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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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URGING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS TO SUPPORT  
EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE REDUCTION OF FREE-ROAMING CAT  
POPULATIONS USING THE TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE STRATEGY.

1 WHEREAS, free-roaming cats are a diverse population that  
2 includes: owned cats that are allowed outdoors, abandoned and  
3 lost pets, and feral cats; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, there are many locations in Hawaii where free-  
6 roaming cats face numerous challenges, especially if they are  
7 not spayed or neutered; and  
8

9 WHEREAS, the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy is a  
10 humane and effective long-term strategy to reduce the number of  
11 cats at large and improve their quality of life; and  
12

13 WHEREAS, TNRM programs have been established for years in  
14 Hawaii and are run by volunteers using their own time and money  
15 often with the help of a variety of nonprofit organizations,  
16 saving the government the expense of trying to control free-  
17 roaming cats in many areas; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, TNRM programs have not been pursued in areas where  
20 endangered or native species are common in Hawaii and, by  
21 controlling the number of cats in urban areas, there are fewer  
22 cats roaming into areas where they could cause damage to  
23 endangered or native species; and  
24

25 WHEREAS, free-roaming cats also help control the  
26 populations of destructive animals such as rats and mice; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, effective TNRM programs reduce complaints about  
29 free-roaming cats, discourage nuisance feeders, and remove newly  
30 abandoned pet cats and kittens for spay/neuter surgery and  
31 placement in homes; and  
32



1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has several successful, well-run TNRM  
2 programs in a variety of areas, including state lands, that have  
3 shown great progress in lowering the number of cats in colonies  
4 and modifying the cats' behaviors; and  
5

6 WHEREAS, cats are sentient beings, bred to be companion  
7 animals and because they are not free-roaming by choice but  
8 rather because of decisions made by humans, they deserve our  
9 compassion and we should honor our responsibilities to them; and  
10

11 WHEREAS, banning cat feeding lacks compassion, increases  
12 animal nuisance behaviors, and is an ineffective way to reduce  
13 the population of free-roaming cats on the landscape; and  
14

15 WHEREAS, three states and Washington D.C., plus counties in  
16 an additional twenty-four states have policies supporting TNRM  
17 and at least four hundred thirty local governments incorporate  
18 TNRM into their animal control practices; and  
19

20 WHEREAS, the American Bar Association has urged state,  
21 local, territorial, and tribal legislative bodies and  
22 governmental agencies to interpret existing laws and policies,  
23 or to adopt laws and policies, as applicable, to allow the  
24 implementation and administration of TNRM programs within their  
25 jurisdictions to promote the effective, efficient, and humane  
26 management of free-roaming cats; now, therefore,  
27

28 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
29 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
30 of 2018, the Senate concurring, that state departments with  
31 jurisdiction over state lands are urged to support the use of  
32 TNRM as an effective and humane way to reduce the population of  
33 free-roaming cats; and  
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private landowners in the State  
36 of Hawaii are urged to support the use of TNRM as an effective  
37 and humane way to reduce the population of free-roaming cats;  
38 and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prohibitions on the use of TNRM  
41 be reserved for areas designated as critical wildlife habitats;  
42 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to all state departments  
4 that manage state lands, and the Department of Land and Natural  
5 Resources for distribution to the twenty largest private land  
6 owners in Hawaii.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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