

March 26, 2013

The Honorable Dee Morikawa  
House Committee on Health  
State Capitol  
415 S Beretania St  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representative Morikawa:

On behalf of our supporters in Hawaii, Alley Cat Allies urges you to amend HCR 222 to create a task force to implement Trap-Neuter-Return in response to the feral cat population at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. Trap-Neuter-Return is humane, more effective, and more economical than catch and “euthanize” – which has been carried out for decades at significant cost to taxpayers, but fails to address the issues presented by feral cats.

Alley Cat Allies is the only national advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. We have promoted the neutering of feral cats since our founding in 1990, and we regularly advise individuals, nonprofit groups, local governments, and state policymakers on humane approaches to cats.

Feral cats, just like pet cats, are members of the domestic cat species. But feral cats are not adoptable. The term “feral” means that the cats are not socialized to people and generally avoid contact with humans. The best approach for feral cats is Trap-Neuter-Return, a management plan where feral cats already living outdoors are sterilized by a veterinarian. Neutering benefits cats by eliminating the cycle of reproduction, thus stabilizing the population, and reducing mating behaviors. Cat health improves ongoing management. Trap-Neuter-Return is supported by virtually all animal protection organizations and the National Animal Control Association.

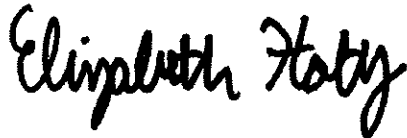
Numerous scientific studies demonstrate that Trap-Neuter-Return diminishes colony size over time. Trap-Neuter-Return quickly stabilizes feral cat populations by instantly ending reproduction and by removing socialized cats from the colony. During an 11-year study of a Trap-Neuter-Return program at the University of Florida, the number of cats on campus declined by 66%, with no new kittens being born after the first four years of operation. A Trap-Neuter-Return program at the University of Texas A&M neutered 123 cats in its first year, and found no new litters of kittens the following year. Over the course of the same study, 20% of the cats trapped were found to be socialized stray cats, and were placed into new adoptive homes.

Conversely, the catch and “euthanize” method has proven to be a failure. Removing feral cats from an area creates a vacuum effect: cats from neighboring areas move into the newly available space to take advantage of food and shelter. These cats quickly breed to capacity. Communities engaged in these efforts are fighting a cruel, losing battle against nature that is a gross waste of taxpayer dollars.

Public health officials who have studied the particular issues of feral cats find them to be little public health concern. At a meeting of the California Conference of Local Health Officers Communicable Disease Control and Environmental Health Committees, Dr. Ben Sun, the California State Public Health Veterinarian, called the public health risks of feral cats "low."

Already, Trap-Neuter-Return is widely practiced in Hawaii. The Hawaiian Humane Society and other Oahu organizations have spayed and neutered thousands of feral cats, and their models of success could easily be implemented on the Manoa campus. We urge you to amend HCR 222 so that the task force examines how Trap-Neuter-Return can best be implemented on the campus.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Holtz". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elizabeth Holtz  
Staff Attorney

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013 9:15 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** cochonlibre@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR222 on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM

**HCR222**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Committee on Health Hawai'i Legislature State Capitol Room 329 Honolulu, HI Position: oppose Chair Au Belotti and Members of the Committee The language of the resolution is inflammatory and unfortunate. We oppose the characterization of feral cats as dangers to humans and as "infesting" the Manoa campus. It has been documented that removing feral cats from an area will create a vacuum that will be filled by other cats moving in from other territories. By supporting a stable population of sterilized cats, the numbers of cats should decline by attrition. An aggressive spay/neuter program and maintenance by responsible caretakers is essential to stability. We urge this committee to table this resolution- or amend the language to not demonize innocent animals, or support their annihilation. We also oppose the inclusion of the Hawaiian Humane Society from the proposed task force. By their own admission HHS killed 10,000 cats last year and would, we fear, be more willing to seek lethal measures at Manoa. Hawai'i Cat Friends would be a better choice. With aloha, Cathy Goeggel President

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**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** Windward Ahupua`a Alliance [info@waa-hawaii.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 8:47 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Subject:** HCR 222/HR 176 - Feral Cat Task Force

Submitted By:

Shannon Wood, *President*  
*Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*  
P.O. Box 6366  
Kane`ohe, HI 96744  
Voicemail: 808/247-6366; Cellular: 808/223-4481 or 808/224-4496 (personal)  
Website: <http://www.waa-hawaii.org>; E-mail: <mailto:info@waa-hawaii.org>

**COMMITTEE ON HEALTH**  
**Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair**  
**Representative Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair**

**10 am**  
**Wednesday, March 27, 2013**  
**Conference Room 329**

**HCR 22/HR 176**

**REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE FERAL CAT  
INFESTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MANOA**

**STRONGLY OPPOSE**

My name is Shannon Wood, the president and co-founder of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a **501c3** Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002, to create the **Ko`olau Greenbelt & Heritage Trails System** in order to restore, protect & provide public access to the *mauka* lands on the Windward side of O`ahu along the base of *Na Ko`olau* as well as to support locally-owned sustainable economic activities in the more developed areas.

Its mandate, however, has expanded over the past ten years well beyond these important regional issues. In addition to environmental and renewable energy matters, *WAA* is very actively involved in a wide range of social justice issues - including animal welfare concerns.

The issue of "feral" cats on *UH-Manoa* campus goes back more years than most people realize. For decades, the cat caretakers on campus who are students, faculty, staff, and community volunteers have made sure that all of the cats are well-fed and neutered. However, every year, about 200 cats & kittens are "dropped off" at *UHM* by people who do not want to take them to the *Humane Society* to be killed.

Unfortunately, most of them do not know about the low-cost *City & County of Honolulu* spay-neuter programs which have been on the books for years or the freebies sponsored by no-kill animal organizations.

**NOTE :** There are at least 20 other cat colonies just on the island of O`ahu. If the *Legislature* is serious

about these animal welfare issues, then address them in all four counties by working with the animal welfare **NGOs** and the county councils.

This task force concept is a waste of time and money. Do the right thing and defer **HCR 216/HR 172** and really address the issue.

Mahalo for acception the

March 26, 2013

To: House of Representatives, Committee on Health

Subject: HCR 222/HR 176 – REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO INVESTIGATE THE FERAL CAT INFESTATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I AT MĀNOA

I OPPOSE HCR 222/HR 176 (Awana) because I feel it is a waste of State monies and/or resources to form a task force and to attempt to eradicate "feral" cats.

In my opinion, the homeless and abandoned cat population at University of Hawaii's Mānoa campus and statewide is due to a social issue that all of us must work to change. There needs to be a change in our community's views on what it means to be a responsible pet owner – 1) the owner commits to provide a safe and nurturing home for the lifetime of their pet and 2) to spay/neuter their pet to prevent unwanted litters that contribute to overpopulation. Until we understand that this is what we must work towards, we will never see a decrease in the homeless and abandoned cat (or any animal) population within our State.

This is the main reason that any attempt at removal of the homeless and abandoned cats on the University's Mānoa campus will NOT be successful. It would be more prudent to focus State funds to support TNRM programs that will reach out to communities.

To my knowledge, there is no known connection between Mānoa campus cats and transmission of diseases to human. I have been working on the Mānoa campus for about 6 years and many of the "old timers" tell me that cats have been on campus for over 20 years.

I am part of an active group that practices TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Release, and Manage) on campus. I have been working with the campus cats for at least 5 years and I know, firsthand, that the population has gone down. TNRM does work.

We actively monitor colonies for new additions and will TRAP and NEUTER them. We evaluate a cat to determine if he/she is adoptable and the cat is placed in a foster home if he/she is friendly. There is a public misconception that we only fix cats but true TNMR is much more. Culling of adoptable cats from colonies is another recognized method to decrease colony population.

We MANAGE colonies by providing proper nutrition, treating the cats for fleas (as feasible), treating the surrounding areas for fleas, periodically deworming the cats and providing medical care as necessary.

For reasons stated above, I urge you to OPPOSE HCR 222/HR 176.

Respectfully submitted,

Colleen Okada

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1 page

**Testimony submitted in opposition to HR176/HCR222**

**David M. Karl**

**26 March 2013**

My name is David M. Karl and I am writing in opposition to the proposed House of Representatives resolution regarding homeless cats on the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) campus.

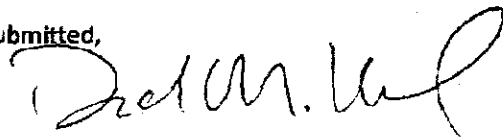
I am a Professor of Oceanography in my 35<sup>th</sup> year of service at UHM. For the past 20 years I have been active in the campus-wide trap-neuter-return (TNR) effort to stabilize and eventually decrease the number of homeless cats on the campus. I use the term homeless rather than feral since many of the cats are abandoned domestic cats who at one time in the lives had a good home. As we have seen over the years, abandonment is one of the major issues on the campus. Using my own personal funds (last year approximately \$10,000) and volunteering my time, I have managed several colonies which are nearly all neutered, and healthy, but some are approaching the end of their lives as would be expected from responsible TNR management. When cats get too old to function properly, or when they show any signs of illness or incapacitation, I try to selectively capture those individuals and take them to small sanctuary at my home for end of life/hospice treatment. Often this includes one or more trips to the vet, again at my own expense. I keep careful records of names, microchip IDs and ages of the cats that I manage; many of them are now 10 years old or older.

I understand that the resolution under discussion is a result of a 'study' conducted by one or more members of the UHM faculty. I have read the resolution and disagree with some of the main conclusions, and with the need to establish a task force to investigate the so-called infestation. Based on my own experience and the long time involvement with the campus cat caregivers, I find it hard to accept the statements that are being made in the current draft of the resolution. At the very least, the full report should be made available so that interested and affected parties like me can evaluate the methods used, the data obtained and the conclusions made.

Thank you for your consideration of my point of view.

Respectfully submitted,

David M. Karl



**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 27, 2013 12:06 AM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** NavaroH001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR222 on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM

**HCR222**

Submitted on: 3/27/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Helene Navaro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Get rid of the cats is a big mistake with a bigger price tag down the road. What happens when the rats arrive...health risk even a bigger issue with the rats. I am a graduate from University of Hawaii and I respect and love University of Hawaii most of all "the Aloha Spirit" that I was taught is invaluable. Cats were brought to the Islands to take care the rats. Let them do their job! Furthermore, we need to save our time, effort and resources to care for the many homeless on the street. We should be worried our people living on the street than the cats on the street. Thank you for your kind consideration by not supporting HCR222. Mahalo Nui Loa!

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Aloha kakou!

I feel obliged to inform this Committee that as of the present, I am a Legislative Intern in the Office of Representative Karen Awana, introducer of this measure; however, it is not as an associated member of her office that I come here today, but as a private individual who is severely concerned about the situation at my school, a situation that I have seen get progressively worse over the last three years that I have been here, and an issue that needs to be rectified. It is because of the great love for my school and my responsibility as an Associate Justice of the Associated Students of Hawai'i Student Court that I bear testimony today in Support of House Resolution 176, House Concurrent Resolution 222, Relating to the Feral Cat Infestation at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Campus.

First and foremost, this is an infestation. It is literally impossible to walk between any outdoor points on the campus and not spot a cat. In the evening, in the Korean Studies Building Courtyard, there are (and this is no exaggeration) hundreds of cats.

Some would argue that this Measure is not necessary; they would argue that UH is doing everything in its power to control the feral cat population. UH claims to have had the cats neutered/spayed in a program to reduce the population; yet in recent years professors who have been researching the cat population are reporting a rise in numbers. If UH had successfully neutered/spayed them, these numbers would simply not be increasing.

These cats pose a health hazard. Veterinarians here on the island state very clearly that if a cat scratches either a human or a dog, the victim has to seek immediate medical treatment because feral cats here carry a plethora of infectious diseases. In fact, AIDS in cats here has been identified and confirmed. These cats are everywhere on campus and if they are not removed, it is simply a matter of time before their diseases pass on to humans and if this becomes the situation, the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the State de facto will be responsible and liable for such ailments.

Because of their boldness and the fact that they are constantly around humans, these cats are a safety hazard. Some of them are as so bold as they will literally harass students enjoying Mānoa's outdoor beauty. The cats do not move for either humans or cars. One professor on the Mānoa campus describes her daily experience as wondering if she will need to run a cat over in order to leave the parking lot because they will simply lie on the road. I've witnessed a cat sleeping on the road with a car flashing its lights and honking its horn to get the cat to move; literally, the human had to get out of the car, shoo the cat, get back in the car, and then drive off. That poses so many safety hazards to the UH Community. Not to mention, when walking (especially in the dark) these cats will dart out of nowhere. I can't even begin to tell you how many times myself or a friend has almost been tripped by a cat.

I will concede that the problem of cats on our campus isn't the fault of the cats. Humans are the problem. At night, people will ritually go to our campus and feed the cats, give them fresh water, and play with them. I have many a few times witnessed a woman tonguing with a cat (please think about what I told you above about these cats being confirmed to having a plethora of diseases). These people worship these cats on a daily and routine basis. The cat population keeps growing because a handful of individuals keep adding to the problem. The cats are in danger too. Cats get run over on the campus all the time, because either they think they are in charge and run across the road or they simply do not move for people.

The best thing for both the UH Community and the cats is to have them removed from the UH Campus.

Grant it, this isn't a simple one-swipe gesture. Realistically, this is a two-step process. First, this resolution would need to pass so that a task force would be able to evaluate how to approach this problem. After the task force comes back with its conclusions, a bill would need to be introduced to build a plan of action for actually removing the cats from the campus. This is the best way to approach this safety and health hazard on the University of Hawai'i Campus whilst ensuring that the lives of the cats aren't endangered in any way. This resolution would not have any fiscal impact on the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, as the task force would simply evaluate the data, which many professionals are already conducting and who have said that they would be happy to share it with the task force upon its establishment.

Because of what I have witnessed on my own accord, in conjunction with the evidence that I have seen both from professionals conducting research on our campus relating to the issue and from many concerned students who have addressed ASUH about this issue, I therefore, would like to offer my full SUPPORT for this measure!

Mahalo nui loa for your precious time, and I hope that I was able to convey to you the gravity of this serious situation at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Campus!

**morikawa2 - Shaun**

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 26, 2013 9:43 PM  
**To:** HLTtestimony  
**Cc:** salmonj001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HCR222 on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM

**HCR222**

Submitted on: 3/26/2013

Testimony for HLT on Mar 27, 2013 10:00AM in Conference Room 329

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Joyce Salmon	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: The assumptions in this bill are either incorerrect or flawed. Very few, if any, diseases are transmitted by cats to humans. Many of the campus cats are sterilized by caretakers. If the cats are removed, other unsterilized cats will appear to fill the vacuum. The task force does not include cat caretakers. caretaker.

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