

Rock Riggs

From: Kitty Ng <ngk002@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 2:29 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: submitting testimony for SB2450

LATE

To whom it May Concern : I attempted many times to register and submit testimony online but each time I went to submit testimony after registering and " creating user" it came back with my email or password unrecognized. I enlisted the help of the " Webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov and he ended up manually doing something on his end to help me but when I went to submit testimony again it still said I was unrecognized and needed to register . So I am having to submit testimony via email.....per other options for submitting testimony...

My name is Kitty Ng and I oppose this bill..... I am a cat caregiver in various places around town . We are involved in the TNRM program with the Humane Society and other Cat Rescue Spay Neuter Clinics. SB 2450 sounds like an attempt at mass murder of many innocent victims of what is definitely a people problem NOT a cat problem. People in this town seem to have deaf ears to spay / neuter, then complain about too many catswhen they do not want their pets anymore or cannot find housing that will allow them when they have to move, they just turn them loose. Most times they are not spayed or neutered. Besides the fact that this is very cruel to the animal who is confused and scared and knows nothing of street life and cars, they are chased , shot at , run down, anything the cat haters like to do to them is done. No one cares about the cruelty that is inflicted on them..... they only care about the fact that they are reproducing which happens to be what they do if not fixed. Whose fault is that ? It is a people problem, plain and simple and the cats should not have to pay with their life because people are ignorant and uncaring and make knee jerk decisions like lets kill everything and eradicate it. How progressive ! Can we not do better than that since the cats predicament is the fault of the inhumane human race ? Can we not work together on solutions that help the cat (or dog or ?) and make things better together. We caregivers do the work of the absentee owner who dumped their responsibility and commitment on the street. We spay / neuter them , feed them, care for them when sick , bring in the older seniors off the street when possible , rescue the kittens dumped by the side of the road and care for them until ready for adoption by hopefully some sincerely caring people that will provide forever homes..... We do everything we can for them all paid for out of our own pocket. I don't think it is fair to treat us like criminals for being humane in what seems to be an ever increasing inhumane world. What happened to the Aloha State ? Is there no Aloha & compassion for the animals that are victims of people and their selfish ways ? Please reconsider this horrible bill for the sake of all the animals involved . If we landed a man on the moon many years ago , can't we be more creative and come up with more understanding and compassionate solutions ? That has to be easier than landing a man on the moon....On the mainland there are many areas that have community involvement in caring for their community cats , even providing shelter in winter for them in the cold states . Why can't we , the Aloha State , work together in the same way? Why can't we be more loving and caring ? I just don't understand the " hate " here I will end this with my usual quote from Gandhi that I send to many in situations like this, " The greatness of a Nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated " This quote

from Gandhi says it all. Killing the innocent, banning and fining those that are caring and helping the innocent, is not the way.

Please reconsider and do not pass this bill ...
Thank you

Sincerely,
Kitty Ng



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

February 12, 2016

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu Hawaii 96826
808 946 2187 • hawaiianhumane.org

LATE

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land & Agriculture
The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Chair
The Honorable Sam Slom, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment & Technology
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony in Opposition to Senate Bill 2450 Relating to Predators

Chairs Gabbard and Wakai and Vice Chairs Nishihara and Slom:

Thank you for accepting my testimony today given on behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society. Senate Bill 2450, as proposed by DLNR, asks for an immediate ban on feeding all predators on all state lands including but not limited to conservation land, natural area reserves, ports, schools, universities, state parks and some beaches. The bill's proponents believe, incorrectly, that by starving animals, they will die and disappear. This is not the case.

SB 2450 is aimed directly at free roaming cats that have populated our islands for hundreds of years. We agree that there are too many feral, abandoned and owned pets outdoors. Where we differ is in the development of a humane and compassionate response to pet overpopulation.

This proposal is in direct conflict with Hawaii Revised Statutes §711-1100. In this statute, cats are defined as a "pet animal" and thereby protected by our animal cruelty laws that prohibit causing the death of a cat and making it illegal to withhold sustenance from her. In addition, Hawaii Intermediate Court in deciding the case of the State of Hawaii v. David Mortensen determined that cats do not qualify as "pests" which brings doubt onto their "predator" status.

Cat colony caregivers who responsibly manage their colonies by trapping, neutering, removing kittens and socialized cats, and by feeding away from human activity are important partners in developing a solution. Starving the cats will result in bringing them even closer to where people are in order to forage for food while they continue to birth more kittens.

The Hawaiian Humane Society believes that all animals should be treated humanely, regardless of what species they are. We also believe that there are thoughtful and responsible ways to approach this issue. Some strategies include:

- Developing solutions by creating a statewide working group with representatives from DLNR, each Humane Society that holds the county's animal services contract, responsible cat colony caregivers, county policy makers, and conservationists, etc.;
- Mapping priority locations where, as a group, we work to reduce the numbers of cats;
- Educating the public to keep their cats indoors or enclosed on their own property;
- Managing cat colonies through responsible TNRM which includes sterilization and the removal of kittens and socialized cats;
- Forming a statewide organization that can provide technical assistance, guidance and operational support for effective TNRM and,
- Providing state funding for high quality, high volume spay/neuter facilities. Currently there is not adequate capacity for sterilization services to decrease cat over-population.

The solution must employ a combination of strategies but must not include starving cats to death. This approach is inhumane and lacks compassion. The Hawaiian Humane Society is willing to work on this issue with others and we urge you to amend or defer this bill. Passing SB 2450 as written will not solve anything. It will not deter the cat caregivers but instead only will send them further underground.

I have included in my testimony an op-ed written by Pamela Burns, the President/CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society, which appeared in Wednesday's paper. If you missed it, it's worth the read.

It is important for everyone to realize that working together we can solve pet overpopulation. But a resolution will not come overnight and we must have patience. It took hundreds of years to create this problem and we have to allow time as a community to work on forging solutions.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please hold this bill. I am available for any questions you may have.



Mary Steiner
Policy Advocate

ISLAND VOICES

Efforts to ban 'invasive' animals should always be done humanely

By Pamela Burns

The Hawaiian Humane Society, established in Hawaii in 1883, began largely as a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals and continues that commitment today.

Our organization believes that all animals should be treated humanely.

This Friday, two state Senate committees will hear a bill proposed by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR). If enacted, Senate Bill 2450 would ban the feeding of cats, dogs and other animals deemed predators on all state land.

State land includes state-owned beaches, parks, schools, ports, hiking trails, forests and so much more.

If this proposal is passed and signed into law, it would condemn outdoor cats to death by starvation and criminalize those who feed them.

The state has introduced this misguided solution as a means to reduce the number of free-roaming cats on the



Pamela Burns is president/CEO of the Hawaiian Humane Society.

public landscape. Rather than find humane and compassionate solutions such as educating the public to keep their pets indoors or enclosed on their own property, or by managing the colonies through responsible trap, neuter, and return and manage techniques, DLNR has jumped straight to calling the cats invasive — and this recommendation would result in their starvation.

While we have a high regard for DLNR's goal to preserve and conserve Hawaii's unique environment, the Hawaiian Humane Society does not weigh in on what makes one animal more valued over another, or why one animal is exalted while another is vilified. Our organization

does not categorize or value animals based on words like "native," "introduced," "endemic" or "invasive."

We strongly believe that if government or people are going to intervene in nature they are morally obligated to ensure that the affected animals are treated as humanely as possible.

All animals feel pain and suffering equally. This proposal to ban the feeding of free roaming cats is inhumane and morally unacceptable.

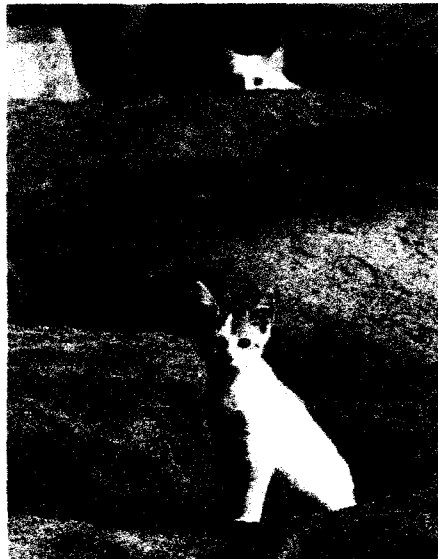
In discussions with conservationists, status is often conferred on animals for seemingly arbitrary reasons: for example, whether or not they are native, whether they are rare or abundant, and how fragile their ecosystem is perceived to be. Often the protection of one species or group of animals comes at the expense of another group.

The Hawaiian Humane Society believes that if an animal is determined to be a threat, and there is a demonstrable need to remove that animal from the environment, relocation or attrition should be favored over extermination, and extermination should be done only by methods that result in instantaneous death without suffering for that animal. Anything less does not meet our standard of humane conduct.

We must embrace the value of pono and make sure that our decisions and actions are morally right. If we are going to pick winners and losers among species in the name of conservation or nature, we must be mindful of the ethical implications of those choices and of the methods we select to carry them out. We have yet to hear DLNR's strategies to accomplish their plans.

Please join the Hawaiian Humane Society in opposing Senate Bill 2450. We know that there are alternatives, and we are requesting that all options be explored.

Our actions should always be guided by the goal of creating a more humane way of life and death for all who share the planet.



CINDY ELLEN RUSSELL / 2005

Feral cats such as these at Kakaako Waterfront Park are the target of a state Senate bill that would ban feeding of cats, dogs and other animals deemed predators on all state land.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



HAKIM OUANSAFI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
HAWAII PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITY
1002 NORTH SCHOOL STREET
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

BARBARA E. ARASHIRO
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

LATE

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
Hawaii Public Housing Authority
Before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE
and
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

February 12, 2016 2:00 P.M.
Room 414, Hawaii State Capitol

In consideration of
SB 2450
RELATING TO PREDATORS.

Honorable Chair Gabbard and Honorable Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committees on Water, Land and Agriculture, and Economic Development, Environment, and Technology, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding Senate Bill (SB) 2450, relating to predators.

The purpose of this measure to prohibit individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on State lands; establish administrative fines for individuals that violate this prohibition; and exempt hunters that deploy, feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) wishes to draw the Committees' attention to the use of the term "state lands" in the proposed new subsection 183D-65(c), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS). The term is ambiguous as to whether the prohibition applies strictly to "any game management area, public hunting area, or forest reserve or other lands under the jurisdiction of the department," as referred to under subsection 183D-65(a), HRS, or to the broader "state lands", which include state lands upon which the HPHA owns and manages 85 properties statewide that allow pets, including comfort animals through reasonable accommodations mandated by law.

If the intent of this measure is to enforce this prohibition on "state lands" generally that include HPHA lands, this measure will conflict with the HPHA's policies allowing for HPHA tenants to

release, feed, water or otherwise care for their pets. The HPHA therefore requests that the Committee clarify the meaning of "state lands" as limited to those lands referred to under subsection 183D-65(a), HRS, or exempt HPHA lands from the proposed subsection 183D-65(c), HRS.

The HPHA appreciates the opportunity to provide the Senate Committees on Water, Land and Agriculture, and Economic Development, Environment, and Technology with the HPHA's comments regarding SB 2450. We thank you very much for your dedicated support.

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 3:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

LATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christin Matsushige	Hawaii Cat Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, RE: SB 2450 The supporters of HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION oppose this bill. If it becomes law, this bill means the cruel death by starvation of community cats. These cats provide natural rat control in our community without the use of poison. We should especially appreciate cats in urban areas where native birds do not reside - due to the presence of avian malaria and overpopulation of competitive birds such as pigeons, finches, sparrows and doves. Compassionate people volunteer to manage the cat population through free or low cost spay/neuter programs offered by non-profit organizations such as HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY, CATFRIENDS, and others. The cost of this effort is ZERO to the taxpayer. In these difficult economic times, we cannot afford the expense that would result from legal challenges that will be brought to the state from passage of this bill. Enforcement of this law will be absolutely unrealistic. In addition to the above, we oppose this bill because it is unethical; seeking to place a higher value of certain species over others. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands teem with "native" species that thrive because of no human encroachment. Let us celebrate and maintain that pristine sanctuary and let lands inhabited by humans and the animals there be humanely managed with equal consideration to all species. Thank you for opposing SB 2450. Christin Matsushige, President HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Rock Riggs

From: Miki Ogasawara <mogasawa@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 3:53 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: Miki Ogasawara
Subject: Please oppose SB2450

LATE

Dear Legislators,

I would like you to oppose SB2450.

1. Making cats in community starve to death by banning feeding of them is CRUELTY to animals. "Catch and Return" is THE ONLY humanely sound solution for problems. What Legislators must do is, instead of making animals struggles to death, to educate people in community that "Catch and Return" is the right solution. I urge the Legislators to reach out people by sending them letters and have the major TV stations broadcast the information.
2. We are Aloha State. We want to exercise our Aloha spirit and compassion to not only tourists who drop our state \$ but extend it to animals. I consider that being a great message for our next generations. We are PROUDLY Aloha state and we want to remain that way by practicing Aloha. "Practicing Aloha" not making animals starve to death. We must cooperate to make 'catch and return' policy the most effective.

PLEASE OPPOSE SB 2450.

Sincerely,

Miki Ogasawara



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

LATE

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, President, Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong opposition to SB 2450 - Relating to Predators

Senate Committees on Water, Land and Agriculture,
and Economic Development, Environment and Technology
Friday, Feb. 12, 2:00 pm, Room 414

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai and members of the committee,

My name is Alicia Maluafiti, President of Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP), and I am testifying in strong opposition to SB 2450 which penalizes compassionate caregivers from feeding animals on state lands and continues to allow the killing of dogs and cats by the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources.

I have been involved in animal rescue for almost 20 years. I was a Director at Hawaiian Humane Society and a founder and president of Oahu Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals before I started PDP. I have firsthand experience in trapping, sterilizing and sometimes removing stray animals from our beaches, parks and other areas of the island and am disturbed by a very narrow, inhumane and ineffective strategy by the DLNR to "save wildlife."

We who are involved in animal rescue do this on our own time and own dime. Most of us would never kill one animal just to save another. We would try to save them all simultaneously. But feeding animals is the first very important step to successful trapping. Food enables us to identify an area that cats and dogs will be at – usually around the same time of day. Without establishing a feeding routine, we would be setting traps in areas where animals may not even reside. It would take us weeks and even months to search out and identify places to set traps. So by eliminating our ability to feed, you eliminate our ability to save lives.

For cats – PDP engages in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) which is the only long term compassionate solution to managing feral cat populations. For dogs, we will remove them because they are more often either strays or lost hunting dogs, and leaving them means they could pose a risk to other animals and people. But again – feeding them is the first step to successful removal. SB 2450 will do exactly the opposite of what its intended to. And simply – it is a callous and inhumane strategy that is proposed by people who believe that killing is the key to saving birds. Fortunately for most animal lovers – we don't segregate our commitment by species. From dogs and cats to guinea pigs and rabbits (and a rat here and there) – PDP has worked with individuals and rescue groups to save the lives of animals with no shelter, food or water and who are often the forgotten or dumped pet of an owner.

Ironically – PDP has routed model legislation at the county and state level as an alternative to our governments' short-sighted support of Trap-and-Kill. I would encourage our elected officials to consider a scientifically-proven strategy of TNRM as the solution to our feral cat (and dog) challenges on state lands (see below). PDP would welcome the opportunity to work with government and our allies on more compassionate and effective strategies including spay and neuter at sites with large numbers of unsterilized animals.

**A HAWAII STATE BILL
TO PERMIT THE MANAGED CARE OF FERAL CATS**

Section 1. Purpose.

To permit implementation of a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program on lands owned by the State of Hawaii for the purpose of reducing the population of feral cats, benefiting public health, improving the quality of life for residents, and ensuring the humane treatment of feral cats.

Section 2. Definitions.

For the purpose of this law, the following terms shall have the meaning set forth in this Section. When not inconsistent with the context, words used in the present tense include the future and the past, words in the plural number include the singular, and words in the singular number include the plural.

Animal Control Agency means any agency or person, including an animal control officer, authorized by law to implement animal control laws and provide animal care and control on behalf of the State of Hawaii.

Animal Welfare Organization means any charitable corporation whose purpose includes promotion of animal welfare and that has been granted 501c3 nonprofit status by the Internal Revenue Service.

Caretaker means any person who regularly provides food and water to a feral cat colony.

Eartip means a mark identifying a feral or stray cat as having been sterilized, specifically the removal of a quarter inch off the tip of the cat's left ear in a straight line cut while the cat is anesthetized.

Feral cat means a cat that is not socialized to humans and is not an owned cat.

Feral cat colony and **colony** mean a group of feral or stray cats that congregate, more or less, together as a unit and share a common food source.

Foster home means a household in which a cat or kitten is temporarily placed for the purpose of providing indoor shelter, care and, if necessary, socialization before permanent placement in an adoptive home.

Kitten means a member of the species *felis catus* under the age of eight weeks.

Nuisance means conduct by feral or stray cats that disturbs the peace, including (a) habitually or continually howling or making loud noises and (b) habitually and significantly destroying property.¹

Owned cat means a cat that is a companion to a person, is regularly fed and sheltered in that same person's habitation and carries visible indicia of ownership, including a collar or tag.

Shelter means a structure that provides feral and stray cats with protection from cold, rain and other weather-related elements.

Sponsor means any Animal Welfare Organization that agrees to comply with the requirements of sponsorship set forth in this Law, provides written notice to the State that it desires to serve as a Sponsor and is approved by the State within its discretion.

Sterilize means to spay or neuter.

Stray cat means a cat that is socialized to humans and is not an owned cat.

TNR means the method of managing feral and stray cats known as Trap-Neuter-Return.

TNR Program means a program pursuant to which feral and stray cats are trapped, sterilized, vaccinated, eartipped, returned to the location where they were captured and provided with long-term care by a Caretaker in accordance with this law.

Section 3. Management of Feral Cat Colonies.

3.1. A TNR Program shall be permitted and Caretakers shall be entitled to maintain feral cat colonies in accordance with the terms and conditions of this law.

3.2. **Sponsorship of TNR Program.** Any Animal Welfare Organization that agrees and is able to comply with the requirements of this law shall be eligible to act as a Sponsor of the TNR Program upon approval by the State within its discretion. Any Animal Welfare Organization intending to undertake the responsibilities of sponsorship shall provide to the State a written letter of intention containing its address or location, telephone number and, if applicable, electronic mailing address.

3.3. **Sponsor Requirements.** It shall be the duty of a Sponsor to:

- a) register all feral cat colonies managed by Caretakers pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.5;

- b) ensure the ongoing compliance of Caretakers of registered colonies with the requirements of Section 3.4;
- c) maintain records provided by Caretakers on the size and location of registered colonies, as well as vaccination and sterilization records of cats in the colonies;
- d) help to resolve any complaints over the conduct of Caretakers of registered colonies or of cats belonging to registered colonies;
- e) report annually to the State on the following:
 - i. number of colonies in the State that are registered with the Sponsor
 - ii. total number of cats in colonies in the State that are registered with the Sponsor
 - iii. number of cats sterilized and vaccinated pursuant to the TNR Program in the past year
 - iv. number of cats and kittens removed for purposes of foster or adoptive placement in the past year

3.4. Caretaker Requirements. It shall be the responsibility of a Caretaker to:

- a) submit all feral cat colonies managed by the Caretaker for registration with a Sponsor pursuant to the requirements of Section 3.5;
- b) make reasonable efforts to trap all cats in a registered colony and have all trapped cats sterilized, microchipped, vaccinated and eartipped by a licensed veterinarian;
- c) keep and maintain sterilization, and medical records for all trapped cats and provide the Sponsor with copies of vaccination and sterilization records for all trapped cats;
- d) provide or arrange for the provision of adequate food and water on a regular basis to colony cats and make reasonable efforts to ensure adequate shelter for colony cats;
- e) make reasonable efforts to trap and obtain proper medical attention for any colony cat that appears to require it;
- f) make reasonable efforts to remove and find permanent adoptive homes or foster homes for kittens born to colony cats;

- g) make reasonable efforts to work with the Sponsor to resolve any complaints over the conduct of the Caretaker or of colony cats managed by the Caretaker;
- h) report annually in writing to the Sponsor on the status of the Caretaker's colony, including:
 - i. total number of cats in the colony and total number of cats in the colony that are sterilized;
 - ii. number of cats in the colony sterilized and vaccinated pursuant to the TNR Program in the past year;
 - iii. number of cats that have died or otherwise ceased to be a part of the colony in the past year;
 - iv. number of kittens born to colony cats in the past year and their disposition;
 - v. number of cats and kittens removed for purposes of foster or adoptive placement in the past year.

3.5. Feral Cat Colony Registration. Upon registration of a feral cat colony, the Caretaker shall provide his or her Sponsor with:

- a) address, telephone number and, if applicable, electronic mailing address of the Caretaker;
- b) location of the colony;
- c) total number of cats in the colony;
- d) total number of cats in the colony that are sterilized, total number of cats in the colony that are vaccinated against rabies, and records of sterilizations.

3.6. Withdrawal of Caretaker or Sponsor.

- a) In the event that a Caretaker of a registered colony is unable or unwilling to continue in that role, he or she shall notify his or her Sponsor in writing and shall make reasonable efforts to secure a replacement Caretaker.
- b) In the event that a Sponsor is unable or unwilling to continue to perform its role, it shall provide sixty (60) days written notice to the State and shall make reasonable efforts to secure a replacement Sponsor.

3.7. Disposition of Colony Cats. An Animal Control Agency that has trapped or received an eartipped cat from within the State shall take reasonable steps to notify all Sponsors of the description and sex of the cat and of the address or location where the cat was captured. Sponsors shall have up to seven (7) business days after notification to arrange for the cat to be retrieved. If the cat is retrieved by arrangement of a Sponsor and the Caretaker of the colony from which the cat was

removed can be located with reasonable efforts, the cat shall be returned to the Caretaker.

Section 4. Law Enforcement.

4.1. Nothing in this Law shall interfere with the right of the State or an Animal Control Agency to:

- a) investigate any nuisance complaint allegedly caused by a feral or stray cat or feral cat colony;
 - i. If it is found that a feral or stray cat or feral cat colony within the State is causing a nuisance, the Animal Control Agency or the State shall provide all Sponsors with written notice delineating the nuisance and location of the cat or colony with specificity.
 - ii. If a cat or cats belonging to a registered feral cat colony is causing a nuisance, then the Sponsor of the colony shall have sixty (60) days from the date that written notice was provided pursuant to Section 4.1(a)(i) to cure the nuisance. If the Sponsor fails to cure the nuisance within sixty (60) days, an Animal Control Agency or the State shall have the right to remove the offending cat or cats.
- b) seize and remove a registered feral cat colony if the Caretaker regularly fails to comply with the requirements of Section 3.4 and the Sponsor does not correct the situation within sixty (60) days of being given written notice by the State delineating the Caretaker's failures with specificity
- c) reassign sponsorship of a Sponsor's registered feral cat colonies if the Sponsor regularly fails to comply with the requirements of Section 3.3 and the Sponsor does not correct the situation within sixty (60) days of being given written notice by the State delineating its failures with specificity.

4.2. A Caretaker in compliance with this Law shall be exempt from all other laws of the State that impose requirements on cats that are owned, kept, harbored, or in the custody of a person.

4.3. Grace Period.

- a) If an Animal Control Agency or the State locates or otherwise becomes knowledgeable about an unregistered feral cat colony, reasonable efforts shall be made by the Animal Control Agency or the State to provide written notice to the Caretaker of the colony of the registration requirements of Sections 3.4(a) and 3.5 of this Law.

- b) Upon receipt of written notice as set forth in Section 4.3(a), a Caretaker of an unregistered feral cat colony shall have thirty (30) days to comply with Sections 3.4(a) and 3.5 of this Law. During the thirty (30) day period, no cat from the colony shall be removed by an Animal Control Agency or the State for reason of causing a nuisance.

 - c) Upon registration within the thirty (30) day period, a Caretaker in receipt of written notice as set forth in Section 4.3(a) shall be entitled to the protections of Sections 3.7, 4.1(a), and 4.2. If the Caretaker fails to register the colony within the thirty (30) day period, the Caretaker shall not be entitled to any protections under this Law until registration is complete.
-

February 11, 2016

LATE

Dear Esteemed Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 2450 that seeks to revise statutes relating to predators on the public lands of Hawaii. As an ecologist I have worked directly on the issue of feral cats for over 15 years, both around the world and here in Hawaii. Specifically my work has focused on the sociological aspects of feral cat management, the cat disease toxoplasmosis, the effects of cats on native species, and cat diet. Much of my recent work has directly focused on Hawaii stakeholders and how we should engage in management. Furthermore, I have served as an expert to the Kauai County Feral Cat Task, as a member of the Cat-Wildlife working group on Oahu, and been invited to discuss cat management with the City and County of Honolulu. Thus as an expert on the issue of feral cats I would like to take a bit of your time and describe some of the main findings of my students and my work that strongly supports the current bill.

In 2011 we carried out a statewide social survey of more than 5,000 individuals across six major stakeholder groups (hunters, conservation professionals, farmers and agriculture industry, animal welfare activists, Native Hawaiians, and the public) to address non-native animals across the main Hawaiian Islands. One part of this survey focused on feral cats. What we found was that nearly 87% of all respondents wanted to see the number of feral cats on the landscape decrease, that 84% did not enjoy seeing feral cats, and that 73% noted they were a threat to native fauna. Furthermore, the majority of respondents (78%) supported removing feral cats from the natural environment permanently and that trap-neuter-release (TNR) was the least preferred management technique for managing feral cats. These findings were published in the internationally recognized peer reviewed journals *Conservation Biology* (Lohr and Lepczyk 2014) and *Human-Wildlife Interactions* (Lohr et al. 2014). In addition, our research group also demonstrated that TNR is a poor management choice in term of economic benefit-cost analysis, which was published in the journal *Conservation Biology* (Lohr et al. 2013).

Our sociological research on feral cats is amongst the most detailed of any in the world and represents some of the best work on wildlife management. As such, I believe the take-home messages are clear. The residents of Hawaii want action on feral cats and they do not want feral cats on public lands.

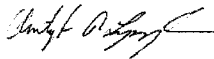
Aside from our sociological work we have also been investigating the parasite *Toxoplasma Gondii* that causes the disease toxoplasmosis in many wildlife species and humans. In Hawaii this disease has been responsible for the deaths of a number of endangered species, including Hawaiian monk seals and Hawaiian crows (alala). Because the parasite requires cat species to complete their life cycle, and feral cats are the only member of the cat family widespread in Hawaii, this disease can be attributable in part to the widespread presence of feral cats in the islands. Over the past four years we have been sampling soil and cat feces for the parasite on public lands on Oahu and have positively identified it in a number of locations. We are currently preparing this work for evaluation by the scientific community. But given the health concern to Hawaii's native wildlife and people, this finding is directly relevant to the management of feral cats on public lands in the state. Beyond just the issue of toxoplasmosis is the serious concern that feral cats pose in terms of disease risk overall to other species, the cats themselves, and humans. In a recent review on cat disease we note that managing feral cats in large colonies represents the potential for increased disease movement and risk (Lepczyk et al. 2015).

Aside from the sociological and scientific issues of feral cats is one of legal concern. The feeding of feral cats on public lands may well represent a taking. That is, the use of public lands by one stakeholder group without permit and for no greater public good takes away the rights of the rest of the public. At present cat feeders have engaged in de facto control of public lands without any permit, environmental impact assessment, or permission from the state and county agencies.

Managing feral cats is often portrayed as contentious in the media and you no doubt have received many letters from animal welfare groups like Alley Cat Allies and Best Friends. While they will all indicate that stopping feeding of feral cats on public lands is inhumane, this in fact is incorrect. The bill, as stated, does not limit these organizations from re-homing and fostering feral cats or placing them on private lands. Furthermore, one of the main animal welfare groups, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, does not support managing feral cats in colonies on public lands. But most importantly, as our research indicates, the vast majority of kamaaina do not enjoy seeing feral cats and want to see management taken to address the issue. These individuals are not mainland animal welfare activists, but the people of the state who recreate and use the public lands.

The issue of feral cats on public lands is nothing new. In fact, popular press items in the local news and historical scientific accounts of the islands make it plaintively clear that feral cats have been a problem for well over a hundred years. Hawaii has already paid a terrible price by losing many of its endemic species forever. No management action can bring back these lost species. However, we can take action now to prevent further loss and degradation. Feral cats are a tangible issue that can be addressed through legal statute and wildlife management. Thus, I ask you to support this bill which will have a positive impact on the environment.

Sincerely,



Christopher A. Lepczyk, PhD
Certified Senior Ecologist, Ecological Society of America

Lepczyk, C.A., C.A. Lohr, and D.C. Duffy. 2015. A review of cat behavior in relation to disease risk and management options. *Applied Animal Behaviour Science* 173:29–39.

Lohr, C.A., and C.A. Lepczyk. 2014. Desires and management preferences of stakeholders regarding feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands. *Conservation Biology* 28:392-403. DOI: 10.1111/cobi.12201

Lohr, C.A., L.J. Cox, and C.A. Lepczyk. 2013. The costs and benefits of trap-neuter-release and euthanasia removal in urban cat programs: The case of O'ahu, Hawai'i. *Conservation Biology* 27:64–73. DOI: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01935.x

Lohr, C.A., C.A. Lepczyk, and L.J. Cox. 2014. Identifying people's most preferred management technique for feral cats in Hawaii. *Human-Wildlife Interactions*. 8:56-66.

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 7:05 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: allison.sakae@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM
Attachments: Testimony for SB2450

LATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Allison Sakae-Kauffman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: TESTIMONY ON SB2450 TO THE HONORABLE MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE; AND TO THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY My name is Allison Sakae-Kauffman. For many years I have rescued stray felines in my neighborhood as well as have helped to take care of cat colony members. I have also donated monies to help groups such as the Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii Cat Friends, Joey's Feline Friends and others whom have been feeding free-roaming cat colonies for many years, and helped them use trap, neuter and return programs to humanely reduce the number of cats. I have witnessed the abandonment of felines and it is unfair to punish these animals due to the ignorance and selfishness of humans. Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill 2450, which I strongly oppose. I would like to offer the following comments. The community cat situation is the most serious and widespread animal welfare problem that we face on Oahu today. It is a complex issue to which there is no single easy solution. I am sympathetic to the frustration over the impact that feeding these cats may have on the environment and the surrounding communities. However, criminalizing the feeding of free-roaming cats on state lands is an overly simplistic and inhumane response. Specific problems with this strategy include: 1. First and foremost, abruptly cutting off a food supply to innocent animals who have grown to depend upon it is cruel. Period. 2. It is equally cruel to the caregivers of these cats, many of whom have been tending to them for decades. Motivated out of kindness, they have in many cases developed a strong bond with the colony. It will be just as distressing for these individuals to see their charges starving and begging for food as it would be for you or I to watch a family pet, or even our own child, go hungry. 3. Cats in maintained colonies have been conditioned to expect food from humans, and their behavior will likely become more intrusive to the surrounding communities as they desperately seek out new food sources. 4. To date, the most effective humane method that we know of to reduce community cat populations is to employ trap, neuter and release programs. The success of such programs depends upon the assistance and cooperation of the very people who would be criminalized by this bill. For these reasons, I strongly oppose SB2450. I warmly invite members of the committee and interested parties to work with all stakeholders, including the numerous animal welfare organizations on Oahu, to address this problem in a humane and respectful manner. It will not be easy work. A commitment of significant resources and an extended, ongoing effort are mandatory to providing meaningful control of our cat population, but I believe that a solution is still within reach. Please feel free to contact me at allison.sakae@gmail.com if you have any questions. Respectfully,

Allison Sakae-Kauffman Concerned Voter and Animal Caretaker

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Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture

Colleen Okada
Oppose

Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

February 12, 2016
Conference Room 414

OPPOSE SB 2450: Relating to Predators

I am testifying in opposition to SB 2450, a bill for an act relating to predators.

I am a colony caretaker, as well as a volunteer for a non-profit group that provides low cost spay and neuter services for cats. It was not until I started working at UH that I became aware of free-roaming cats - a co-worker brought me a sick kitten, found outside our building, that did not survive. Since that time, I vowed to help provide a better life for free roaming community cats that would also improve the community in which we live.

SB 2450 mentions "predators" as cats, dogs, mongoose, and rodents. I believe this kind of selective eradication will upset the balance of the 'āina even though these predators are non-native to Hawai'i. These non-native "predators" have been in Hawai'i for more than a century and are part of our ecosystem.

Removal of these "predators" will allow the population of non-native birds, lizards, frogs, insects, etc. to flourish. All of these predators play a vital role in the population control of other non-native species.

What of the barn owls deliberately introduced to Hawaiian Islands between 1958 and 1963 to control rats in cane fields? An article by the Maui Invasive Species Committee states that they regularly recover carcasses of the Hawaiian petrel ('u'au) killed by barn owls on Lāna'i. Barn owls are protected by the migratory bird act yet they also pose a serious threat to birds such as the Hawaiian stilt, Bulwer's petrel, brown noddies, Hawaiian ducks, and nēnē goslings.

Australia, who recently publicly announced their "war" on feral cats has been KILLING feral cats for decades and they (still) have two million cats that they are targeting to kill by 2025?

One of the most widely publicized and referenced case of "successful" feral cat eradication was Marion Island. In 1975, they set out to kill approximately 2,500 cats (O'ahu is said to have 100,000 + cats). Methods they used were poisoning, hunting with dogs, trapping (snap traps, leg hold traps), shooting, and even by the deliberate introduction (aerosol spraying) of feline distemper virus. Many of these methods used are inhumane and caused many of the cats to suffer before dying. This "success" took 19 years at a cost of millions of dollars.

Another 13-month study published in the Wildlife Research journal in 2015, done by the Tasmanian Department of Primary Industries proved that lethal culling (cats were trapped and shot in the head) led to a markedly INCREASE, by 75% to 211%, in the numbers of feral cats.

I agree that we need to do something about controlling the population of "predators" but SB 2450 which bans feeding and care of "predators" and "gives free reign to "destroy by any means deemed necessary" is not the solution. We need to take a 21st century, ethical, educated approach to managing the population of "predators" because inhumane, mass killing that will disrupt the balance of our 'āina is not the answer. OPPOSE SB 2450.

LATE

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter because I wish to give my reasons for why I am in opposition of SB 2450 RELATING TO PREDATORS. This bill denies the rights of people who assist in taking care of feral animals by providing a safe and stable environment for them and helping control feral populations through available sterilization programs.

Since 2011, my family and myself have been caring for feral cats in our neighborhood. We befriended them within a few years by providing food and water for them to eat. Before these animals had the food we provided, the dumpsters would be surrounded by trash from bags that had been ripped into. There were also traces of the small grey pigeons (feathers, blood, carcasses) left in grassy areas. The garbage and local fowl served as the staple diet for the feral cats. However, after befriending those cats with dry cat food, these problems ceased to exist. The cats continue to hunt other animals, strictly geckos, mice, roaches, and centipedes. Bird remains have not been seen since we have started feeding them dry food. There has also been a notable decrease in pests since the cats established their presence in to the neighborhood. I wholeheartedly believe that should this bill pass, the rodent population will definitely increase due to the lack of their natural predators.

Not only that, but an increase in rodents will most likely increase the spread of diseases. Rats are carriers for toxoplasmosis. This parasite is found in fleas that bite their animals' hosts. Toxoplasmosis is usually passed by undercooked foods, cat feces, mother-to-child, and rarely is it transferred through blood. Toxoplasmosis can also infect any warm-blooded species.

I would also like to address that spaying/neutering is incredibly effective in controlling feral population. Within the small colony that is cared for in my complex, every cat has been spayed and neutered. However, it has been a difficult feat in doing so. Over the past five years, several people have interfered with the project. Cats were taken away and dumped in nearby areas (up Kaonohi Street or at Pearlridge Shopping Center). By doing so, it hindered the trust between the remaining cats and ourselves, causing delayed progress. That delay resulted in more female cats reproducing. Many people do not understand that feral cats are, in most cases, cats that were abandoned by their previous owners. Although they develop the ability to live in an open environment, these animals are incapable of fully surviving on their own without the assistance of people.

Neglecting feral cats is visibly detrimental to their health, usually due to malnutrition and dehydration. Upon sterilization, feral cats are given a physical and up-to-date shots. The proposed method to "destroy" these animals is an inhumane solution that does not solve the original problem of population control. More cats will be abandoned, more cats will mate, and more litters will be produced. Sterilization considers the fact that this does happen, but there will be enough cats that are unable to reproduce so that the population decreases.

Furthermore, it is incredibly difficult to maintain a database of cats that are sterile and those that are not. It would be much easier to fund clinics that do sterilizations to ease the cost of the surgeries and encourage others to take initiative to care for these animals. The Hawaiian Humane Society already has a sterilization program that runs on voluntary veterinarians and citizens.

I would like to thank you for reading what I have to say about the situation. Should the committees believe my testimony provides a sufficient stand, I hope to have their support in the opposition of this bill.

Sincerely,
Lourdes Rodriguez-Johnson

Rock Riggs

From: Kainani3 <kainani3@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:04 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Oppose sb2450

LATE

Dear Legislators,

I deeply oppose SB 2450 because every life matters. Please do not allow this to happen. It is not the fault of these animals but the fault of irresponsible owners. Please don't let these poor helpless animals suffer the consequences of humans.

Thank you.

Nani Morita-Dart

• Nani •

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 8:13 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: Markh@Wylandbigisland.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

ATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/11/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Hanna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Mark Hanna, I'm 57 years old and been a resident of Hawaii since 1997. For the record I want it noted that I vehemently oppose SB 2450 As a lover and provider for dogs and cats, I realized the problem with the over population of stray cats in Hawaii and decided to help in any way I could. I have rescued 8 'feral' cats into my home and trapped over 250 in less than 10 years. I joined a TNRM (Trap Neuter Release Manage)) group in Hawaii Kai 8 years ago and collectively we manage the estimated 150 cats that cohabitate there. To make it unlawful for groups like ours to TNRM these and the thousands of cats around Hawaii is taking the wrong approach.

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Written Testimony Presented Before the Senate Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Economic Development, Environment, and Technology, February 12, 2016 2:00 p.m. by Christi Keliipio (Community member)

SB 2450 Relating to Predators

Chairs Gabbard & Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara & Slom and members of the Senate Committees on Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Economic Development, Environment, and Technology, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong opposition for SB 2450 relating to predators.

I do not support SB 2450, as there are other alternatives to managing 'specifically' the feral cat community other than starvation. The feral cat community is not the problem, where is the conversation related to the individuals who made decisions to have pets and were not responsible to care for them. People are the problem, not the 'cat'.

- Starving cats is not a humane nor compassionate solution
- If cats are removed, it will increase the rat population
- Sterilization, not starvation
- Require all cat owners to chip and sterilize their cats
- Breeders would be required to manage/report the sale of animals as breeding animals or as pets. All animals required to be chipped. Animals sold as pets required to be sterilized.

Therefore, I respectfully request that SB 2450 is not passed. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Rock Riggs

From: Natasha Shanahan <natasha.shanahan@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 9:01 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Petition bill SB 2450 'Relating to Predators'

LATE

Aloha,

02/11/16

I would like to petition bill SB 2450 'Relating to Predators'. It is my belief that it would be inhumane to kill these proposed animals for being potentially "destructive" on lands that are in the jurisdiction of the department. I think it should be further outlined what "destructive" and "predators deemed harmful to wildlife" entails, as these could have very subjective interpretations. I find this bill especially alarming in relation to cats and dogs. I believe that the humane course of action would be to take these animals to the Humane Society. Another point of consideration is that some cats and dogs who are pets may get lost or wander into department land close to home. In bringing these animals to the Humane Society, rather than killing them on the spot, it would allow pet owners to reclaim their lost pets. Please consider this petition in deciding whether to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Natasha Shanahan

Natasha Shanahan, PsyD
Psychologist/Co-Founder
Kama'aina Counseling Services, LLC

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:21 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: wshipp@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/11/2016
Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wanda Shipp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: As a constituent, I urge you to please oppose S.B. 2450, which would prevent Good Samaritans from feeding and caring for stray cats and dogs. Mahalo

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Rock Riggs

From: Wanda Shipp <wshipp@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 11, 2016 11:22 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: Sen. Mike Gabbard
Subject: Oppose S.B. 2450

Aloha,

As a constituent, I urge you to please oppose S.B. 2450, which would prevent Good Samaritans from feeding and caring for stray cats and dogs.

Thank you,
Wanda Shipp



PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE

Comments for SB 2450

Sen. Gabbard and Sen. Wakai and members of the Senate committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and the committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy. We are recognized as Hawai'i's state federation for the American Kennel Club. We also work closely with the Cat Fanciers' Association's Legislative Group, and we collaborate with several other companion animal advocacy organizations.

The Pacific Pet Alliance (PPA) would like to submit comments for your consideration regarding the feeding of community/feral cats on State lands.

PPA acknowledges DLNR's position that such a law is needed to protect endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals and other Hawaiian wildlife that have died from diseases that are spread by feral cats (toxoplasmosis). The primary intent of SB 2450 and companion bill HB 2118 is to protect these endangered creatures. PPA agrees with the intent of the bill (to protect endangered wildlife) however we question how DNLN intends to achieve this goal.

Most community/feral cat colonies are managed by following the model of Trap, Neuter, Release. It has been shown to be highly effective to reduce feral populations both in Hawaii and across the mainland. It the management process endorsed by the Cat Fanciers Association. I have included a link to the CFA website that discussed more about this. I am sure that the cat colony caretakers here will be able to provide you with more relevant data from their own colonies.

<http://cfa.org/Owners/CatCare/OverpopulationLegislative/FeralCats.aspx>

PPA respectfully requests that you urge the DNLN and animal control contractors on each island and the cat colony caretakers to collaborate for the sake of the wildlife and the cats to reach a reasonable solution. This is a large problem and not one that any of these groups will be able to resolve on their own.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Lynn Muramaru

Board Member

Pacific Pet Alliance (808)542-9581



23 E. Kawili St, Hilo, HI 96720 • Phone: (808) 933-3340

TESTIMONY OF THE BIG ISLAND INVASIVE SPECIES COMMITTEE
SUPPORTING BS 2450: RELATING TO PREDATORS
SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE,
Economic Development, Environment, and Technology
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2015, 2:00PM, ROOM 414

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a project of the University of Hawaii, and a grant-funded partnership of local, state, federal, and private organizations. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

DEAR CHAIRS GABBARD AND WAKAI, AND VICE CHAIRS NISHIHARA AND SLOM,

BIISC SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE:

Small introduced predators, like rats, cats, and mongooses, have been widely introduced to islands across the world, where they have become among the greatest threats to native wildlife, primarily native birds. In 2012 BIISC learned that *keiki* of the native Hawaiian *alae ke`oke`o* (coot) had not been seen at Lokowaka Fishpond in Keaukaha, Hilo, for nearly ten years, despite an apparently healthy, though aging, adult population. We deployed traps and caught 47 mongooses in a single summer, and 11 *alae keiki* were born that year. A 2011 study released in the journal *Global Change Biology* found that feral predators are responsible for at least 14% of global island extinctions of native birds, vertebrates, and small mammals. And of course we know that extinction is forever.

The intentional release of feral animals is a constant aggravation for anyone who has been kept up at night by fighting tom cats, a source of disease and disgust at our state beach parks, which have been described as litter boxes on Trip Advisor, and a costly problem for state workers tasked with protecting critical habitat. In January, the most recent feral cat captured by rangers on Mauna Kea, was an animal micro-chipped and released as part of a trap-neuter-release program. Found above 9,000 feet elevation, in Palila critical habitat, the animal may have been intentionally released on site, on state land, or wandered there on its own. Through tracking programs, we know predators routinely move from coastal areas to mauka lands, as high as the science reserve, on their own. This bill lets residents know that the state does not condone the release of alien predators to its lands, is committed to the preservation of our native forest birds, and does not intend to allow activity that directly harms human health and undermines the efforts of state agencies to protect our native wildlife. It ensures that pets are not released to starve and fend for themselves, but are turned into humane society programs. Finally, the bill is not limited to those species already here—it allows that the introduction and release of new alien predators, including snakes, reptiles, and new rodent species, would be illegal.

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 8:28 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: lanihoku@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Murdoch	The Kuleana Foundation for Animals	Oppose	No

Comments: SB 2450 is an outrageous attempt to solve a problem that will be minimized with the continued intervention of the people & organizations that are live trapping, spaying/neutering and returning feral cats back to their origins!!! Spay and neutering along with public education is the answer - NOT this inhumanity!!! As the ferels are spayed & neutered and the public educated to the fact that animal dumping is in fact illegal and inhumane, their populations will decrease. This Senate Bill makes the people & the organizations that are the good Samaritans the law breakers, when in fact the law breakers are the animal abusers & abandoners. This Senate Bill 2450 would in actuality increase & justify animal neglect. Giving a voice to those that have none - Janice Opihi Murdouh The Kuleana Foundation for Animals 808-284-8804

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Rock Riggs

LATE

From: johnvotsis@aol.com
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 9:55 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: Sen. Brickwood Galuteria; Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz; Sen. Mike Gabbard; Sen. Glenn Wakai; Sen. Les Ihara, Jr.
Subject: Senate Bill 2450

Aloha: This email is my testimony against Senate Bill 2450 as the bill as currently written has significant potential of killing a family pet without justification and in my opinion, subjects the State of Hawaii to wrongful death of a family pet law suits.

Take for example the fact that the City & County of Honolulu issues permit for firecrackers annually and those firecracker explosions frighten domestic dogs & cats and may cause them to seek refuge on State owned land. Under the terms of SB 2450, these domestic cats & dogs, family pets often of young children in the household, would be "...destroyed using any means deemed necessary by the department...". Frankly, this is an outrage and I am personally disappointed in Senators Galuteria and Dela Cruz, whom I know personally, for being two of the Introducers of SB 2450 as it will have a horrific impact on families and their pets if passed in its current language.

While possibly well-intended, SB 2450 has the distinct potential to put at risk trained rescue dogs who often are on State land searching for people lost or injured in our rural areas. These rescue dogs are unable to wear rescue vests as they do on the mainland as our thick and foreboding underbrush causes the vests to hinder the safe rescue functions of these life-saving dogs - would we be ok if a rescue dog on state land were "destroyed using any means necessary" while performing life-saving rescue operations?

I humbly request the Senate to not pass SB2450 and also ask that my friends Senators Galuteria & Dela Cruz withdraw their support of this bill.

Respectfully,

John Votsis
Kaimuki, Honolulu

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:14 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: miranda.ellisj@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

LATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Miranda Gladden	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: My name is Miranda Gladden, and I am writing in strong opposition of proposed bill 2450. I stand with proponents of TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage) programs and firmly believe that neuter, care, and rehabilitation where possible are the only effective and humane solutions to the community issue of homeless and feral cats and dogs. Overall, I find that this bill, as it stands, is regressive, short-sighted, dangerously vague, I cannot support it in any form. I strongly disagree that killing or otherwise harming feral, stray, or homeless cats and dogs is an effective solution to managing their populations in the wild. Many organizations including AlleyCatAllies have already been practicing humane, neuter-based programs and seen significant stabilization in feral cat populations - proof that TNRM works when it is done properly - and proper TNRM calls for continued maintenance and feeding of colonies. Furthermore, I find the vague wording of the proposed bill to be a dangerous loophole which will invite the public to participate in inhumane methods of dealing with domestic and wild animals alike, something that could significantly damage Hawaii's reputation and cause Hawaii to lag behind in the movement to improve treatment of animals nation-wide. As an advocate of TNRM and participant in local TNRM efforts, I have seen the program working on a first-hand basis. At every point, it has been clear to me that continued human activities - animal abandonment, irresponsible breeding, and mismanagement of private adoption/rehoming/sales of animals - are the only forces compromising the otherwise successful TNRM efforts. I feel this bill undermines efforts to realize the strength and full potential of the community which could be harnessed through a more productive and incentivized compassionate policy towards Hawaii's victimized animals. This proposed system betrays and alienates the people in the community who are the most compassionate and dedicated to this issue and furthermore allows for inhumane action against domestic animals. Such a bill can only cause national negative attention as well as civil unrest. However, a system that would focus on education in the community, allocate resources to offering assistance and guidance, and promote recognition and praise where due in the community has the potential to become self-sustaining through the power of those very same individuals who are active in the community today. That type of system paired with better enforcement of existing animal abandonment and neutering laws would begin to solve the problem while also being heal other for the community. For these reasons, I propose that Bill SB2450 be dissolved and that new bills be drafted to focus all available resources, efforts, and government attention on TNRM and stray/feral care, neuter, and rehabilitation as well as on community education regarding pet ownership and enforcement of laws concerning animal abandonment and intact pet roaming. What the community needs most now is to be held accountable and to be shown how to redeem itself in a progressive way.

February 12, 1016

RE: S.B. No 2450 Support

LATE

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

As a professional hydrologist practicing in Hawaii for 16 years I support SB 2450. I understand the issue is emotional for those who oppose the Bill. However, the degradation to surface and ground water quality including ocean waters is in part the result of loads of cat feces that are concentrated at and near animal feeding stations. The feces are carried to receiving waters during rainfall runoff events, which delivers elevated levels of Nutrients including Nitrogen and Phosphorus that trigger algal blooms, and impair coral growth; pathogenic bacteria in the feces can transmit disease to both humans and other animals, as is the case with toxoplasmosis transmission to the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

I understand this is a tough decision, however, I am certain the curtailment of feeding cats and reduction in the large numbers of them across public lands will result in improving water quality, and reduce predation by the cats on Native and Endemic Fauna.

Respectfully,

Andrew Hood Ph, CISC

Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 10:41 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: kkelli4u@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

LATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelli keawe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: KELLI L. KEAWE P.O. Box 37273 Honolulu, Hawaii 96837 Oppose SB 2450 Aloha Chair and Committee Members, I Ms. Kelli L. Keawe, oppose SB 2450, in fear of hurting domestic animals (i.e. cats, dogs rabbits and birds) these are gods creation. I disagree the way SB 2450 is written "Predators" we talking wild beast and/or pest (i.e. wild pigs, mongoose and rodents), in this situation we talking about cats "feral cats", we have lots of volunteer's out there help the cat population/by have the cat in this case and dog's fix; so there is no more reproduction/or sprays. Again, this is happening in every State, we have irresponsible animal owners and the problem goes deeper, our Military Families move to Hawaii "Honolulu" adopt or pick up cat or dog and then later moving back to the mainland and thrown the animal out (i.e. cats, dogs, rabbits and birds), how irresponsible. Maybe we need to work more on amending the bill and ask the community to help out, and clean the mess, I do every day after work, and I sweep around my neighborhood. Streets and Sidewalk; sometime human waste, no complaint here/DLNR just need to do their job and protect all wildlife and animal type. DLNR Joshua Atwood, can barely control his staff, I was born and raised in Hawaii, it's not just the wildlife animals, human are predators too, and their destroyed our wildlife. I humbly ask you not to pass SB 2450 If you have any question email me at kkelli4u@aol.com or call (808) 782-5777 Mahalo Kelli Keawe

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Rock Riggs

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Cc: kkelli4u@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kelli keawe	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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Rock Riggs

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 11:16 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: gfuller@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
George Fuller	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hello State Senators, My wife and I are in COMPLETE SUPPORT of SB 2450, the Feeding Ban Bill. Please understand that we are animal lovers...we own two wonderful dogs. And many of our neighbors are responsible cat owners, which we also support. BUT, we have a major feral cat problem here in Hawai'i, both in our private community here in Kamuela (Hawai'i Island), and across the state, including on state lands. Several of our neighbors are dedicated "feeders" and devotees of the TNR programs here on the Big Island. The problem is, TNR DOES NOT WORK. Since its adoption by good-hearted people and organizations in the 1980s, the population of feral cats has not decreased...but dramatically increased. Facts: * Studies show that it takes more than 90% of a feral colony to be neutered/spayed for the program to work; no colony is close to that * Feral cats (like rats and mongoose) are an invasive species to Hawai'i * Feral cats are killing nene geese, songbirds and marine birds (such as the 'Ua'u/Hawaiian Petrel) * Feral cats carry toxoplasmosis, which is dangerous to pregnant women, people with immune deficiencies, pueo, and was recently found in a dead monk seal * The food provided by Advocats, Catsnip and other local groups intended for feral cats inadvertently feeds the mongooses as well * Advocats and Catsnip are feeding feral cats in state, federal and county parks on a regular and ongoing basis, creating unpleasant conditions (including the smell of feces and urine) for park-goers * Feral cats are a major problem for many of the resorts along the Kohala Coast and elsewhere; and yet Advocats and Catsnip continue to feed them in these areas In our private community and on nearby private ranch lands, Catsnip and Advocats representatives illegally return feral cats that have been trapped and taken to the Humane Society. We are attempting to work with our local representatives to work with the Humane Society to stop this practice. Which brings up another question: Why does the Humane Society support feral cat groups when the cats are shown to kill native birds and mammals? Why does the Humane Society receive PUBLIC FUNDS to carry out this work? We know there are many impassioned feral cat supporters who think what they are doing is humane. But I trust you know and understand that this organized and LOUD group is also a small minority of residents. What they are doing, in addition to violating the rights of others and often the bylaws of communities such as ours, is supporting an invasive population that is killing native species. I have a good deal of evidence and documentation on the subject which I am more than happy to share with any or all of you. The above describes why my wife and I join the many state and federal agencies and organizations (USGS, Audubon Society, others) and individuals in the state who completely support SB 2450, the Feeding Ban Bill. Sincerely, George & Landry Fuller P.O. Box 437343 Kamuela, Hawaii 96743

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Rock Riggs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 12, 2016 11:27 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: sandrayshigeta@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

LATE

SB2450

Submitted on: 2/12/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Shigeta Accatino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Legislators, I strongly urge you to oppose SB 2450. Passage of this bill is an ineffective and cruel method to manage the cat population and will result in legal quagmires costing the State taxpayers potentially millions of dollars better spent addressing homelessness and education. Sterilization by community volunteers, not starvation is the answer to humanely managing community cat populations. This method has been a proven success in many places throughout the United States and cost the taxpayers nothing. Mahalo Nui Loa, Sandra Shigeta Accatino.

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To: COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE &

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, & TECHNOLOGY

Dear Senators,

My name is Dr. **Steven Lee Montgomery**. I am a long time member of the Sierra Club of Hawaii, which has over 12,000 registered members. Sierra Club supports SB 2450 Relating to Predators, which would prohibit the feeding of predators on state lands. The feeding of cats on public lands endangers public health, native wildlife, and the welfare of the cats.

Even well-fed cats will hunt and kill wildlife instinctively. Prey include federally and State-listed endangered birds such as Palila, Hawaiian petrel and Hawaiian stilt. Cats are listed among the most harmful invasive species globally by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, since feral cats on islands have contributed to the extinction of 33 species.

Toxoplasmosis is an identified threat to the conservation of endangered species such as Nēnē, and Hawaiian monk seals. Cats are the required host for the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii* to complete its life cycle & single cat may excrete hundreds of millions of infectious eggs into the environment. Humans, especially pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems, are vulnerable to infection by this parasite. The eggs shed in cat feces remain viable for years and can infect and cause illness or death in other animals, including humans. In birds, fish, and mammals, it creates parasitic cysts in muscle tissue and organs, even in whales, dolphins, seals & sea otters, in which it is a known cause of death.

I cite Dr. Paul Barrows on "Professional, ethical, and legal dilemmas of trap-neuter-release". (in JAVMA, V.225, No. 9, 2004 Animal Welfare Forum: Management of Abandoned and Feral Cats) "Cats should be confined for the sake of the cat, the environment, other animals, and the public. If a fraction of the dollars being expended to neuter, re abandon, and feed cats was directed toward enhancing education and supporting more effective animal control ordinances and their enforcement, we would be much farther down the road toward effectively reducing the problem."

Bob Schildgen March 18, 2014 Sierra Club policy site: **Ask Mr. Green: What are the preferred method(s) of reducing feral cat populations?** "The feral cat is an invasive, non-native species that kills 1.5 billion birds and 11 billion mammals a year, according to a study by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Extermination is obviously out of the question, because millions of cat lovers and animal rights advocates simply wouldn't stand for it. Trap-neuter-and-return (TNR) programs are advocated by most major animal-protection organizations but opposed by wildlife biologists ...The feral life span averages two years, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals—one-ninth a life instead of the proverbial nine. There is no simple solution, but one policy *all* parties agree on is this: Cats should be kept indoors and *never* allowed outside unless they're under strict supervision. Domestic cats do kill, and when let outside become vulnerable to diseases, brawls, and fatal encounters with wildlife. Indoor cats live longer—and arguably are happier. Gazing out the window at prey might actually be TV for tabby, and not an oppressive form of house arrest."

