

JAN 16 2008

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FERAL CATS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State continues  
2 to face an overpopulation of feral cats--that is, tame cats that  
3 have been abandoned by irresponsible owners and the progeny of  
4 these cats which are often unsocialized to human contact. The  
5 problems attributed to this cat population include public health  
6 risk and nuisance to humans, unchecked reproduction, and  
7 predation of birds. Feral cats are known to transmit diseases  
8 such as ringworm, pinkeye, parasitic worms, Lyme disease, and  
9 toxoplasmosis. Such diseases may be spread through direct  
10 contact, feces, or fleas and ticks. Further, the mating  
11 behaviors of unneutered feral cats can lead to excessive noise  
12 and male urine spray smells.

13           Feral cat colonies also endanger the State's native bird  
14 population, and food left after public feedings of feral cats  
15 may attract other native bird predators such as rodents and  
16 mongoose. The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the feeding of



1 feral cats in public areas and to impose a fine of up to \$1,000  
2 for such a violation.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 142, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§142- Feeding feral cats; penalty. No person shall  
7 feed any feral cat in areas accessible to the general public.

8 Any person who violates this section shall be fined not  
9 more than \$1,000 for each separate offense. Each date of  
10 violation shall constitute a separate offense. Any action taken  
11 to impose or collect the penalty provided for in this section  
12 shall be considered a civil action."

13 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2008.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Clement K. Fisher*



**Report Title:**

Feral Cats

**Description:**

Imposes \$1,000 civil fine for feeding of feral cats.

