison, and shellfish are all known to transmit to humans. And if you think of that in the environment as well, we all need to work together and educate one another on all the factors playing into the threat to our species, you know, deer, pig, mongoose, rats. They eat the native plants that our birds need to survive. They prey on nestlings, on eggs. There is a local company, I've sent this in my e-mail testimony to each of you, Pacific Rim Conservation, they specialize on a predator-proof fencing to keep these animals out. And they've even published studies where they can actually bring back some species. And again, it's in my email testimony. If you'd like more, I've sent you the studies and the cost if you'd like more info on that. But again, when we say this is a community effort, if we can't just put it on one organization, one person. If you imagine that five people in your neighborhood each trapped a cat, had it spayed and neutered, it makes a big impact and it could do it in less of the amount of time that we would hope to do. And not only that, our poor monk seals, they, there needs to be more awareness and education of all the factors contributing to their threats and land loss due to erosion, and getting tangled in fishing entanglements, and chumming in areas where it could draw them to be injured by boats. And there's so many factors, including tourists who have fed them fast food not knowing that you can't do that. So, there needs to be a combined effort where we all work together and look at all these factors. And in regard to a sanctuary, that figure, \$1,000 per cat per year, it comes from Lanai Cat Sanctuary. And that's not even including the startup costs. And if you're looking at 40,000 cats on Maui, 40 million to run annually without startup costs not including who's going to go out and get those cats. Sanctuaries should be understood they're setup to preserve a species, not reduce one. So, it is a nice idea for a last resort for a cat. But it shouldn't be used as a form of population control. But we need to as a whole, as a community, put the emotion aside, work together, bring solutions to the table, work with our hunters, eliminate the deer and the pig, get this fencing up in these vulnerable areas. Cliff House is one

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

where it's a huge nesting area and it's all fully open. You can actually walk right past these actual nests. I've seen it and it does sadden me to know that our species is being threatened also by mosquitoes. It's actually a concern that it could wipe out our parrotbills. So, we all want to work together, and we don't want to put one value of life over another. All life matters, and we all need to do it in a combined effort.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, well said.

MS. DROSE: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: We appreciate your thoughts this afternoon that you shared with us.

MS. DROSE: Thank you, thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, we appreciate that. Repeat your name for us again so we can get, be clear on the record, I'm sorry.

MS. DROSE: Yes, I'm so sorry. My name is Emily Drose, yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Emily. We appreciate you sharing that. Members, any questions for clarification regarding Emily's testimony? Okay. Having none, Emily, thank you once more for participating.

MS. DROSE: Oh, I see . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a question.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . is that Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, thank you.

MS. DROSE: I can kind of hear you, it's delayed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify. You're talking about Namalu Bay when you say Cliff House?

MS. DROSE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And does somebody manage the cat population over there?

MS. DROSE: I actually, I'm not aware of a cat population there. And obviously, TNR wouldn't be done at a known nesting area. But the things that I did see there was a staff there, you know, designated to overseeing and caring the nesting area. There are signs that it is a known area. And the only signs that I ever seen there were no dogs. I personally did not see any cats. I don't know of any in that area. But again, I encourage all members of the community where you are seeing cats, especially

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

conservationists, please work with us. Tell us where these pockets are so we can all come up with solutions that will work because we've all done, we've seen trap and kill, we've seen feeding bans done in other states. With everything being brought to the table has either been tried not to work, or it just simply is not feasible. So, we need to all work together again and I'm not aware of a cat population out there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have received complaints from the restaurant, of cats, a lot of cats even to the point where they're going through the restaurant and things like that. So, maybe the cat population is not . . . nobody's . . .

MS. DROSE: Not managed?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. DROSE: Yeah, those are signs that they're not being managed. And again, we're not saying that this is sole responsibility for those members of the community that do choose to do so. But I do encourage restaurant owners, any business owner, any member of the community to reach out to me. There are resources to deal with these cats. Spaying and neutering helps if you do choose to participate in TNR and set up a designated feeding station, that will help. And there are also humane deterrent devices that we can assist with to keep them from those certain areas because I agree, nobody should have a cat in a restaurant, or any animal in a restaurant unless they're a service animal. So, I, we can help with that and provide those resources.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll send 'em your way. Right on, thanks.

MS. DROSE: Oh boy. Yes, please do. We're here to help and we, our motto literally is, we love saving lives and we want to protect our native species. We don't want to see any animal suffer. But we also want to effectively do this and really do something that our State hasn't done, and hasn't seen, and we could truly be a pioneer to reduce population, protect our species, and Maui no ka oi and there's a reason. When we come together, we can do this and, you know, ma ka hana ka 'ike, we learn by doing, doing together. So, let's do it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. DROSE: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Anyone else would like to, needs a question for clarification? Okay. Erin, mahalo very much again for your --

MS. DROSE: Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: --response and participating.

MS. DROSE: Yes, you all stay safe and stay healthy.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you so much, you too. Les, our next . . .

MS. DROSE: Aloha.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Aloha.

MS. MILNER: Our next testifier is logged in as Coordinator, and they will be followed by our last testifier, calling from phone number ending in 0124.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Coordinator, you are currently muted. I will unmute you. Now you've muted yourself, I'm sorry. I can't unmute you. Okay. We will move on to caller phone number ending in 0124. I have . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Hi, are you out there?

MS. MILNER: I have unmuted your phone, 0124. Chair, I don't believe we have any more testifiers.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, Members, with no objection, first, any objections for us to receive any written testimony presented for today's agenda?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. With no objections, we'll receive all testimonies submitted for today's agenda, and with no further requests for oral testimony, with no objections we'll close this portion of the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

**. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you very much, Members. Testimony is closed for today's meeting.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hello?

### **ITEM HFC-15: OPPORTUNITY ZONES AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES** (CC 19-124)

CHAIR HOKAMA: I'm going to give you five minutes for personal requirements, Members. And then, your Chair is going to defer HFC-15, the Opportunity Zones and Healthy Committee's which was just going to be an update from Ms. Arakawa.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

### COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

**ACTION: DEFER.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: But yeah, I understand the time requirements and limitations. So, we'll take a recess and we'll reconvene in five minutes at 4:20 p.m. So, we will be in recess for five minutes. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 4:14 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 4:23 p.m.**

### ITEM HFC-58: EFFECTS OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC AND RELATED ISSUES (CC 20-213)

CHAIR HOKAMA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay. Members, we are back to order. Again, this is the HFC regular meeting of May 21, 2020. Prior to the recess, we deferred HFC-15, which is the Opportunity Zones and we're going to ask Ms. Arakawa from OED to submit to us a status update and we will bring this item back for the Committee Members to have direct discussion and questions. So, let us please now go to HFC-58. This is under the heading that all our committees have from Chair Lee is the Effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic and Related Issues as it regards to this Committee at this time. Under our Parks Department we have our Director, Karla Peters. We also have Mr. Kinzle, our Parks Superintendent, and I believe Mr. Todd Allen who is the Waiehu Golf Course Superintendent. And so, Director Peters, you know, if you could give us some comments on how your Department has responded to the Mayor allowing your Department to open up certain facilities with appropriate safeguards for our residents and users. So, if you would please share some thoughts?

MS. PETERS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, everyone. Thank you for having us here today. We did open up parks and the golf course, especially on May 1<sup>st</sup>. All modifications that were set forth by the Mayor's emergency public health rules, the Aloha Section PGA, the USGA, and the Allied Golf Organizations, which are applicable to the golf course have been implemented and followed in order to keep our employees and our guests safe. So, I'm going to turn it over to Todd, and then he can better explain to you the modifications and changes that are currently happening at the golf course.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Director. Mr. Allen?

MR. ALLEN: Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, Councilmembers. So, we've had a lot of different organizations that were fighting nationwide in trying to get golf courses back open and safe, specifically in Hawaii. And what we did is go through and try to remove as many touch-points that we could where the virus could be transmitted on the golf course so that meant no removal of the flag stick, no touching of the flag stick, ball washers, no using or touching of the ball washers, et cetera, you know, divot

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

bottle containers for filling sand divots. As far as the concessionaire Art Rego is concerned, he immediately installed a plexiglass front on his countertop. He also limited guests coming into the pro shop to two guests at a time. He locked the back door to only allow entrance on one side of the building to better control the amount of people that came in. They are wearing masks and using gloves. The outside service guys that he has working wearing mask and gloves. I'm sorry?

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, go ahead, Mr. Allen. Go ahead.

MR. ALLEN: Mask and gloves, and then, they're sanitizing the golf carts every morning and every evening as well as every time the cart goes out with a different golfer. In the starters booth we're doing much of the same. We are using masks and gloves, or hand sanitizer. We do not accept any cash at the window. So, it's credit card only. The credit card swipe has been put outside the window so that the guest actually is the only person touching the card. Let's see, what else have we done, as far as the bunker rakes, we've taken them, removed those from the entire golf course and we've put one per golf cart which actually has helped out both on the maintenance side and the aesthetics of the bunker. I thought it would actually make it look worse. But personally, I think it actually looks better and it helps us perform our jobs faster. The bathrooms and the drinking fountains, we are cleaning and sanitizing five times a day. So, first thing in the morning before anyone arrives, and then staggered throughout the day with the staff that we have, we clean it an additional four times. Any questions so far on any of that that I've described? Everyone was extremely happy to be back. We did have a little challenges with getting everyone to wear the mask and social distance. But it didn't take much time at all, you know, within a couple of days everybody was in the routine and following directions. So, it's actually been pretty seamless after we opened up. We . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: Good news . . .(inaudible). . .

MR. ALLEN: Oh, I'm sorry, go ahead.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, so, Todd, why don't you give the Committee some comment about, how's the demand been since Mayor has allowed our residents to return to the course. Is your demand great, minimal? How would you describe the demand for use of the facility?

MR. ALLEN: I can't get you a tee time, Mr. Hokama. I wouldn't be able to get a you a tee time if that's what you're asking. No, it's, the demand has been extremely high. Because one of the --

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, that's great.

MR. ALLEN: --one of the mandates from the CDC, and the Aloha Section PGA, and everyone involved with trying to create golf in the Coronavirus era was we had to extend our tee time intervals. Normally, we run every seven minutes at the golf course.



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right.

MR. ALLEN: We've had to go to every 14 minutes. So, we're limiting half of, you know, 50 percent of our volume is now decreased. So, that increases, specifically increases demand on tee times. So, we don't have --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Got it.

MR. ALLEN: --any openings. And we're also not allowing walk-ons, right. There are no walkups, it's tee time only. So, you'll have guys that are calling as a single, or a twosome, or a threesome, and we're forcing them to pair up into a group of four, no more, no less if possible.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. So, those golf . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Mr. Allen, they wait in the vehicle in the parking lot until you or the starter can give them an assigned foursome? Is that how it works?

MR. ALLEN: No, we don't allow walkups at all. So, they have to call and get an actual tee time with another group. So, if it's a single, Chair, they'll have . . . we'll have to hook them up with a twosome or a threesome, and they'll be playing as a foursome only. But they'll have a --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Got it.

MR. ALLEN: --tee time, right, they'll have a tee time, and then, they just show 10 to 15 minutes prior to that and work out all the arrangements, check in and then out they go.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Great. The users have been just our residents and but it's mostly our retirees or you see a mixed use of golf, our golfers, our young, new golfers, junior golfers?

MR. ALLEN: All of the above, yes, new golfers, junior golfers, a lot of retirees, a lot of residents. We've had some Hawaii State residents come and very few tourists, right. I think we've had seven or eight tourists total come so far. So, that was the only --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ALLEN: --that was the only concern.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Have you had any operational problems with your staff to operate and maintain the facility during this pandemic?

MR. ALLEN: We were very fortunate. We did have two close scares where there were possibly family members that were infected with COVID-19. Both of those came back negative. But in the interim, we had the employees stay home until the test results

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

came back. So, we've been very, very fortunate and we got as much work done as possible while we were closed.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, great job, Mr. Allen. Thank you. So, I'm going to let the Members ask their questions. Members, my plan is just to have one round. All of you will have your chance on the golf course, and then, we're going to have a, my plan is for a second round so that the Director and Mr. Kinzle can speak about other park facilities and what they can share with us as we move forward to allowing community to access facilities with appropriate safeguards. So, I'll start with Ms. Sugimura, and work my way through the Committee. You have any questions for this round?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't have any questions. Thank you, Chair. I don't have any questions, but I did see a post online about your beautiful golf course which I raved and took credit for, Todd. Good job, good job.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: No questions.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Well, you can owe me your tee time then. Thank you. Ms. Kama, you have a question --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: -for, regarding the golf course program?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, so, does the, do you folks teach how to golf?

MR. ALLEN: Absolutely. Art Rego has the ability to teach anyone how to play golf. That --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, you're . . .

MR. ALLEN: --currently has been put on hold until stage two of the golf course's opening. They're trying to limit some interaction, but yes, there are teaching facilities available.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you so very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Kama. Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Your turn. You have any questions?

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. I thought you were going to tell me something.

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Mr. Allen, so, thank you for your synopsis. I guess the one concern I have is it sounds like they're still using the golf carts. And so, how are people social distancing if you've got four people in a golf cart?

MR. ALLEN: There's only one person allowed in the golf cart unless they are members from the same household. At that point, then you would be able to have two, only two riders, right, in the golf cart.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

MR. ALLEN: So, it's, if a foursome goes out and they all want to ride, there's four golf carts going out. And Mr. Rego in the golf shop, our concessionaire, has been very generous in offering the golf carts at \$11 apiece. Normally it's \$22 for 18 holes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, they have a . . .

MR. ALLEN: Since there's only one rider in the golf cart, he's reduced the rate for each person.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: So, they have a little fleet going out then if they, if all four of them want to ride in the golf cart? I guess individually. And then, do they have, if they walk, do they have like a certain distance that they have to stay apart?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, we still maintain the six feet or more. And they, the golfers have been very good about that. The putting green, we don't have any flags put on the putting green, the practice area. So, and there's only four cups out there. So, we turn those upside down so that they don't reach in the cup to grab the ball out. And it's been really, it's worked really well, Councilmember, it's been great actually. The only downside is that each foursome that goes out there's four carts going out. So, that's essentially double the traffic, double the wear and tear on the golf course, double the compaction.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Are those electric or are they gas?

MR. ALLEN: They're currently gas. Our facility doesn't have the ability to use electric carts.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, that'd be great if you could make that a COVID-19 expense. But it seems to me like . . .

MR. ALLEN: We will definitely, it would definitely be a good idea. We would just need solar panels to offset the cost of electricity.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MR. ALLEN: But then, we'd definitely reduce some of our footprint, our carbon footprint.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Yeah, no, I was just wondering about the proximity because, and I'll ask later on when the Director comes on more about the tennis issues because I don't know if they have the same, you know, whether you can play in a foursome if you're all related or not. But obviously, if you're in the same house, well, it's not going to make a difference whether you're outside or not. So, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. King. Mr. Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you very much, Chair. And thank you, Mr. Allen, for that wonderful overview. And boy, I tell you what, you guys are going above and beyond as far as the sanitation procedures, that's really impressive. And your guys are definitely earning their paychecks, that's for sure. If you had a, you know, I know nothing's 100 percent, but if you had a, something, some other safeguard you would like to have but cannot have, is there anything out there? Like I know there's no way to do temperature checks and all that kind of stuff with people coming in to play golf and hard to detect who may be sick and who may not be sick. Is there anything else you would like to have but for whatever reasons maybe cannot have?

MR. ALLEN: That's a great question, Councilmember. The one thing that I've seen the other facilities do that I think would be possibly beneficial for us if we continue to stay open and maybe move our tee times back to the seven-minute interval is if we have a nonresident or a tourist, have them verify proof that they've been through a 14-day quarantine once they've come to the island. I know Kapalua is requiring that as a mandate for the tourists to play out at their golf course. I think that would be in our benefit and to protect our residents and our seniors specifically at the golf course.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Great, that's certainly something that should be looked into. Thank you, Mr. Allen.

MR. ALLEN: You're welcome. Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Great point, Mr. Molina. And I think, Todd, we can also work with people like Art Rego and the rest of the Aloha Section PGA membership. I think all our professionals are taking this very seriously, the standards of USGA and PGA requirements for safe gatherings regarding the golf industry. So, thank you for that, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I had couple questions for Mr. Allen or whoever. I was wondering, I'm not super familiar, what is a bunker brake [sic]?

MR. ALLEN: A bunker rake, Councilmember Paltin, is a rake that's used in the sand trap. So, when you hit out of a sand trap it's etiquette, proper golf etiquette, to rake your

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

footprints and the area that you hit out of so it smooths it back out for the next person that might possibly be in the same area.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, you guys aren't doing that anymore? You said you got rid of the bunker brakes [sic]?

MR. ALLEN: The bunker rakes, typically on a golf course are strategically placed around the bunker, around each bunker so that the guests can use them when they get there. Currently, we have removed all of those from, the bunkers and there's only one per cart. So, a golfer with a cart that rents a cart has a bunker rake to do that after they get out of the bunker. The walkers that we have, they're using their feet and their golf club to smooth the area back out if the next golfer lands in that same spot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, a rake.

MR. ALLEN: A rake, rake yes.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought you said a brake. Okay. Got it, got it. And then, my other question is, with half of the tee times, is it still breaking even to what it was before because more people had to work or weren't golfing as much? Or is it a little bit less?

MR. ALLEN: Excellent question, it's actually about half, it's less, yes. We're making about half as much as we were per day before the COVID-19, before the shutdown. We were doing very well, we had the best October, November, December, January, February, up into March, that we've ever had at Waiehu, and then, COVID-19 came down unfortunately. So, we're missing a complete month, we're missing a complete month out of the equation. Based on my calculations, we're still going to be, unless they change the tee time interval and we're allowed to go back to a full tee sheet, if they don't change that, then we have to go through all of May, and all of June with half of our tee times I think we're going to be \$45,000 short of our estimated revenue for the year because I . . . did you get the information that I sent over about how much we've made so far this month?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Did we get that? Yeah, we haven't received it in Committee yet, Director, and Mr. Allen. So, yeah, as soon as we receive it, we will disseminate to all Committee Members.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then, you just would, it would be better to be open than closed right? You guys prefer to be open?

MR. ALLEN: Oh, absolutely. Your residents were, are needing a mental and physical stress relief. I mean, golf is an excellent game, an outdoor sport, fresh air, healthy exercise, and it's mental, the mental game as much as it is physical. So, so far this month since we've opened back up, we've made \$34,000. Our typical May and June is

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

anywhere between 45,000 to 65,000 depending on the year that you want to look at. So, we're halfway there, but we would be much further ahead had we every tee time available.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much.

MR. ALLEN: You're welcome, Councilmember.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. So, Todd, we understand the adjustment on the dollars, yeah. How's the rounds? You're at like 50 percent of rounds projected for play?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, that was what I had, the estimated revenue was what I was looking at is how many rounds I can get through until the end of June to try to come up with a number. I mean, we're --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. ALLEN: --we're only 5 percent down from last year right now revenue-wise. So, we did very well even missing a month.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Right, right.

MR. ALLEN: I think we're going to be very close, very, very close to making . . .

CHAIR HOKAMA: I know . . . *(inaudible)* . . . pleased with the condition of the paspalum greens and adjustments. I've heard very good comments regarding your crew's efforts during this virus regarding improving the tees, tee boxes, and other areas as part of your facility. So, I just hope you would send the word to your team and your crew that it's much appreciated, and it has been noticed by the residents of this County that you folks have been doing yeoman's work. So, I hope you will share that with your employees.

MR. ALLEN: Absolutely, I would be more than happy to, Chair. I absolutely will.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, you have any questions you would like to pose?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Allen, mahalo for your presentation. So, I have two questions, and will likely not need a round two. I wanted to first follow up on Member Molina's question regarding your request for an, a policy of showing a 14-day quarantine. Is that a policy that the Parks Department would be able to develop on their own? Or is that something that you would need the Council's help with?

MR. ALLEN: I think we would need possibly Council's help. CDC recommendation, I don't know if they're going to recommend that. I just know that Kapalua and possibly Troon Golf who made that one of their policies. So, I . . . we could take a look at it to see if

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

the Parks Department can do it and if we need Council's support or the Mayor's support to make sure that everyone understands that that is a rule. And if you can't provide us with proof that you've been in a 14-day quarantine that you're not playing golf, you're not frequenting our facility.

MS. PETERS: Chair, I have a comment to that I can provide. So, when we did the rules that Todd had mentioned, that the modifications, those came out of the guidelines that were provided by the Aloha PGA and the --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MS. PETERS: --United States Golf. So, we'll look at that too, and see about implementing. I do not believe we would need legislative changes 'cause we've been just kind of following the guidelines from the various organizations and the CDC and Johns Hopkins.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. What I'll do, Ms. Fernandez, for all of us is I'll, if you don't mind, I'll forward your request in a written form so that we can have something to respond to from the Department and we can share that information upon receipt.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR HOKAMA: 'Cause I think we all would like to know how we can support the Department with protecting our community and I like this thing about the 14-day proof of quarantine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, I support it.

CHAIR HOKAMA: So, we'll forward that on your behalf.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, one last question. And it's regarding the FY '21 Budget, the EDB Committee voted to bring down the rate, the green fee rate.

MR. ALLEN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Were you following that? Is that something that you suspect will help to attract more golfers?

MR. ALLEN: Yes, absolutely, Councilmember. And I would also recommend that we missed the Hawaii State. I think you folks only modified the tourist rate, the non-resident rate if I heard the information correctly. I didn't actually get to see the Council meeting.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, not, so, not out of state, it was out of county. So, if they lived in another county in Hawaii but with a Hawaii driver's license.

MR. ALLEN: Right, that, we definitely need to reduce that rate back down to what it used to be. It used to be equivalent to, it was equivalent to the military rate because we have lost . . . excuse me for a second, let me look at the numbers, Hawaii State, we have lost 58 percent of our Hawaii State play this year. We have lost, that's for weekend and holiday, and then, for weekday rate we've lost 39 percent of our play from Hawaii State residents for weekdays.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And, Mr. Allen, sorry, a quick follow-up. Are you saying that that's a direct correlation to the increase of the rate from FY '20?

MR. ALLEN: Correct, that is correct yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo.

MR. ALLEN: It is a direct correlation to the increase of the rate.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. ALLEN: When you look at the rate that they're paying, when a Hawaii State resident is paying \$35 to just, for the golf fee, and then they need to go pay another \$22 to rent a cart, right? They're equivalent to Maui Nui, Maui Lani, Pukalani rates. So, we're losing revenue somewhere there to those other golf courses.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Allen. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. ALLEN: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, yeah, thank you for those questions. I don't know if Ms. Lee is in. I know as one of our participants in the golf arena, Ms. Lee, if you're there we're open to any questions you may have if you'd like to pose any? And, Mr. Sinenci, if you are connected, I will be happy to allow you to pose a question for Parks if you're participating. Okay. If none, Director, why don't we talk to other, regarding for you and Mr. Kinzle, Chris, how the other areas of the Department is responding to the Mayor's willingness to ease certain restrictions but keeping safety and sanitation forefront. How are you proceeding with your Department's jurisdictions please?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. So, we have been phasing our openings starting on, we started on May 1<sup>st</sup> in which we opened our parks that had walking paths, as well as some of the beach parks. We continued on with phase two, and those were our neighborhood parks and more beach parks, as well as the tennis courts. And we used the Johns Hopkins' risk assessment, as well as we were ensuring that by phasing this



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

opening, we were able to provide our staff with the necessary personal protective equipment and as well as the sanitation supplies that they needed to ensure that we could keep our community safe with the cleaning. So, similar to what Todd had mentioned at the golf course, we did implement all those cleanings in the restrooms within all of our open parks. So, we ensure that staff goes in and the restrooms are cleaned and safe for everyone to use. During the time of closure, so for those parks and facilities that are still closed, I can kind of turn it over to Chris, he's, they're doing a lot of maintenance within these areas and keeping up, as well as with our capital improvement program we're very busy in trying to ensure that we can get those projects on track and stay on track during this time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Director. Chris, if you would share some comment with the Committee please?

MR. KINZLE: Some of the projects that the guys have got hold on right now, so, one of the projects is they got, that we're getting to right now is Rice Park, we've been doing the restroom renovations up there. With the parks being . . . with the community centers being closed we've been going in and making sure that all the electrical fixtures are working, going around and checking all the outlets, any of our parking lot lights, we're making sure that those are functioning. We've got, since the pool was closed Upcountry, we're seal coating and repainting the parking lot at the Upcountry pool. We just got a list of things that we've got going on. It's just we're trying to get as much stuff done in a short amount of time as possible. It's, you know, the guys are really picking up not only that, but then with all the other COVID things going on with us helping setup barricades for food drives, testing. We've got, we're just been nonstop, and the guys are doing a really good job.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you for that, Chris. No, I can tell you even your Lanai crew has assisted with our food distribution program and whatnot. So, no, we appreciate the effort and the personnel of your Department in assisting the community during these difficult times. I'll ask Ms. Sugimura first; you have any questions for the Director or Chris regarding Parks program?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: I appreciate this, Chair, because Parks is, I always call them frontline and important. I wonder if Chris could submit to you, Chair, the list of CIP projects or Parks' projects that they're working on just so that we can see their comprehensive list if that's possible.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Director, yeah, any problem, I'll forward that request in writing formally. And then, if you can give us some comment at this time already of certain maybe key CIP projects that the Department is doing that would be great. And then, other than that, we'll, I hope you'd respond in Countywide projects as well as district projects, that would be appreciated.

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair, yeah, we'll definitely put something in writing for you. Thank you, Member Sugimura. So, we have our Kula Park Playground that's still in process, the CIP projects, we have the War Memorial Football Stadium paving, that's

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

going along well. We also have, let's see, we have the playground at the Wailuku Heights, in Wailuku Heights, that's a CIP project going on. We have the Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center renovation, and let's see, the Lanai kitchen, the permitted kitchen, contractor's estimated to start demo on the 26<sup>th</sup>. And then, we have a lot of projects that are in permitting so that when we do get funding in our Fiscal Year '21, they'll be ready to go. Also, I wanted to just reiterate what Chris had mentioned, all of our staff, we've had all of our staff working during this COVID. We had five of our, in our Planning and Development Division that were teleworking. Other than that, our rest of our Department has been boots on the ground assisting with all of the food drives, the testing, we were just out in South Maui helping with testing there and it's just trying to make sure that when we do fully reopen, we have the proper modifications in place and everything is good to go and very safe. Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you. Before I . . . *(inaudible)* . . . and again . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Ms. Sugimura backwards this time. But I'm going to ask Director to first give us comment because one of the things that during the summer we provide our community and our youth is the PALS Program. So, Director, you know, I've had some parents and whatnot hoping that things will get so much better that eventually PALS might be reconsidered to provide service to our young people. So, do you have any comments regarding things that we had anticipated for either summer or fall that you could share at this time?

MS. PETERS: Thank you, Chair. So, right now the PALS Program is still on hold. We are working with all of the partnering agencies in coming up with looking at some sort of blended assistance for our communities and our keiki. As far as the other fall programs, you know, we did, we are going through our tri-annual permitting, right now the organized sports are, you know, not allowed within the parks and we hope that we can get a better idea of how that's going to look within the next month. I know the HHSAA did say that they wanted to start football on September 4, right? You know, that, again, everything right now is pretty much ever evolving. You know, we just heard a comment from one of our youth center coordinators saying it's not day to day anymore, it's minute by minute in which we have to make decisions and make the right choices and following all the guidelines.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, great, great. Thanks for that, and then again, we'll be posting this item again, yeah, Members, 'cause one of the things as we reopen up the economy, the beginning part, one of the issues will be childcare for the residents that need to work. What happens to their children? So, do they stay home take care of the kids and don't go to work? Or go to work but use all the money to pay for childcare for a babysitter or someone else yeah. So, these are things that we can start some pre planning on that I just want the Department to start, help us formalize opportunities for residents. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, it's your turn. We'll start with you this time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't have any questions at this time. I just, I have a meeting at 5:00.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I'll be stepping away. Mahalo.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. And on the next item, yeah, again, we open to any of your mana'o regarding Molokai and the feral animal issue, Ms. Rawlins. But again, we will just start the discussion. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you. Okay. And, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, if you do have questions, just forward it and we'll be happy to forward it for a response of any of your concerns.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Ms. Paltin, any questions at this time?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, thank you, yeah. I got a burning question about our, you know, a lot of people, the masters, and everyone find mental health and well-being in the swimming pools. And I'm feeling kind of in hindsight regretful that we cut all the summer lifeguards because they're, all the summer programs that I usually sign up my kids for got cancelled. And so, you know, maybe they'd like to go to the pool or something. But is it even a possibility of our pools opening up and like what kind of guidelines would be in place? I know also there's a big problem with the facilities outside of Shiraishi with, you know, feces, and needles, and those sorts of things. So, anything, information that you can provide?

MS. PETERS: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. So, at this time, we are looking at again our phasing program on the reopening and the pools are being looked at. But we don't have that definite date of when it's going to reopen. We are though looking and making sure that like Chris mentioned, that we're getting into these areas to get them better secured, looking into how we can have our Parks Security Officers, so they've been very busy in trying to make sure that these areas, we go through all of the parks, they have all of their assignments, they provide us with updates, and then, staff goes in the next day and takes care of whatever types of issues that they find to make the proper corrections. So, we're hoping that in looking at, you know, the Budget process and what we did get in Fiscal Year '21 that we could possibly look at maybe getting more of our security cameras within our pool facilities 'cause that's where we're finding a lot of concern with the vandalism.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And are you getting good support from the Police Department? From the pictures that I seen outside of Shiraishi with the feces, the underwear, the, everything like that, it seems like, you know, just some presence would also help the situation.

MS. PETERS: Yeah, thank you, Member Paltin. So, we are, Maui Police Department has been very supportive of our program and helping us when we call them. Also, what we

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

did put in was a request for assistance with the National Guard. So, what they're doing is they're showing a presence within all of our parks. So, they can't enforce anything, but yet, their presence has really helped.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if the pools were to open, like what kind of safeguards, like how you did for the golf course, would it be like, you know, how Walmart or whatever they have, you know, so much people can enter at a time, no sharing lanes, and those types of things, and like parents gotta always be like all the kids right together in a, within six foot bubble or how is that going to be addressed?

MS. PETERS: So, we would be following again the guidelines of the Swimming Association, as well as I probably mentioned, you know, we've been getting a lot of e-mail from our swimming community and sharing some of the guidelines with us. And they also mentioned, you know, possibly you wouldn't shower after you got, when you leave, before you leave the pool. We would require you to just, you would have to just leave right after. But we'll be looking into all those modifications. And the, our pool section is aware that we are going to reopen soon. And so, they are looking into getting all of those modifications done along with Chris and his staff helping to get those things done when we follow those guidelines.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much.

MS. PETERS: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for that, Ms. Paltin. Mr. Molina, any questions, sir?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you very much, Chair. Good afternoon, Director. And as far as the CIP, thank you, you know, to Chris and all the rest of the gang for you guys' work on the Haiku restrooms. We had a virtual meeting last night, the Haiku Community Association and I updated everybody. So, the community's very pleased and notified them about the, you know, moving forward I think in July to complete the restrooms. So, thank you for that. One burning question that I get asked a lot here in Makawao is of course the park that's near and dear to everybody's heart, Eddie Tam Memorial Complex. Any clue as to when that may be open? 'Cause we've got a lot of people who would love to go walking and some people tell me they're getting scared keep walking on the road yeah, 'cause you know how people drive around Makawao. So, any thoughts on reopening of Eddie Tam?

MS. PETERS: Yeah, thank you, Member Molina. We've been getting a lot of e-mail and phone calls for Eddie Tam. So, Eddie Tam was classified in one of our larger complex parks. And so, those, similar to War Memorial here, Central Maui Regional, all of our larger areas, those are going to be opening up in the next phase.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Which is when? I have to ask, sorry.

MS. PETERS: It hasn't been determined just yet. But we're hoping within the next couple weeks.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. All right, fantastic, thank you.

MS. PETERS: Thank you. You know, another thing that we did look at in the phase three opening was that we could identify if there are any clusters that came out of our parks. So, that's why we kind of had to space things apart. And also, the PPE's for our staff because with those five times cleaning, it takes a lot of personal protective equipment for our boots on the ground. So, and again, we appreciate all that they do. They've been working really hard to keep our community safe.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, for sure, totally agree with you on that. Well anyway, thank you for all of your work and staying in touch with the community. It's much appreciated. Thank you, Chairman.

MS. PETERS: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Okay. Ms. King, your questions for the Department?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Am I the last one?

CHAIR HOKAMA: No, we have Ms. Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, okay. So, let's see, I can't, oh there you are, okay, now I can see you. Aloha, Director. Good to see you, Karla.

MS. PETERS: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I have, it's interesting how we have these different interests on the Council. So, my, I'm going to start with the tennis courts. We have golfers, we have the swimmers, and now we're onto the tennis because I understand from talking to people just in the last couple days that you're somehow banning foursomes, but they can play singles only. So, I just wondered if you could comment on, you know, whether we can use that same rule that you're using on the golf course for, you know, if you have four people that live together or are family they should be able to, I guess if you live together you should be able to play together. And also, are there rules, safety rules, that are coming out of the U.S. Tennis Association for how to get back on the court?

MS. PETERS: Yeah, thank you, Member King. So, we did follow those rules which did recommend that they, singles only. So, that's what, how we implemented it. So, tennis and pickleball was a recommendation for singles only. Doubles would be played if you were in the same household.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. PETERS: And so, we, yeah, so we've been enforcing that, and, you know, everyone's again so happy to be able to be outside and be on the courts, and so far we've been hearing only positive comments come out of it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I've been hearing that too. Although, my brother-in-law told me he was really sore 'cause he hadn't played for so long. But . . . *(inaudible)*. . . have the same, I have the same concern about the tennis courts as far as the tourists, as the golf courses because I know a lot of tourists come here and then they want to get out on the court. So, do we have those same quarantine deals with other parts of our Parks' facilities before they, before tourists come here and go in our pools, or go in our basketball or tennis courts?

MS. PETERS: Member King, so, right now as far as our open courts, we have no one there monitoring it, right? So, we have Park Security Officers who come by and our Parks, our Park Caretakers, our District Staff unlike the golf course where you have to actually check in, and we have no one regulating that at the tennis courts right now. We will look into it definitely, you know, we'll look into the guidelines and see what we can do. We all are concerned and want to make sure that we can best get everyone to follow those rules, so.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, I know that's hard because I know at the pools you have people there. But maybe if nothing else you could at least put a sign up so at least they know that if they are there playing without having quarantined, they're still in violation. You know, if that's the rule, then we should be making sure that everybody's as safe as possible, even if it's just a sign on the tennis courts.

MS. PETERS: Yeah, we can definitely do that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Great. And then, I also had a question about the restrooms in South Maui. 'Cause there's a, there's not, I've heard from two different people; one of 'em, our Representative, about two different ideas of what's open. So, are they, are all the restrooms open now in the parks or is it just Kalama Park?

MS. PETERS: So, all of the parks that are open, their restrooms are open. And we did modify the hours for all of our open parks. They are 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Is there a posting of that somewhere of all the parks on the island and their hours?

MS. PETERS: Yes, they're on our website. If you go to the County website, there's a link on there and it'll take you to all the open parks. And within those parks, the restrooms are open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and sanitized and cleaned throughout the day. The Porta-Potties that we have within all of our parks, those are still onsite, and those remain open 24 hours a day.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Well, I really appreciate all of the work you're doing sanitizing it because I know from talking to people at the State level that's not always

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

an easy task and you have to do it often. So, I, you know, everybody in the community really appreciates that. And then, the last question I have is, are you able to continue work on the skate park since everything is shut down and no one's there? What, is there any progress being made on that?

MS. PETERS: So, for the skate park, the concrete part, part of it is completed. What we needed to do was we needed to get an assessment of the wooden vert ramp. That structural assessment has been completed. And we are able to repair it. So, we did request for the additional funding in Fiscal Year '21 and we're going to get right on it once we get the funding to repair the wooden vert ramp because it abuts up to the concrete ramp and we need to get a fence and rail up there for safety. So, it'll mean modifying some of that wooden vert ramp.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. But, and so, but you have to wait until July 1<sup>st</sup> until the new funding kicks in?

MS. PETERS: Yes, right now we don't have any current funding for the wooden vert ramp. Also, we need to modify the permitting for that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Okay. I think that's all the questions I have. Thank you, Chair. It was really informative.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. King. Ms. Kama, any questions you may. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes, I do. Real simple, simple kind questions, Chair. Thank you. Thank you for the Department of Parks and Recreation. You know, you know that we're so dependent upon you folks. But thank you for your hard work. So, you know, I wanted to talk about the sanitization of the bathrooms. Do you sanitize the bathrooms before they open or as they're being, or throughout the day also?

MS. PETERS: So, they're sanitized at, when they're opened and throughout the day, and at the end of day. So, we . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, that's wonderful.

MS. PETERS: Yes, we . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, the Wailuku Community Center and all the other centers, oh that one in particular, is it still under renovations?

MS. PETERS: So, the Wailuku Community Center is . . . the renovations were completed. We did some in-house renovations when we were shut down for that couple months at the end of last year.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

MS. PETERS: And we did come in for funding for design for the solar power and AC. So, that's a CIP project that we'll be working on.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, do you anticipate, so, do you anticipate the community centers opening up any time within the next few weeks?

MS. PETERS: No, actually, for the month of June they will still remain closed.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, if people wanted to, the way you get to use a facility is the year before you have to kind of like get in line and do this whole process, right? So, if somebody wanted to use the facilities a year from today, are they still able to just call, sign-in, or do, go through that process?

MS. PETERS: Yes, so our permit office, they do not take walkups. Their windows are closed right now. But they are available by phone and e-mail. So, the permitting process is still happening.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Very good. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Kama. Okay. Members, if you have any additional, please forward it to the Chair and we will have it processed properly for a departmental response. With no objections, Members, I would like to defer this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.** (Excused: KRF)

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Okay. Thank you. We'll defer it, and we want to thank Parks Department: Director Peters, Chris, and Todd for their respective divisional reports on their program areas. Okay. Thank you for 58.

**ITEM HFC-24: FERAL ANIMAL MANAGEMENT ON MAUI** (CC 19-248, 19-306, 20-140)

CHAIR HOKAMA: Let us please now go to our last item for the day, HFC-24 which is the Feral Animal Management. And we'll, your Chair's intent is to just allow each of you to give some comment. And then, if you have questions for any agency or we can forward, your Chair will be happy to forward it for responses, and then, plan to reschedule the meeting for the Committee to have more general discussion among ourselves and resource people that you wish to participate with us. So, for me, people, yeah, my main area of feral animal management on Lanai is you know, axis deer and feral cats and chickens on our island. That's the three biggest things that our community, I would say feral birds in general, I mean, I haven't seen as many turkeys, wild turkeys roaming our community ever since the last big hurricane. And I don't know whether it was the hurricane with the chicken coops and whatnot, but our island is inundated with birds and in areas that was never part of the general community of the, what we call Lanai City. The feral deer thing, I'm disappointed in DLNR's census, their annual census of the numbers of the various game mammals on



## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

Lanai, whether it be the mouflon sheep, axis deer, the bird hunting program. Somehow, we haven't been able to keep the herd managed to the levels. And I don't think we've been harvesting the numbers required for a smart game management program. And I'm hoping DLNR will come forward and explain to us whether public hunting is one, primarily for recreational use, and the hunting of species that they've allowed to enter the state or is game . . . public hunting primarily for management of our feral animals and that recreational is a side complementary use to address managing the numbers. So, it's something that we'll have a, the State respond to and its impact on private, as well as public lands. I'll ask Ms. Sugimura for your comments, whether it's Countywide or regional, I'll ask you and then we'll go right down the line and have everyone give their thoughts to this. Ms. Sugimura?

VICE-CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I appreciate this discussion. I think it, the most testimony as we all know was about the feral cats and community is asking for axis deer and pigs also for management. And as you know, with the Kula Ag Park here, I mean, that's kind of a big problem. I'm actually receiving information today from Patrick Ornellas and Kay Fukumoto regarding the seriousness of the axis deer at the Kula Ag Park and it's actually destroying, you know, the food security, or actually food I guess, for the farmers there. So, that to me is a really big problem. And then, from my community work, I've heard over and over again also the concern about chickens. I didn't hear anybody until this came up about cats. But you can tell that there's a lot of passion out there. But I'll have something regarding management of axis deer, and then, I'm really concerned about the Kula Ag Park. So, I'm glad you're taking this up, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, thank you, Ms. Sugimura. And we hope you would, especially for Upcountry, find a way to get our farmers participating because, you know, if it impacts their crops, you know, it's big damage and, you know, it's a, it comes down to a cash issue down the road eventually. So, yeah, we appreciate whatever you can bring to the table for our discussions. Ms. Kama, anything you would like to share from your perspective or for your district or anything else Countywide?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, I think Countywide I'd like to ask you if you could invite the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands to come at your next meeting.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And if you could --

CHAIR HOKAMA: Of course.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: --invite somebody who can tell us, okay, so, we have a problem of an overabundance of protein that's running around. So, how do you harvest that overabundance so that that problem now becomes a solution for us? So, that's what I'm looking at if I don't know who you would invite but somebody to tell us how to turn this gold into cash, I guess. That's what I'm asking. So, that's all, Chair. Thank you.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
**Council of the County of Maui**

**May 21, 2020**

---

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, we'll be happy to notify them and ask them to participate, Ms. Kama. Thank you. Ms. King, any comments for your district or Countywide you'd like share?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, you know, we've all seen those, the footage of the deer running around that looks like the Serengeti, and I've actually seen them on the courts in Makena walking right between tennis courts. So, it is a big problem in South Maui as well. And, you know, my thought, I was appalled to find out that the folks aren't being allowed to hunt on their own land on Hawaiian Home Lands because, you know, we can do it on ag land because we're protecting our crops. So, we can do it without a license on our own land and it's twofold. It's partially subsistence and it's partially crop protection because you gotta protect your crops if they're, especially commercial. So, what I would like to see is some kind of a task force that, you know, could be promulgated from this Committee but that involved the Hawaiian Home Lands and the DLNR and the, one or two of our State representatives maybe. But I think the needing a . . . we keep hearing from different sides that they're willing to help. But we gotta bring them all together and get them to start working on a plan together. And I really feel that way about the feral cat issue as well. I feel like there's some people out there that are trying to work on solutions and trying to come together. But there's a larger group, two larger groups out there that are split, you know, where they're just, you know, they're, this is the only way to do it or this is the only way to do it. And we really need all the groups to come together. We, you know, it's ridiculous to have the same goal of wanting to reduce the cat population but then having such strong feelings about what works and what doesn't work. So, my, one of my biggest concerns is how do we find out because we hear from one side that the trap and release is, or the trap and release after neutering is working. And then, we hear from another side that it's not working. So, it seems like there should be some way to figure out is it working or is it not working? You know, maybe start with a study of where we are with the cat population. But I just feel like there's so much energy out there. If we could just harness it and get them to collaborate, you know, the ungulate thing especially because there is a lot of food out there. And when we talk about food security, we talk about only having enough food for 14 days. But if you look at all the deer and cows and pigs, we got food for a long time, a lot longer than 14 days. We're just not counting it. So, anyway, those are my thoughts for right now and I'm glad that we're having this broad discussion. But I think what we need to do is kind of start to coalesce it around certain issues that the groups want to work on. There's some groups that want to work on the ungulate issue, there's different groups that want to work on the feral cat issue, you know, there's a few people that I've talked to that want to work on the chicken issue. And so, you know, if we can get that, get them to start working together and come up with the solutions, you know, because we can't . . . we can . . . all we could do is start these discussions and start this effort. But we can't do it all ourselves. So, anyway, I appreciate the broad scope of this discussion because it brings a lot of people in, and then, now I think we just have to kind of turn around and start focusing on them, getting them to work on those issues where some of them have already started. So, that's pretty impressive.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah. Okay. Yeah, thank you for that . . .

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

---

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you for that, Ms. King. And I would agree, yeah, after we do the appropriate discussions for the general parameters then yeah, we'll start working and make it a little tighter so that hopefully we can get some smart regional kinds of better defined for the regionals that still fits under the overall general umbrella of game management for the County. So, I appreciate your comments. Mr. Molina, sir, your thoughts?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Member King pretty much said everything I wanted to say with regards to a task force which I totally agree with. I mean, there's going to have to be some compromise because, you know, we all have a general love for animals. But we gotta look at the realistic, as far as our native species go. I mean, I love cats, but then, birds are animals too. So, our native species need to have some consideration so with the formation of a task force and cooler heads that, you know, a plan can be worked out. And, you know, this was a really good meeting because upon hearing, you know, just from the testifiers about now cows running around too. That's something, you know, growing up here in Maui, yeah, Mr. Hokama, we didn't hear about feral cows and chickens. I think our first go around the only thing about chickens we had was the roosters crowing at, you know, in the morning. But now we got 'em all over the place and so, it's potentially becoming a health issue. So, I think it's high time cooler heads need to prevail and let's all work together and find a solution. So, that's my thoughts and, you know, you can hear my birds in the background, you know, echoing my sentiments, I guess. Anyway, I could use one of those feral cats to help monitor them, you know, for noise control. But anyway, but thank you, Chair, for having this meeting.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Molina. Ms. Paltin, any comments you'd like to share please?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Hokama, Chair. You know, I was getting inundated with all the e-mails and I just really want to give a shout out to my staff. Together, we reached out to all the e-mailers and we said, you know, this is a problem and it needs both sides to reach across the aisle and come up with solutions. And I was really, despite the e-mails that I got back, I was really pleasantly surprised by the testimony. It seemed like a good number of people did take that to heart. And from some of the solutions that they offered, it seems to me that we really need to identify the areas where our native indigenous endangered bird habitats are and say, you know, this is not an area for colonies, you know, to start off with because like Dr. Mounce said, you know, some of the species there's only less than 200 of them left. So, we're at a critical point for those species. And I was really thankful for Ms. Banziger and I loved the idea of a trapper team, you know, to hit those sensitive areas and remove the cats entirely from the sensitive areas as a start. And, you know, I liked Mr. MacKinnon's idea of a more aggressive campaign against dumping. Maybe we can raise fines against animal dumping. I would like to see them, you know, not turn away cats as Dr. Mounce's story, you know, if there's a two month, two pound,

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

cat, a kitten less than two months or two pounds and, you know, this person is not a cat lover something should be done. Maybe we can work a little bit on that. But, you know, I think that we should, you know, just take steps to make it better and really focus on reaching out to the two sides and having them work together. It's, I mean, I don't like the cat feces in my yard, you know, and I find it all over like I'm, I put little cages around all my plants cause I don't want the cats to take a shit right next to it if I'm going to eat those foods. But it's not like a big issue to me. It's just the nuisance and I appreciate our indigenous birds, our endangered species. But it's not really a priority item in my scope of things to deal with. And so many people are passionate about one or the other, the cats, the birds, whatever, that it really makes sense for me to have these two groups to work together and then, like we just kind of facilitate them along the way because I got a lot on my plate besides cats and birds. And as for the chickens issue, you know, I really believe that chickens could be a self-sufficiency thing for the future. I don't know what Mr. Feinberg was talking about, but in our neighborhood, we eat 'em, you know. And I think, you know, like it's a food source, you just round 'em up and keep 'em together, chicken papaya, whatever. And they're smart, chickens are smart, you know, if you keep removing 'em from your yard they won't come back. And, you know, I just really believe that chickens are a solution more than a problem once managed correctly. And, you know, if we can move, I mean, chicken manure on the Big Island you cannot get chicken manure right now. It's like, I guess the gardening craze and like that, and that's one of the best nonpetroleum-based fertilizers, animal husbandry, and whatnot. I don't have the time to make the chickens the solution. But I wish somebody would take that ball and run with it because I, chickens, we, when we had the feral chickens in our yard we used to eat their eggs, and then, when they get old, eat them. And, you know, it's totally, and with these times like people are low on funds and whatnot. I . . . chickens are a solution if handled properly and they eat bugs. Oh, and you know, composting, the chickens are like pigs, they'll eat pretty much everything. So, you know, food waste and whatnot. I really see chickens as a solution. But it's just not managed properly. And that's my ten cents.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you, Ms. Paltin. Again, we will put everything on the table. We'll not discard any thought or consideration, yeah. We'll be open to as many different options and variance as possible. So, thank you for those thoughts, Ms. Paltin. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, okay, okay . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yeah, aloha, yeah, thank you for coming back and we'll be happy to hear your mana'o about this subject.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. My meeting ended faster than I expected. So, and you are still meeting so I was able to join back. Mahalo for this opportunity to provide some comments. I won't be too long. Most of what I would have said has been said. And I echo the sentiments of Member King, Member Paltin, and Member Molina. Just a couple things to add, I did, I was able to find the Maui Axis Deer Group from 2002. The initial findings and recommendations for a Maui

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

deer management plan. And so, I can send that to the Committee to go under this item.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then, that's something, it's actually not too long. And I know this isn't a finalized plan. But I support, you know, putting together either a working group of some sort that can help us come up with some kind of finalized plan or policy and then, that way they don't have to reinvent the wheel since so much work has been done on this. And let's see, I echo Member Paltin's comments about mahalo to Ms. Banziger and the Cat Ranch, Surfing [sic] Cat Ranch. Yeah, so, so yeah, so, I think it would be great for us to, you know, again, put together a working group of those that can come up with proposed policies that we can then look at since they're the experts. We're not the experts on native endemic seabirds and our endemic monk seals and cat colonies and all the different methods of controlling population growth and, you know, protecting our native species. So, I think if we can put them all together and, you know, give them a timeline for recommended policies, then perhaps that would be a good way for us to move forward. And the last thing I wanted to provide comment on was Member Molina mentioned wild cattle. That's something that was introduced back when, in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century when our ali'i put kapu on them. And so, we had wild cattle in the mountains that were for our ali'i at the time. And so, there are descendants, those wild cattle from back in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. So, we have a history of that and, but I agree with, you know, needing to control that as well. If, you know, that needs some kind of a group, you know, I can support that too. But it sounds like there's some kind of movement, forward movement on that. So, if we don't need to, you know, tackle that item, then that's one less, you know, thing on all of our plates. And then, the chickens, yeah, yeah, yeah, we can figure something out about the chickens. Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Those are all my comments.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. No, thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. I know every person cares about this county, this district, and how, you know, the factors and impacts that different things happen. Even with the best of intentions and again yeah, Members, I take this very seriously because of my disappointment in the State, how they've managed the ocean side resources. Look at the ta'ape fish, it has damaged the kumu, our moana kale, I mean, the native fishes are the ones that are being wiped out by invasive species that the State has brought in for various reasons and one of 'em is the ta'ape, you know. And it's our indigenous reef fishes that eggs is being eaten and we losing that resource, yeah. And unfortunately, it's a resource unless you're in the water, you will never see because you're not in the water, yeah? So, my thing is, for this county, if we can come up with something on the land base, hopefully we can share it with the State that it needs then to be coordinated with a land and ocean based management program of resources, especially food resources. It is the way the Native Hawaiian people approached it. It wasn't separated. It was part of a connectivity regarding island people. So, you know, it's something I wish to promote and have us discuss further as we move forward. I will tell you that one of the ways I'm looking at and I'm, there's no decision, I just need input, is should we allow some

## HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

Council of the County of Maui

May 21, 2020

---

of the regional components to move first and bring up some of their unique issues and concerns, and then see how we can fit under a overall umbrella that can encompass the regional issues, or do we do a big umbrella and see how all the regionals could fit under the umbrella. You guys understand what I'm saying?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR HOKAMA: It's a . . . *(inaudible)* . . . of approaches. And at this time, I am going to ask you to think about it. I have my preference, but I'm not going to share that 'cause I need for you to all to think about what makes sense for your district and for this County on the approach so it's, I lay that out to you as part of something to be prepared for the next meeting as we move forward on game management. So, any questions at this time for clarification? If not, we are again going to finish this meeting. So, thank you for your participation. Ms. Kama has her meeting tomorrow at 1:30 p.m. for Housing. So, thank you for that, Ms. Kama. And I know Ms. Lee has her . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: No, no.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, I think you got the time wrong.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah, yeah. 'Cause my meeting's at 9:30, Chair.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Nine thirty, and then . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank God.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Nine thirty.

CHAIR HOKAMA: And Ms. Lee's Chair's meeting is 1:30.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No, hers is on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Hers got moved to the 26<sup>th</sup>.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, scare me.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No Council meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Only Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: No Council meeting tomorrow.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. We only have Housing tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Correct.

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Council of the County of Maui

**May 21, 2020**

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COUNCILMEMBER KING: Nine thirty.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Nine thirty.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Nine thirty. Okay. Thank you for making me better informed. Okay. So, any Member has any final comment before we adjourn? If not, I really thank you . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair?

CHAIR HOKAMA: Yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Just one thing, I sent you a text but I just wanted to reiterate if we could send to the Parks Department in your questions 'cause I forgot to ask, confirm whether they're, they've got all the drinking fountains closed, you know, because I think that would be a real health issue if people were sharing drinking fountains at this time.

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Yeah, we'll follow-up, I'll follow-up and get that, a response for you, Ms. King. Thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.**

CHAIR HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members, for hanging in and participating. I thought it was a good meeting. So, thank you for participating, and everyone be safe. And to our community, first and foremost, be safe and know that Maui will make it through all of this. So, thank you for participating, and this meeting is adjourned. . .  
(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN:** 5:39 p.m.

APPROVED:



RIKI HOKAMA, Chair  
Healthy Families and Communities  
Committee

**HEALTHY FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Council of the County of Maui

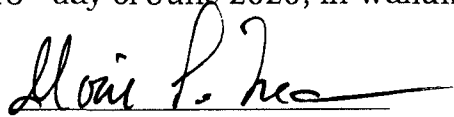
**May 21, 2020**

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CERTIFICATE

I, Marie Tesoro, hereby certify that the foregoing represents to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 15<sup>th</sup> day of June 2020, in Wailuku, Hawaii

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marie P. Tesoro", written over a horizontal line.

Marie Tesoro