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LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
1:15 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2593, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO FERAL CATS

House Bill 2593, House Draft 1 proposes to have an unspecified agency contract with a nonprofit animal rescue group to oversee caretakers of feral cats and would exempt those caretakers from state laws and county ordinances related to the feeding and confinement of cats. This measure would also establish a formal trap-sterilize-return process. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly opposes this measure.**

Feral cats are problematic in Hawaii for a number of reasons: they are predators of native wildlife, including species protected under federal law; they are hosts of parasites that can threaten both wildlife and humans; and "managed" colonies on public lands leave fecal matter in some of our most valuable natural areas, including an estimated 14 tons of cat feces each year in State Parks alone. A multitude of scientific studies have shown that the solution in this measure, trap-neuter-return (TNR) does not work and can make the problem of feral cats even worse.

Feral cats as a predation threat and legal liability to the State of Hawaii

Feral cats are a major threat to wildlife and humans in Hawaii. Hawaii's native species evolved over millions of years in an environment devoid of human-introduced predators, such as cats. This has resulted in an extremely high rate of endemism (i.e., native species found nowhere else in the world) and the evolution of species with characteristics that make them easy prey for cats, such as seabirds that nest on the ground or in burrows. Cats are a major predator of native wildlife in Hawaii, including federally listed species designated as "threatened" or "endangered." Cats have been documented preying on chicks and adults of Hawaiian coots, shearwaters,

petrels, and other native birds. Today, 28% of all threatened and endangered species in the U.S. are located in Hawaii, and 78% of all U.S. species extinctions have occurred in Hawaii. Across the U.S., cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion birds per year. Reducing predation is a critical component of avoiding further declines in the populations of Hawaii's endemic species, for which state agencies and partners spend millions of dollars annually.

The Department notes that the State of New York is currently being sued by the American Bird Conservancy for allowing feral cat colonies to be maintained in a state park containing a federally listed, threatened species of plover, as a violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Should the State of Hawaii establish a formal TNR program at the Department of Health, or any other department, the State would similarly be exposed to liability under the ESA and Hawaii's own endangered species laws under Chapter 195D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for contributing to the further decline of Hawaii's threatened and endangered wildlife. The Department notes that if cat colonies were part of an official program conducted with State funding, an Environmental Assessment would likely be required.

Feral cats as a health risk to wildlife and humans

In addition to preying on native wildlife, cats pose a health risk to humans and wildlife due to being the only known reproductive host of the toxoplasmosis parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*). Toxoplasmosis reproduces in the feline digestive system, and a single cat can excrete 145 billion eggs per year in its feces. Once released into the environment, these eggs can infect other animals, including humans, both on land and in the ocean. Toxoplasmosis parasites create cysts in muscle and organ tissues and can cause inflammation of the heart, liver, and brain. In Hawaii, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded at least eight endangered Hawaiian monk seal deaths that are attributable to toxoplasmosis infection. Toxoplasmosis can also infect Hawaii's native birds, including the nene and the newly released alala.

In humans, *T. gondii* usually causes asymptomatic or mild/subclinical infection in persons with normal immune systems. Toxoplasmosis may be observed as congenital infection or as a reactivation in an immunosuppressed patient (e.g., HIV+). Toxoplasmosis can be a significant health issue to immunocompromised individuals if they handle the feces or contaminated soil and other materials for potential exposure. Toxoplasmosis is particularly a risk to pregnant women or immunosuppressed persons if they handle cat feces (and don't wash their hands) or eat raw or undercooked meat. It should be noted that is standard of practice for physicians to advise such patients to avoid such exposures. During pregnancy, this infection can result in severe damage to the unborn child, miscarriage, stillbirth, or substantial birth defects including enlargement or smallness of the head.

Feral cats as a nuisance problem on public lands

Feral cats in colonies also produce a large amount fecal matter that may be a vector for additional diseases and detracts from the natural beauty of Hawaii's recreation areas. The Department's Division of State Parks estimates approximately 850 feral cats in 33 colonies on State Park property statewide, which are hypothetically "managed" by private individuals conducting TNRM. Assuming each cat excretes an average of 1.5 ounces of feces per day, our State Parks host roughly 28,640 pounds (over 14 tons) of feces each year. The Division of State

Parks has noted that colony "managers" do not clean up feces. Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Section 7-6.3 defines an "owner" of a cat as "any person owning, harboring or keeping, or providing care or sustenance for a cat, whether registered or not, or having custody of a cat, whether temporarily or permanently." The Division of State Parks' Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 13-147-10 states: "Persons responsible for any animal on the premises shall also be responsible for the cleanup and proper disposal of animal droppings, for restoration or restitution for any damages caused by the animal, and, if the animal is loose, for restitution for any costs incurred in trapping and removing the animal." Feeders of cats in State Parks appear to be in violation of this section. This issue may also be relevant to County parks and other recreation areas.

Feral cats are also a problem in boat harbors managed by the Department's Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation. Fecal waste presents a nuisance to users of these harbors, and feral cats in harbors may shed toxoplasmosis parasites into nearby waters. Many of Hawaii's native birds are shorebirds that may live in close proximity to boat harbors. In addition to toxoplasmosis, feral cats in boat harbors may present a predation risk to these birds.

A study by University of Hawaii researchers Cheryl Lohr and Christopher Lepczyk found that 87% of Hawaii residents want to see a reduction in the number of feral cats in Hawaii, and that 78% want feral cats permanently removed where threatened and endangered species exist. Trap-neuter-return (referred to in this measure as trap-sterilize-return, but more commonly referred to as TNR), however, is not the solution.

Scientific studies show TNR to be ineffective and problematic

The Department notes several statements in this measure that are contradicted by scientific evidence. Namely, the statement on page 2, lines 10-11 is incorrect: TNR does not reduce colony populations over time. This has been shown many times across different studies that look at the outcomes of TNR practices, and is summarized in a 2009 review paper by Longcore et al. While some advocates for TNR claim that TNR is successful, the metric for "success" used by these advocates is the perceived wellness of the cats themselves, not the reduction of population size. In fact, studies have shown that TNR may lead to increasing population sizes as the presence of an established colony provides owners of unwanted pets with a location where they can abandon their pet with an assumption that someone else will care for their animal.

The only reductions in colony population size noted in the 2009 article by Longcore et al. came from colonies where removed cats were adopted into homes at very high rates. This contradicts another statement made in this measure, on page 1, lines 3-5, that feral cats are impractical to place into adoptive homes. This has been achieved in other regions using aggressive adoption campaigns, for at least a subset of feral cats that are adoptable.

The Department also questions the statement on page 1, lines 14-16, that when cats from a colony are euthanized, they leave a vacuum that is filled by other unsterilized cats entering a colony. This is followed by a statement on page 2, lines 8-9, that when sterilized cats are returned to a colony, unsterilized cats are less likely to take their place. The Department is not aware of any research supporting this claim. Further, whether unsterilized cats from the

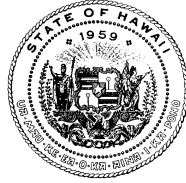
surrounding environment enter into a colony or remain outside of the colony does not change the total number of feral cats on the landscape.

The Department also notes that the statement on page 2, lines 1-3 may not be accurate, regarding the TNR as being "more humane than euthanization" and "less costly." People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) opposes TNR as an inhumane method of feral cat management, as it prolongs the life of cats living on the landscape that are more likely to suffer from disease, injury, and malnourishment. With regard to cost, a 2013 study by University of Hawaii researchers Cheryl Lohr and Christopher Lepczyk found that TNR was less cost-effective than implementing a program of trapping and euthanasia.

Alternatives to TNR

The Department supports cat management options that combine humane treatment when possible with the ecological reality of mammalian predators existing on islands with threatened and endangered wildlife. Sociable cats should be adopted into homes wherever possible, and the Department is aware and supportive of options, such as cat sanctuaries or outdoor enclosures (called "catios") that allow cats to live outside of homes but remain separated from Hawaii's native wildlife. However, any realistic approach to the feral cat problem in Hawaii must include euthanasia for animals that cannot be placed into homes or sanctuaries. Implementing a TNR program would only increase the problems Hawaii faces from feral cats, while exposing the State to potential lawsuits under the ESA.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2593 HD1
RELATING TO FERAL CATS.**

SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

SENATOR CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

Hearing Date: March 21, 2018

Room Number: 224

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** HB2593 HD1 is an unfunded mandate for an unspecified state agency to
- 2 contract with the private sector.

- 3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) takes no position on feral cat
- 4 management policy and emphasizes that DOH is the inappropriate agency to promote the
- 5 humane treatment of feral cats, which is the stated purpose of this Act. Furthermore, although
- 6 feral cats may contribute to unsanitary conditions and threaten native bird species, they do not
- 7 pose a public health threat.

- 8 **Offered Amendments:** N/A.



HB2593 HD1
RELATING TO FERAL CATS
Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 21, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **OPPOSES** HB2593 HD1, which would encourage the proliferation of inhumane cat “colonies” and the increased abandonment of cats that pose serious threats to both native wildlife and local residents, including Native Hawaiians.

Introduced cat populations have devastating effects on island ecosystems and native species. Through food competition, disease transmission, predation, and displacement, cats have directly and indirectly contributed to the endangerment and extinction of dozens of native species; a 2011 study concluded that, on island ecosystems throughout the world, “feral cats preyed on at least 175 endangered vertebrates (25 reptiles, 123 birds and 27 mammals) and are at least in part responsible for 14% of global bird, mammal and reptile extinctions, currently affecting 8% of critically endangered birds, mammals and reptiles.”¹ Native birds appear particularly sensitive to cat introductions: for example, in the Phoenix Islands, the threatened bristle-thighed curlew can no longer be found on islands with feral cat populations; in Tuamotu, feral cats compete with the endemic and critically endangered Tuamotu kingfisher; on Kerguelen Island, the reproductive success of the native skua has greatly decreased as a result of competition with feral cats; on Ascension Island, feral cats limit settlements and often kill sooty terns, masked boobies, and frigates; and in Port Cros island in the Mediterranean, cats are responsible for the high mortality rates of young Yelkouan shearwaters.² Notably,

The Hawaiian archipelago is no exception to the long list of islands whose ecosystems have been impacted by cat introductions. As early as 1903, an ornithologist reported how “on Lāna‘i, in walking up a single ravine, I counted the remains of no less than 22 native birds killed by cats.”³ Unfortunately, feral cat predation on Hawai‘i’s threatened and endangered bird species continues to this day: between 2012 and 2015, the Kaua‘i National Wildlife Refuge attributed the deaths of 237 endangered waterbirds to feral cats alone; in addition, feral cats have also been documented predating on Newell’s shearwaters, wedge-tailed

¹ Medina, et. al., *A Global Review of the Impacts of Invasive Cats on Island Endangered Vertebrates*, GLOBAL CHANGE BIOLOGY, 2011, at 3509 (emphasis added); see also Medina, et. al., *Underlying Impacts of Invasive Cats on Islands: Not Only a Question of Predation*, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, 2014, at 328.

² Medina, et. al., *Underlying Impacts of Invasive Cats on Islands: Not Only a Question of Predation*, BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, 2014, at 327-338.

³ Kim Steutrmann Rogers, *Feral Cats are a Serious Threat to Hawai‘i’s Endangered Birds, Monk Seals and Dophins*, HONOLULU MAGAZINE, Oct. 12, 2016.

shearwaters, the O‘ahu elepaio, ‘alae ‘ula, and Hawaiian petrels, among others. **In one recent case on Kaua‘i, a single feral cat has been estimated to have killed 101 endangered birds over a six month period.** In addition to depredation and associated displacement from critical habitat, forensic evidence now suggests that cats may also impact a range of endangered native species through the transmission of fatal diseases, such as cat-borne toxoplasmosis;⁴ dead specimens of critically endangered ‘alala and ‘Īlioholoikauaua, as well as nai‘a, have recently been found to have been infected by this disease.⁵ Not surprisingly, feral cats, including cats that have been trapped, neutered, and released, have now been added to Hawai‘i’s most impactful invasive species list, and have been recently recognized as one of the top 25 invasive terrestrial species in the Western United States.⁶ **Without proactive and timely controls over our ever-increasing feral cat population – estimated in 2012 to number 300,000 on O‘ahu alone – many such culturally significant native species face devastation and even potential extinction in the near future.**

The failure to address feral cat populations in a timely manner may also pose a particular threat to Native Hawaiian cultural practitioners, rural community members, and others who frequently recreate in and subsist from nearshore waters, or who consume produce grown in areas that may be frequented by feral cats. Toxoplasmosis infection, which results from the *Toxoplasma gondii* parasite that reproduces only in felid intestinal tracts, is considered extremely dangerous to pregnant woman and individuals with compromised immune systems.⁷ Even in otherwise healthy individuals, toxoplasmosis infection has been linked to higher rates of mental illness, including schizophrenia, depression, obsessive compulsive disorder, and brain cancer.⁸ Toxoplasmosis can also significantly slow reaction times, with one study showing that infected individuals may be two and a half times more likely to be involved in a traffic accident.⁹ **With the ability to survive for six months or more in soil or warm seawater,¹⁰ toxoplasma oocytes shed by feral cat colonies may pose a substantial health risk for those who swim in, eat from, or otherwise**

⁴ Toxoplasmosis results from infection by *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite that reproduces only in the digestive tract of felid, and that spreads through consumption of oocytes or transmission by mosquitoes or other insects. Oocysts can remain infectious even after extended periods in harsh conditions, and can survive for more than a year in warm moist soil, up to a few years in cold water, and for six months or longer in seawater. D.S. Lindsay, et. al, *Sporulation and survival of Toxoplasma gondii oocysts in seawater*, 50 J. EUKARYOT MICROBIOL 687 (2003); Thierry M. Work, et. al., *Fatal toxoplasmosis in free-ranging endangered ‘alala from Hawaii*, 36 J. OF WILDLIFE DISEASES 205, 209 (2010); see also THE CENTER FOR FOOD SECURITY AND PUBLIC HEALTH AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, TOXOPLASMA INFECTION 2 (2017), available at <http://www.cfsph.iastate.edu/Factsheets/pdfs/toxoplasmosis.pdf>.

⁵ *Id.* at 210; NOAA Fisheries, A Cat-astrophic Threat for Seals - How *Toxoplasma gondii* makes its way from mountain to ocean, <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/files/2018/03/toxoplasmosis-faq-fnl.pdf> (last accessed March 15, 2018); Paul Kvinta, *Hawaii’s crazy war over zombie cats*, OUTSIDE MAGAZINE, October 28, 2016; Associated Press, *Dolphin found to have died from parasite found in cats*, HONOLULU STAR-ADVERTISER, May 4, 2016.

⁶ Jessica Else, *Feral cats make invasive species list*, THE GARDEN ISLAND, March 18, 2019.

⁷ Astrid M. Tenter, et. al. *Toxoplasma gondii: from animals to humans*, 30 INT. J. PARASITOL 1217 (2000);

⁸ E. Fuller Torrey & Robert H. Yolken, *Toxoplasma gondii and Schizophrenia*, 9 EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES 1375 (2003); Jaroslav Flegr, *Effects of Toxoplasma on human behavior*, 33 SCHIZOPHRENIA BULLETIN 757 (2007).

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ Lindsey, *supra* note 4.

enter our nearshore waters, including Native Hawaiians in particular, as well as all those who consume produce from home gardens, community gardens, and commercial farming operations where feral cats may be present.

In addition to the propagation of *T. gondii* oocysts in the environment, it should be noted that cat colonies may also pose a number of other threats to public health. **Cats are known carriers of various other parasites and infectious diseases that may be transmitted to humans and other animals (such as dogs), including giardia, salmonella, cryptosporidium, and hookworms; while house pets can normally be screened for such parasites and diseases through annual veterinary checkups, stray cats are unlikely to be recaptured, much less taken a veterinarian, after their first experience being trapped and “returned.”**¹¹ Cat colony feeding may also result in the proliferation of flies, lice, cockroaches, and other pests; notably, house flies alone are “strongly suspected of transmitting at least 65 diseases to humans, including typhoid fever, dysentery, cholera, poliomyelitis, yaws, anthrax, tularemia, leprosy and tuberculosis.”¹² Furthermore, the potential exposure to these diseases and other nuisances associated with cat feeding may even discourage the use of open public spaces and nearshore areas, a social determinant of health that may further impact individual and community health outcomes.¹³

Unfortunately, contrary to the unsupported assertions in this measure’s preamble, numerous studies have shown that “Trap-neuter-return” (TNR) strategies do not reduce numbers of cats on the landscape, or provide any relief from the ecological and public health threats caused by feral cat populations. **On the contrary, the visible maintenance of a feral cat colony has been shown to increase rates of cat abandonment, including cats that have not been sterilized:**

A study of TNR implemented countywide in San Diego showed that feral cat populations had not decreased after 10 years, and a similar result was found after 7 years in Alachua County, Florida, where feral cat populations increased (Foley et al. 2005). Four years of TNR at a colony in London saw the population

¹¹ See, e.g., Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Parasites – Giardia, <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/giardia/index.html> (last accessed March 16, 2018) (“*Giardia* is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it tolerant to chlorine disinfection. While the parasite can be spread in different ways, water (drinking water and recreational water) is the most common mode of transmission”); CDC, Parasites – Cryptosporidium, <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/crypto/index.html> (last accessed March 16, 2018) (“The parasite is protected by an outer shell that allows it to survive outside the body for long periods of time and makes it very tolerant to chlorine disinfection. . . . *Cryptosporidium* is a leading cause of waterborne disease among humans in the United States.”); CDC, Parasites – Zoonotic Hookworm, <https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/zoonotichookworm/> (last accessed March 16, 2018).

¹² Penn State College of Agricultural Sciences, Insect Advice from Extension, <http://ento.psu.edu/extension/factsheets/house-flies> (last accessed March 16, 2018); see also Hawai’i State Department of Health Vector Control Section, Domestic Flies, <http://health.hawaii.gov/san/files/2014/04/DOMESTIC-FLIES-Edit-04012014.pdf> (last accessed March 16, 2018). For example, a typhus outbreak in Orange County was specifically linked to feral cats near schools. Sharon Bernstein, Orange County Typhus Cases: Symptoms and Treatment, <https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/symptoms-treatment-typhus-orange-county-155417285.html>.

¹³ See Act 55 (Reg. Sess. 2014); HRS § 226-20.

fluctuate between 19 and 17 with no indication of further decline (Neville 1989). Ten years of TNR in Rome showed a 16–32% decrease in population size across 103 colonies but concluded that TNR was “a waste of time, energy, and money” if abandonment of owned cats could not be stopped (Natoli et al. 2006). Two colonies subject to TNR in Florida were tracked for over a year and population size of both colonies increased owing to the influx of new cats dumped at the highly visible sites (Castillo & Clarke 2003).¹⁴

Notably, Trap-Neuter-Release is also considered an **inhumane** approach for cats themselves, by animal welfare organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals.¹⁵ **For example, feral cats generally succumb slowly and painfully from untreated illnesses, injuries, infections, and in some cases from human malice.** Even allowing an “owned” cat outdoors is frowned upon by the Veterinary Centers for America, due to the frequency of injury from vehicles and other animals, as well as the risk of infection by contagious diseases. Accordingly, the increased abandonment of cats as a result of the visible maintenance of feral cat colonies will likely only increase the number of cats that experience the suffering and inhumane conditions of living in an unsheltered environment.

By exempting cat “caretakers” from laws relating to the feeding and harboring of feral cats, and promoting the maintenance of cat colonies throughout the islands, this measure may tie the hands of the state and counties from addressing the substantial and growing threats that feral cats pose to our native wildlife and to public health. **Again, TNR strategies have not been shown to successfully reduce cat populations, and have been shown to in some cases increase rates of cat abandonment, including cats that have not been sterilized.**¹⁶ Accordingly, this measure may only exacerbate feral cats’ impacts on our native wildlife and communities, and severely inhibit our government’s ability to address the looming environmental and public health crisis that may be posed by feral cats.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committees to **HOLD** HB2593 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹⁴ Travis Longcore, et. al. *Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return*, 23 CONSERVATION BIOLOGY 887, 891 (2009); see also Allison D. Roebing, et al., *Rabies Prevention and Management of Cats in the Context of Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, Release Programs* 61 ZOOLOGICAL PUBLIC HEALTH 290 (2014) (“[C]laims by TNR advocates that managed colonies can reduce feral cat populations and control rodents are contradicted by research”); Daniel Castillo and Alice L. Clarke, *Trap/neuter/release methods ineffective in controlling domestic cat “colonies” on public lands*.23 NAT AREA J. 247 (2003).

¹⁵ See PETA, Animal Rights Uncompromised: Feral Cats, <https://www.peta.org/about-peta/why-peta/feral-cats/> (last accessed February 8, 2018); Daphna Nachminovitch, *TNR Is Dangerous Both to Cats and to Other Animals*, CHANGING PLANET, Mar. 8, 2017, <https://blog.nationalgeographic.org/2017/03/08/tnr-is-dangerous-both-to-cats-and-to-other-animals/>.

¹⁶ Travis Longcore, et. al. *Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return*, 23 CONSERVATION BIOLOGY 4, 887 (2009). Notably, Trap-Neuter-Release is also considered an inhumane approach for cats themselves, by organizations such as People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. See PETA, Animal Rights Uncompromised: Feral Cats, <https://www.peta.org/about-peta/why-peta/feral-cats/> (last accessed February 8, 2018).



Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
Opposing HB 2593_HD1 Relating to Feral Cats
Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment/Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 1:15 PM, Room 224**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to express our organization’s **opposition to HB 2593_HD1**. We strongly believe that trapping, sterilizing, and then returning (TNR) feral cats is inappropriate public policy to address the overpopulation of cats throughout Hawai‘i.

Although trapping and sterilizing feral cats is an important component of management, the re-release of these cats to parks and communities throughout the state is counterproductive. Not only is this release inhumane abandonment, scientific studies have overwhelmingly indicated that [TNR programs do not reduce feral cat populations](#) and are [opposed by the public in Hawai‘i](#). These programs also fail to consider impacts on human and wildlife communities that states are required to protect. For these reasons, TNR is opposed by the following organizations:

[American Association of Wildlife Veterinarians](#) | [American Ornithologists’ Union](#) | [International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council](#) | [National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians](#) | [National Wildlife Rehabilitators Association](#) | [The Wildlife Society](#)

Feral cats are one of the world’s most harmful invasive species and have contributed to the extinction of 33 species on islands. Feral cats, including those as part of TNR programs, are listed by the Western Governors Association to be among the [top 25 worst terrestrial invasive species](#). The Hawai‘i Department of Land and Natural Resources’ [Hawaii Invasive Species Council website](#) also recognizes the serious threat from feral cats, in part because of the risks to native Hawaiian birds such as endangered Palila, ‘Alae Ke‘oke‘o (Hawaiian Coot), ‘A‘o (Newell’s Shearwater), ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel), and others. For example, a 2015 report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recorded 252 likely cat kills of native birds just at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge between 2012 and 2014. Feral cats, sterilized or not, are highly efficient predators that, like brown tree snakes, do not belong roaming Hawai‘i.

Feral cats also spread parasites and diseases, such as the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is among the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s [five neglected parasitic diseases](#) targeted as a priority for public health. Each cat may spread hundreds of millions of infectious eggs in its feces, contaminating the environment for years. Infection in humans can result in miscarriages, blindness, memory loss, or death and has been linked to several neurological disorders. Recent [deaths of Hawaiian monk seals](#), [Nēnē](#), and other species suggest widespread cat-caused contamination of land and water. Maintaining feral cats in colonies concentrates and enhances the spread of this parasite and threatens the health of


Hawai'i's residents and tourists. Indeed, [the Department of Health's own report](#) identified feral cats as a **very high risk factor** for the spread toxoplasmosis.

State-sponsored support of TNR also creates a bureaucratic nightmare. This bill fails to designate a state agency to oversee implementation and exempts cat colony caretakers from state laws and county ordinances. Furthermore, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) protects threatened and endangered species from "take," including the kind that results from maintained feral cat colonies. Sanctioning these cat colonies is a significant liability that will result in legal challenges. For example, the state of New York is currently being sued for violation of the ESA due to its support of feral cat colonies in a state park. Such liabilities also extend to human health. Should people test positive for toxoplasmosis or cat-scratch disease, the state could be held responsible for its role in supporting exposure to the vector.

American Bird Conservancy appreciates the concern for cats and the current overpopulation crisis, but TNR is not the answer. Rather than supporting the release of cats, legislation is needed to separate these animals from the environment. For example, HB 2593 could be amended to require that all trapped and sterilized cats be placed in an enclosure, such as [exists on Lana'i](#), could support the recommendations of the [Kauai Feral Cat Task Force](#), or could provide incentives to keep pet cats safely contained. American Bird Conservancy would be more than happy to work with the committees to develop language to this effect.

American Bird Conservancy and its members appreciate your attention and ask you to please consider the impacts to Hawai'i's people and native wildlife. **We respectfully request that you oppose HB 2593_HD1.**

Mahalo for your consideration,



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COORDINATING GROUP ON
ALIEN PEST SPECIES

The Senate
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
March 21, 2018
1:15 p.m., Conference Room 224
State Capitol

Testimony in Opposition to HB 2593 HD1

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, Vice Chairs Riviere and Wakai, and Members of the Committees,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in opposition to HB 2593 HD1, Relating to Feral Cats**. The aim of this measure is to require an unspecified state agency to contract with a nonprofit animal rescue group to oversee caretakers of feral cats; to exempt registered caretakers of feral cats from state laws and county ordinances relating to the feeding and confinement of cats; and establish a trap-sterilize-return process.

Not more than a generation ago, pet dogs were allowed to roam off leash, whether they were being taken for a walk, or just simply let out in an area without fences and there were growing populations of feral dogs in many areas. Many of those feral or free-roaming dogs were not adoptable. Against the wishes of a segment of the population, concerned citizens and decision-makers began to change laws, and attitudes and norms began to change. Today, there are still feral dogs, and some irresponsible pet owners, but I think you'll agree that the situation is better, for pets, people, and the environment. Efforts to normalize the support of feral cats in public areas may seem humane for the feral cats, but it is not in the best interest of cats, communities, and the environment.

The scenario and "science" that TNR advocates use to support this model is flawed. Let's say there are 100 feral cats in an area and they support themselves by foraging in garbage, catching food, etc. When people start taking care of these cats, they are **ADDING** resources, which supports more cats, so more cats come. If you spay/neuter at least 90% of the original cats (which is the very best that many caretakers can do), the remaining 10% can repopulate the colony within a few years, as this very bill states! In addition, new cats will continue to move in because of the increased available resources, guaranteeing that a colony caretaker never reaches 100% spay/neuter, and never achieving maintenance, let alone reduction in population over time.

Further, when society normalizes TNR, it increases the number of people participating, increasing colony locations and the available resources, which impacts a segment of the community and the environment, and the feral cats still aren't well-protected or cared for.

A reduction in the number of feral cats over time is an admirable goal, but TNR advocates have yet to provide a scientifically valid and repeatable method for achieving this, nor does the language of this bill support such an outcome. Exempting colony caretakers from laws is equally, if not more problematic, and the language that exempts caretakers from providing

healthcare and ear tipping for feral cats when “cost prohibitive” is alarming and should be a concern for any cat lover. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS



HAWAII ASSOCIATION OF ANIMAL WELFARE AGENCIES

Hawaii Island Humane Society | Hawaiian Humane Society | Kauai Humane Society | Maui Humane Society

Date: March 20, 2018

To: Chair Sen. Brian Taniguchi
Vice Chair Sen. Karl Rhoads
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in support of HB2072, HD2: Relating to HRS 711-1109
Tuesday, March 20, 2018, 9:30 a.m., Capitol room 016

The Hawaii Association of Animal Welfare Agencies (HAAWA) supports the passage of House Bill 2072, HD2, which would prohibit the use of specific tethering equipment and techniques that are injurious to dogs.

HAAWA represents the four county animal service providers in the state of Hawaii. Our independent local nonprofits are united in support this change in policy.

The harmful tethering of dogs is an issue on all of our islands. The constant confinement and isolation of dogs is dangerous both for the animals and the people around them. Dogs are happiest when they are treated as close members of their human families.

Please support this measure with the exception of the proposed amendments reducing the initial penalty to a petty misdemeanor. While the intent of that change might have been to allow offenders to correct their behavior without incurring a misdemeanor charge, our humane investigators already use education first to modify behavior. Citations would follow only if the illegal activity is not corrected. Please do not retreat from the recent gains the Legislature has made in strengthening animal cruelty penalties.

We ask you to support the well-vetted language in HB2072, HD2, which was endorsed in the prior two sessions by animal welfare groups and law enforcement, and reject the reduction in penalty for tethering violations.

Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Lisa Fowler, President & CEO
Hawaiian Humane Society

Donna Whitaker, Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society

Orianna Skomoroch, Interim Executive Director
Kauai Humane Society

Jerleen Bryant, CEO
Maui Humane Society



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: March 20, 2018

To: Chairs Sen. Mike Gabbard and Sen. Clarence Nishihara
Vice Chairs Sen. Gil Riviere and Sen. Glenn Wakai
and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and the Environment
and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of the intent of HB 2593, HD1: Relating to Feral Cats
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 1:15, p.m., Capitol room 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, and Committee Members.

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the intent of HB 2593, HD1, to exempt cat colony caregivers who register with an animal welfare contractor from laws that would interfere with the practice of trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM).

Responsible TNRM is a humane and effective long-term strategy to reduce the number of cats on the landscape and improve their quality of life. Feral cats, animals that are unsocialized and unaccustomed to interacting with people, represent just one part of the Free-Roaming cat population. Cats on the landscape also include abandoned and lost pets, as well as owned cats allowed outdoors. The bill as written fails to account for that diversity.

We encourage the state to support the work done by colony caregivers to help this diverse population of animals. We also would like to see caregivers protected from rules that impede their efforts to reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in a humane fashion.

Some changes to HB 2593, HD1, are required to accomplish those goals:

- The definition of “feral cat” fails to take into account the diversity of the Free-Roaming cat population. The definition should be removed and the term “Free-Roaming cat” should replace “feral cat” throughout the bill.
- The bill implies there will be a single contract awarded by the state. Given the scope of the proposed program, each island would need its own registry, access to traps and

other support. The contracts would vary to reflect the needs of each island. Thereby, multiple contracts would be necessary.

- Any qualified animal-welfare nonprofit should be allowed to bid on contracts under the program to preserve as many options as possible, especially in smaller communities.
- The program rules should be limited to the fundamental practices of TRNM executed to the best ability of the caregivers.

The Hawaiian Humane Society requests that the committee pass HB 2593, HD1, with these amendments. Mahalo for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of assistance.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Public Safety
In Support Of: HB2593 HD1, with amendments
Date: March 21, 2018 1:15 p.m.
Testimony By: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

On behalf of Hawaii members and supporters of The Humane Society of the United States, I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of HB2593 HD1, related to feral cats, with amendments.

The HSUS understands that managing community cats (free-roaming cats who may be feral or stray) is a complex issue that concerns many legislators and agencies mandated to serve and protect the public. The issue will not be solved by a single piece of legislation, however we believe that HB 2593 HD1, with the amendments offered, can assist in addressing Hawaii's free-roaming cat population.

The presence of free-roaming or community cats, both feral and stray, across Hawaii is nothing new. Where cat populations are present, the choice is between having a managed population that declines over time and having an unmanaged population that continues to reproduce, creating an unhealthy situation for cats, wildlife and people. Programs using lethal control are ineffective, waste scarce resources, and are unpopular. If this approach worked, then we would not be discussing the issue today. Alternatively, when trap-neuter-return-manage programs (TNRM programs) are implemented effectively, cat populations humanely decline and disease and wildlife predation issues decrease, stabilizing and eventually eliminating the problem. Such programs should be more widely practiced and should have broader support, particularly from agencies concerned with the negative impacts of free-roaming cats.

Yet time and again, policies put into place create barriers to effective TNRM and deter citizen engagement in addressing the issue. Unfortunately, efforts to combat invasive plant and wildlife species often acts counter to TNRM programs, rendering them less effective. Residents who are actively participating in humane population reduction programs such as TNRM, rather than cooperating, are driven underground in an effort to protect cats from the lethal management most often advanced by efforts to control and eradicate invasive species. Properly managed, TNR programs can work, are squarely in line with public opinion, and can tap into a willing volunteer workforce that represents hundreds of dedicated people.

HB 2593 HD1 affords these citizens certain protections for engaging in cat population management programs while following a set of best practices set forth in the bill. They register and provide certain cat colony data to an animal welfare organization that has a formal agreement with the Department of Health for such purposes. Recognizing the value of TNRM and the citizens who volunteer their time and money to provide a public service, the Hawaii Legislature has defeated efforts to ban the feeding of free-roaming cats repeatedly. Yet attempts to restrict problem-solving solutions on certain public lands are being made through rule making by government agencies, seemingly ignoring the fact that the public and policy makers have already made it clear that they do not agree with these changes. HB 2593 HD1 firmly establish the Legislature's position on the issue and the desire for humane resolution of free-roaming cat overpopulation.

We share common ground with conservationists and animal welfare advocates as our ultimate goal is no unowned, and many fewer owned, cats outdoors leading to much less risk to the cats themselves, no

predation of birds and wildlife, the elimination of potential public health concerns and no nuisance-related issues. Until the day when the population has been reduced and all cats live in loving homes, The HSUS supports and promotes humane management of outdoor cat populations.

The HSUS respectfully asks that you adopt the amendments, agreed upon by many cat welfare organizations across the state, and summarized here:

- Changes in the preamble to amend the definition of feral cats and trap-neuter-return-manage program activities such as sterilization, feeding/care, monitoring and removing new cats, including abandoned cats, who may enter the area being managed by a caregiver
- Changes definition from caretaker to caregiver; adds new definitions
- Clarifies responsibilities and expectations of caregivers, contracted non-profit animal care or rescue groups registering caregivers, and what information is to be submitted to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture annually, and to the full Legislature at the end of the 5-year pilot period.
- Adds that non-profit animal care or rescue groups contracted to oversee caregivers under this statute will attempt to resolve any wildlife conflicts or concerns that are brought to their attention (such as in those areas where cat colonies may pose a threat to threatened or endangered wildlife)
- Clarifies conditions for exemptions for registered caregivers from certain laws or rules that may otherwise prohibit their providing care to free-roaming cats. Registration with a non-profit animal care organization is strictly voluntary, however, registration, and compliance with colony care and management standards set forth by the non-profit are required for protections from any such laws or rules prohibiting the care of colony cats.
- Adds that non-profit organizations under this section who are registering caregivers, shall annually present a summary of data and activities, including the number of cats registered and sterilized, to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture and that at the end of the 5-year pilot project, provide a 5-year summary report of the data and activities carried out under this section.
- Clarifies that nothing in this section shall negate nor supersede existing laws, rules or ordinances regarding the prosecution of animal cruelty or requirements that certain animals be sterilized (such as ROH Chapter 7; cat sterilization and identification)
- Adds that this bill shall take effect on July 1, 2018 and sunset (or repeal) on June 30, 2023

The House Committees on Agriculture and Finance removed the following, which we also support:

- Removes any reference to the Department of Health as the state agency overseeing this provision
- Removes any reference to an appropriation (costs will be incurred by any non-profit organizations registering caregivers for protections pursuant to this section)

The amendments better align the legislation with nationally accepted best practices for TNR programs as well as remove unnecessary barriers to public participation. We feel these changes make this a stronger piece of legislation. While this is a complex issue, the task ahead is not impossible. Cats living outdoors are the current reality and we have a choice to actively manage the problem or not. We ask that you pass this bill with our recommended amendments, for the benefit of the cats, people and environment of Hawaii.

Keith Dane
301-312-1489





TO: Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Public Safety
March 21, 2018, 115pm

SUBMITTED BY: Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, West Hawaii Humane Society
ponoadvocacy@gmail.com, 808.922.9910

RE: SUPPORT for HB2593 with Amendments; Relating to Feral Cats

The West Hawaii Humane Society respectfully urges your support of HB2593 with the strengthening and clarifying amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

This measure aims to provide certain protections to community cat caregivers who engage in trap-neuter-return-manage in exchange for their registration with a non-profit animal care agency. Registration of caregivers allows them protection from county or state laws or rules that might otherwise prohibit their sterilizing and caring for cats who are not candidates for adoption due to their temperament (unsocialized). Please see below from the ASPCA for more information on the trap-neuter-return-manage program and why cat eradication or relocation efforts are not effective (<https://www.asPCA.org/animal-homelessness/shelter-intake-and-surrender/closer-look-community-cats>)

Our proposed amendments clarify the roles, responsibilities, standards and expectations of each party, including the non-profit contractor and the caregiver of the cat colony. Additional language is suggested to allow for a conflict-resolution/mitigation process to address those areas of concern, where both cats and wildlife may be present. Registration with a non-profit agency is voluntary but only those who are registered will be afforded such protections.

Free-roaming cat issues remain complex and controversial, however, this measure proposes to finally recognize and register cat caregivers so that standard cat management practices are ensured, that data can be generated to guide ongoing or future efforts, and that protections are only afforded to those who are in compliance with such standards of care, including recognizing those areas where cats should not be managed nor maintained due to wildlife or other concerns.

Without this measure concerned community members will continue to care for cats, haphazardly

in some areas, and without any oversight or accountability. This measure is a compromise in creating a registry where cat related concerns can be identified and addressed—in the best interest of cats, wildlife and the community.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and our proposed amendments.

A Closer Look at Community Cats

Common Misconceptions and Ways to Help

While the number of community cats in the United States is estimated to be in the tens of millions, sadly, many communities still opt to control populations using outdated, ineffective methods—including lethal elimination or relocation. Community cats who end up in shelters make up a large percentage of cats euthanized throughout the country every year. The ASPCA endorses Trap–Neuter–Return (TNR) as the only proven humane and effective method to manage community cat colonies.

What is a Community Cat?

Community cats include the following:

- Cats born and raised in the wild.
- Cats who have been abandoned or lost and turned to wild ways in order to survive.

While some community cats tolerate a bit of human contact, most are too fearful and wild to be handled. Community cats often live in groups, called colonies, and take refuge wherever they can find food. They will also try to seek out abandoned buildings or deserted cars—or even dig holes in the ground—to keep warm in winter months and cool during the summer heat.

Community Cats Face Many Challenges:

- They must endure weather extremes such as cold and snow, heat and rain.
- Community cats face starvation, infection and attacks by other animals.
- Unfortunately, almost half of the kittens born outdoors die from disease, exposure or parasites before their first year.
- Community cats face eradication by humans. Poison, trapping, gassing and steel leg–hold traps are all ways that humans—including some animal control and government agencies—try to kill off community cat populations.

If a community cat survives kittenhood, his average lifespan is less than two years if living on his own. If a cat is lucky enough to be in a colony that has a caretaker, he may reach 10 years. Community cats who live in a managed colony—a colony with a dedicated caretaker who provides spay/neuter services, regular feedings and proper shelter—can live a quite content life.

Noting the Differences between Stray Cats and Community Cats

A community cat is primarily wild–raised or has adapted to community life. The ASPCA defines a stray cat as someone's pet who has become lost, or who has been abandoned.

- Stray cats are usually tame and comfortable around people.
- They will frequently rub against legs and exhibit behaviors such as purring and meowing. In contrast, community cats are notably quiet and keep their distance.
- Stray cats will also often try to make a home near humans—in car garages, front porches or backyards.
- Most stray cats are completely reliant on humans for food and are not able to cope with life on the streets.

Utilizing Trap–Neuter–Return (TNR) to Manage Community Cat Colonies

TNR is the method of humanely trapping community cats, having them spayed or neutered and vaccinated against rabies, and then returning them to their colony to live out their lives. TNR also involves a colony caretaker who provides food and adequate shelter and monitors the cats' health. TNR has been shown to be the least costly and the most humane, efficient way of stabilizing community cat populations. TNR helps stabilize the population of community colonies and, over time, reduces them. Nuisance behaviors such as spraying, excessive noisemaking and fighting are largely eliminated and no additional kittens are born.

By stabilizing the population, cats will naturally have more space, shelter and food and fewer risks of disease. After being spayed or neutered, cats living in colonies tend to gain weight and live healthier lives. Spayed cats are less likely to develop breast cancer and will not be at risk for ovarian or uterine cancer, while neutered males will not get testicular cancer. Neutering male cats also reduces the risk of injury and infection, since intact males have a natural instinct to fight with other cats. Spaying also means female cats do not go into heat. That means they attract fewer tom cats to the area, which reduces fighting.

How to Help Community Cats and Kittens in Your Area

A community colony caretaker is an individual (or group of individuals) who manages one or more community colonies in a community. The caretaker keeps an eye on the cats—providing food, water and shelter, spaying/neutering and emergency medical care. Some shelters and rescue groups even give out free or low-cost spay/neuter coupons to colony caretakers.

Ineffective Methods for Managing Community Cat Populations

Eradication: The deliberate and systematic destruction of a community cat colony, by whatever method, almost always leads to the “vacuum effect”—either new cats flock to the vacated area to exploit whatever food source attracted the original inhabitants, or survivors breed and their descendants are more cautious around threats. Simply put, eradication is only a temporary fix that sacrifices animals' lives unnecessarily, yet yields no positive or beneficial return.

Relocation: Many communities have rounded up colonies of community cats either for euthanasia or to relocate them to another area. This does not work, because community cats are very connected with their territory: They are familiar with its food sources and places that offer shelter, as well as resident wildlife, other cats in the area, and potential threats to their safety. Even when all community cats are removed, which is difficult to achieve, new cats will soon move in and set up camp.

Relocation is something to consider only if keeping the cats where they are becomes a threat to their lives, such as their territory being demolished and there is no adjacent space to shift them to, or if the cats' lives would be at extreme risk should they remain where they are.



A non-profit, no-kill shelter dedicated to the care of homeless, abused and physically challenged animals.

March 19, 2018

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair

Senator Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 21, 2018

1:15 p.m.

Room 224

Support for H.B.2593 HD1; Relating to Feral Cats

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, and members of the Committees,

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony. My name is Ashley Spencer. I am a volunteer with the Oahu-based non-profit, no-kill shelter Joey's Feline Friends, and have served as one of the shelter's adoption coordinators since 2008. I respectfully offer this testimony in strong support of HB 2593 HD1, the purpose of which is to

- 1) Require the Department of Health to contract with a nonprofit animal rescue group to oversee caretakers of feral cats.
- 2) Exempt registered caretakers of feral cats from state laws and county ordinances relating to the feeding and confinement of cats.
- 3) Establish a trap-sterilize-return process.

As a representative for Joey's Feline Friends, and as an individual, I support this bill in its efforts to humanely and effectively address the community cat populations of Hawai'i through the use of Trap-Neuter-Return-Management (TNRM), and to support the individuals who manage these colonies by exempting them from prosecution under state laws and ordinances.

The existence of large populations of community cats in Hawai`i, and the problems that arise as a result, are overwhelmingly the result of human behavior. Community cat populations, or outdoor, unowned, free-roaming cats, are comprised of a mixture of feral cats, semi-socialized cats, and lost or abandoned pets. The large numbers of community cats here in Hawai`i can be directly traced to 1) limited access to affordable spay/neuter options, and the low visibility of the options that do exist); 2) a highly transient population that too often dumps their (frequently unfixed) animals when they leave the Islands; and 3) a pet-hostile housing pool that, again, often results in people dumping their animals when they can't find housing that will allow them to keep their four legged family members. As it is humans that have caused this problem, it is our responsibility to find humane solutions to address it.

TNRM, as well as Return-to-Field (RTF) practices, are the most humane, effective, and cost effective methods for stabilizing and reducing the populations of community cats over time (Levy and Crawford, 2004; Robertson, 2008). Trap-euthanize strategies, such as those proposed by the DLNR, have been shown to be impractical, ineffective, and inhumane; and attempts to eradicate cat colonies almost universally fail, as cats who were killed are soon replaced through uncontrolled reproduction, and the movement of other cats into the area (Campbell, et al 2011). Furthermore, feeding bans such as those in place through local ordinances and some state laws, are difficult to enforce, ineffective at decreasing cat populations, and inhumane as it forces cats who have become dependent on food provided by a caregiver to subsist on insufficient resources.

The importance of HB 2593 HD1 is that it will support and enable the efforts of the many who are already active in community cat colony management using TNRM. Hawaii's colony caretakers pursue this avocation selflessly, at great personal expense, in an effort to care for discarded and unwanted animals, and to help address problems caused by the actions of others; this, despite often facing harassment, verbal and physical abuse, and the threat of fines or arrest.

This bill will go a long way towards mitigating these issues, and allow TNRM to continue in areas across the state where it is much needed but often stifled - on government properties such as city parks and boat harbors. TNRM can be used to effectively reduce the community cat population of Hawaii but it only works if it is allowed, encouraged, and supported, something that HB 2593 HD1 can accomplish.

Ultimately, the passage of HB 2593 HD1 can help reduce community cat populations, help improve and protect our environment and natural habitats, and reduce the abysmally high state feline euthanasia rate (reported at >85% at the Hawaiian Humane Society during Fiscal Year 2016). If we are truly to embody the Aloha spirit, we must set an example by showing compassion for all animals, by not seeking to exterminate community cats as pests and vermin but, rather, by pursuing humane management strategies such as those laid out in HB 2593 HD1.

We respectfully ask that the Committee pass this bill. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Ashley Spencer
Adoption Coordinator volunteer
Joey's Feline Friends
45-224 Haunani Place
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-282-6908
aes@hawaii.edu

Campbell, K.J., Harper, G., Algar, D. et al (2011) Review of feral cat eradications on islands. *Island invasives; eradication and management*, p. 37-46.

Levy, J.K., & Crawford, P.C. (2004) Humane strategies for controlling feral cat populations. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 225(9), 1354-1360.



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Volunteer Board President
In strong support of HB 2593 HD 1 - Relating to Feral Cats

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 21, 1:15 pm, Rm. 224

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara and Members of the Committees,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We operate a mobile spay and neuter clinic on the island of Oahu providing affordable services to low income pet owners and caregivers in rural and underserved communities. We are in strong support of SB 2593.

We agree it is in everyone's best interest to reduce cat overpopulation. Where we disagree is on the strategy to do that. For decades, government has resorted to "killing" as the primary strategy for animal control. Cattle on the big island, goats in Waianae, and feral cats – everywhere. They live at our beaches, our parks, our boat harbors, and in our backyards. The trap and kill methodology has been a horrible failure and waste of resources. Animal lovers who believe that all species deserve a chance to live advocate Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) in lieu of trap/kill. TNR is the only humane approach to addressing community cat populations and it works. It stops the breeding cycle, improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, and reduces complaints about cats.

While the nonprofit community as well as the hundreds of cat colony caregivers and animal lovers are committed to saving lives – SB 2593 will also save tax payers money. And that should be the fiscally responsible reason for passing the bill.

WHY TNR WORKS

Over 10 years ago – when I was a Director at the Hawaiian Humane Society, I wrote the animal control contract's annual report to the City & County of Honolulu. At that time, we were euthanizing approx. 30,000 cats per year. That report was one of my last tasks there before I resigned.

Poi Dogs & Popoki has been actively sterilizing feral cats and promoting TNR for almost 10 years as well as other nonprofits such as CatFriends, Joey's Feline Friends, Happy Cats, Hawaii Cat Foundation, and Hawaiian Humane Society. More recently – Animal Balance, a program of Alley Cat Allies, has just finished its second week-long TNR project on Kauai. With an estimated 2,500 cats on that island, the program will have sterilized an estimated 1,400 cats in just 2 weeks of mass TNR.

Today – PDP closely monitors the animal control contract on Oahu, the number of animals taken in, and the euthanasia rate for both cats and dogs. Its clear by the numbers that TNR is working. On the island of Oahu alone, the number of cats received by animal control has been decreasing.

Year
2016/17

Lost/Found Only
17,799 animals

Cats
10,910

| | | |
|---------|----------------|--------|
| 2015/16 | 16,183 animals | 9,466 |
| 2014/15 | 17,952 animals | 11,001 |
| 2013/14 | 20,668 animals | 12,177 |
| 2012/13 | 22,186 animals | 14,035 |

86% of all cats are euthanized

TNR ACROSS THE US AND WORLD

Hawaii is not the first to advocate TNR over Trap and Kill. Below is a list of states and counties across the nation and countries around the world who recognize the benefits of TNR.

Its time to embrace the real solution. A compassionate solution. A long-term solution. A more AFFORDABLE and responsible solution than killing. If you pass SB 2593, PDP will commit to participating and helping caregivers TNR their colonies. We are already doing this now. And with the Big Fix, our mobile spay/neuter clinic, we can bring sterilization services directly to colony sites with the ability to mass TNR up to 70 cats in one day. PDP has also started "Cat Stats," an online colony database to track colonies, caregivers and cats; measure the impact of TNR; hone strategy with mapping; and be better organized. This service is provided free of charge by a nonprofit organization whose mission is to improve the lives of ferals and support the compassionate people caring for them. For PDP's role in this program – if SB 2593 passes – we will require that cat colony caregivers sponsored by PDP participate in the cat stats program which will help us in administering the law and providing timely updates about its success.

We ask for your commitment to do better – to save lives. And put a stop to wasting tax dollars on the lazy, inhumane and costly kill strategy supported by our state and county governments. Please pass SB 2593. Mahalo for your consideration.

Canada

British Columbia

- [Delta](#) - The city animal services agency, the Delta Community Animal Shelter, states that it promotes humane treatment of animals in part "by practicing our Trap-Neuter/Spay-Return program for feral cats".^[1] In 2014, shelter manager Sarah Jones advised the public that she "would like residents to call if they see feral cats in their neighbourhood. The shelter's Trap, Sterilize and Release program will humanely trap the cats, spay or neuter, tag, vaccinate and then make them available for adoption. Adult cats that are not tame are released back into the area they were living or placed in barns as mousers".^[2] Delta is considered a no kill community, where no healthy or treatable animals are put to death.^[3]
- [Langley City](#) and [Langley Township](#) (since 2003) - The local animal services agency, Langley Animal Protection Society, "advocates "Trap, Neuter, Release" programs when dealing with feral cat colonies" and offers 240 cat spay and neuter certificates each year".^[4] LAPS is a [no-kill shelter](#)^[5] which took over animal control for the area in 2003.^[6]
- [Maple Ridge](#) - In Nov. 2012, the District of Maple Ridge committed \$35,000 for three years to help with cat spay/neuter costs; the need for a TNR plan was discussed.^[7]
- [New Westminister](#) - The city animal services department^[8] cooperates with rescue agencies and does not put feral cats at risk.^[9] Save rates for cats in 2013 were 96%.^[3] New Westminister is considered a no kill community.^[3]

- [Richmond](#) (since 2007) - The local animal services agency, [Richmond Animal Protection Society](#) (RAPS), was originally a TNR organization when it was founded in 1989 as Richmond Homeless Cats.^[9] It continues TNR for the city since taking on the city contract in 2007, and operates a large cat sanctuary that supports its TNR efforts.^[10] RAPS is a no kill organization.^[9]
- [Surrey, British Columbia](#) (since 2014) - In October 2014, the city joined a newly formed Surrey Community Cat Coalition.^[11] The coalition, which will use TNR, was formed in time for National [Feral CatDay](#).^[11]

Alberta

- [Cochrane](#) (since 1998) - The [Cochrane & Area Humane Society](#), the animal services agency for the town, uses TNR and offers a Barn Buddies program for feral cats needing relocation.^[12] Since opening in 1998, the humane society reports a save rate of over 90% of animal in its care, and euthanizes only as a last resort for humane or public safety reasons.^[13] Norman, one of the first cats trapped in 1998, died in 2014 after serving many years as the shelter cat.^[14]
- [Edmonton](#) (trial in 2012) - Little Cats Lost Society worked with the city on a TNR pilot project in 2012, as an alternative to the city's approach of lending traps and euthanizing feral cats.^[15] The city discussed the pilot results and asked for feedback.^[16]

Ontario

- [Dryden](#) - The city animal services agency, Second Chance Pet Network, describes ongoing TNR of 8 colonies on its website.^[17] The agency partnered with a local school to build winter shelters for feral cats.^{[18][19]} Second Chance Pet Network is a no kill organization.^[20]
- [Innisfil](#) (pilot project in 2014) - "The town's animal control officer, Sherri Hall, estimated that by early June, about 50% to 60% of the feral, wild-breeding cats living in three colonies in Innisfil had been trapped, neutered or spayed, before being released back into the wild or adopted out."^[21] The town was looking for Barn Buddies for feral cats needing relocation, and foster homes for the many kittens taken in.^[21] Locus, a feral cat suffering a head injury during the TNR process, was given extensive nursing care, physiotherapy and a wheeled mobility cart; before being adopted by a TNR volunteer.^[22]
- [Kingston](#) - "The City and Spay Neuter Kingston Initiative are partnering on a Trap/Neuter/Vaccinate/Return program aimed at reducing Kingston's feral cat population."^[23]
- [Lanark County](#) (since 2011) - The local animal services agency, Lanark Animal Welfare Society, includes TNR in its services as a no kill facility.^[24] The organization was established in 1980, and took on animal control contracts for the county in 2011.^[3]
- [London](#) - The city states that a "Trap Neuter Return (TNR) program has been developed to assist neighbourhoods within the geographic boundaries of the City of London cope with the increasing number of feral cats."^[25]
- [Markham](#) (limited support) - The city participated in a TNR project involving one colony in March 2014.^[26] Outcomes at the city shelter, the Newmarket branch of the Ontario SPCA, were still quite negative for cats from January to August 2014, with 50% euthanized.^[27]
- [Prince Edward County](#) (since 1999) - This island community's no kill shelter,^[3] the Loyalist Humane Society, installed a new patio for its feral residents in 2014.^[28] The shelter has been in operation since 1999.^[3]
- [St. Thomas](#) - The city's animal service agency, City Animal Services, advises residents: "If you see a cat outside with part of its left ear removed or altered this indicates that the cat is a free-living

cat that has been spayed/neutered to control population. This is part of a TNR (trap, neuter, return) program. Please do not re-trap these cats and bring them into the shelter." The city also seeks barns for feral cats in need of relocation.^[29] The city bylaw defines "feral cat" in s. 1.0; and exempts a cat colony program from anti-roaming requirements (s. 2.25).^[30] "City Animal Services is a no-kill shelter".^[31]

- [Toronto](#) (mixed support) - City bylaws provide broad authorization for the city to operate a TNR program.^[32] The city's comprehensive TNR program includes sterilization clinics and membership in the Toronto Feral Cat Coalition.^{[33][34]} Free sterilization for [feral cats](#) is offered to people who attend a workshop and register their colony with Toronto Animal Services.^[35] Free sterilization is also offered to low income cat owners.^[36] Nevertheless, Toronto Animal Services reported euthanizing 228 cats for being [feral](#) in 2013, as well as 512 cats for behaviour/temperament issues, and 213 cats for being orphaned.^[37] Toronto's mayor proclaimed a [Feral Cat](#) Awareness Day in 2013.^[38]
- [Windsor](#) (limited support) - Vouchers were given for discounted sterilization of 325 feral cats in 2014.^{[39][40]} One TNR volunteer commented, "The city gives thousands of dollars to the humane society to kill cats every year," he said. "If they gave that to one of our animal groups, we could solve this whole problem."^[41]

Quebec

- [Côte Saint-Luc](#) (since 2010) - The city began a TNR program in 2010.^[42] The Côte Saint-Luc Cats Committee is led by Councillor Mike Cohen.^[43] The local animal services agency, the Montreal SPCA,^[44] also has a TNR program.^[45]
- [Sainte-Agathe-des-Monts](#) (since 2012) - In the fall of 2012, the city began TNR efforts in partnership with its no kill shelter, the SPCA Laurentides Labelle.^[46]
- [Verdun](#) (mixed support; since 2010) - TNR efforts began in 2010.^[47] The local animal services agency, the Montreal SPCA,^[44] continues to have a TNR program.^[45] Nevertheless, the Montreal SPCA euthanizes high numbers of cats, reporting a live release rate of about 66%.^[48]
- [Ville Saint-Laurent](#) (mixed support; since 2005) - In 2010, the city had been paying about \$5,000 a year for TNR work done by volunteers.^[47] Local bylaws prohibit feeding of stray animals except in accordance with a Trap-Neuter-Release program, using a fixed feeding schedule rather than leaving food out.^[49] The local animal services agency, the Montreal SPCA,^[44] also has a TNR program,^[45] although it continues to euthanize high numbers of cats, reporting a live release rate of about 66%.^[48]

New Brunswick

- [St. John](#) (limited support) - In Jan. 2013, the city's animal services agency, St. John SPCA Animal Rescue, planned to send 34 feral cats to Prince Edward Island to be sterilized.^[50] The final "Operation Catnip" included 33 stray cats and 2 belonging to low income people.^[51]

Nova Scotia

- Province of [Nova Scotia](#) - The [Nova Scotia SPCA](#), the animal services agency for much of the province of [Nova Scotia](#), offers TNR services, including sterilization surgery and ear-tipping, at its low cost, high-volume clinic.^[52] The organization's vision is "that [Nova Scotia](#) be a no-kill province and a safe place for all animals with zero tolerance for animal cruelty";^[53] the agency's save rate was 91.3% for the first half of 2013, when no healthy or treatable animals were euthanized.^[54]

- [Cape Breton Regional Municipality](#) (since 2012) - In Nov. 2012, a committee of Cape Breton regional council voted to give the Feral and Abandoned Cat Society about \$25,000 a year toward its costs.^[55]
- [Digby](#) (town) and [Digby County](#) (since 2003) - Both the town and county of Digby have been supporting volunteer TNR efforts since 2003.^[56]
- [Halifax Regional Municipality](#) - In 2013, the council of Halifax Regional Municipality voted to grant \$40,000 for a low cost, high volume clinic directed toward helping feral cats.^[57] The clinic opened in the same month.^[58]

Prince Edward Island

- [Prince Edward Island](#) (mixed support) - Since 2001, TNR has been carried out by the Cat Action Team (CAT), a non-profit organization without government funding.^[59] Cats which are TNR'd have identification tattoos.^[59] If a tattooed cat is received by the province's animal services agency, the PEI Humane Society, the cat is returned to the Cat Action Team.^[59] However, other feral cats are admitted to its shelter^[60] and are euthanized.^{[59][61]}

- [Italy](#)

- Country of [Italy](#) (since 1991) - Since August 1991, feral cats have been protected throughout Italy, when a no kill policy was introduced for both cats and dogs. Feral cats have the right to live free and cannot be moved from their colony; cat caretakers can be formally registered; and TNR methods are outlined in the national law on the management of pets.^[62]

- [Latium](#) region, including [Rome](#) (since 1988) - Since 1988, killing feral cats has been illegal in the Latium Region, which includes Rome.^[62]

- [Singapore](#)^[edit]

- [Chong Pang](#) (since 2011) - A designated feeding station was set up in October 2011: "The station is the first in Singapore and was set up jointly by the Sembawang-Nee Soon Town Council, National Environment Agency, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority, Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Mutts and Mittens Foundation and Cat Welfare Society (CWS). About 40 such stations will be set up in the estate by the end of next month."^[63]

- [St. John's Island](#) (since 2010) - A team of volunteers from the [Singapore Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) returned for the sixth time since 2010 to TNR about 40 cats.^[64]

U.S.A.

Arizona

- [Pima County](#) (since 2014) - In August 2014, Pima County approved a three-year TNR program involving a \$1.5 million grant from [Best Friends Animal Society](#) and PetSmart Charities.^[65] "The project will sterilize 5,000 community cats per year over the 3-year grant period and will decrease the euthanasia of cats at Pima Animal Care Center by nearly 30 percent."^[65]

- [Tucson](#) (since 2014) - Tucson is served by Pima County Animal Care Centre, which approved a TNR program in August 2014.^[65]

California

- [Antioch](#) (mixed support) - The city provides a link on its website on feral cat resources, including low cost sterilization programs.^[66] However, in 2014, the city voted to ban the feeding of feral cats on public property.^[67]
- [Arcadia](#) - The city mentions on its website that animal control services, provided by the Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA, include feral cat trap-neuter-return.^[68] The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [Berkeley](#) - The city supports TNR as enhancing public safety and humanely controlling cat populations.^[70] However, in 2004, feral cats were declared a "public nuisance", and spaying/neutering is required if taking care of them.^[71]
- [Chico](#) - The city's animal services agency, the Chico Animal Shelter, promotes TNR as the most effective way of dealing with neighborhood cats, and discourage people from relocating cats outside their "natural range (200 feet or 2/3rds of a city block)".^[72] As of February 2013, the city shelter stopped taking in healthy cats, favoring TNR instead.^[73]
- [Citrus Heights](#) (since 2013) - In September 2013, the city animal services agency began a TNR program.^[74]
- [County of Lake](#) - The city provides a Feral Cat program; surgery, vaccines and ear-tipping is provided for free if the cat will be released to the same location where found.^[75]
- [Cupertino](#) - The city's animal services agency, Animal Care & Services of San Jose, promotes TNR as having "proven to be the most humane and effective method of managing feral cat populations."^[76] and provides a Feral Program for \$25 including spay/neuter, vaccinations, ear-tipping, flea and ear mite treatment if needed, and microchipping.^[77]
- [Foster City](#) (since 2004) - Since 2004, the city has participated in [Project Bay Cat](#),^[78] a TNR initiative of the Homeless Cat Network along the Levee Pedway in the San Francisco Bay area.^[79] The city's animal services agency, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, offers a "Feral Cat Package" including sterilization, vaccines, ear tipping, FIV/FelV testing.^[80]
- [Glendale](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [La Cañada Flintridge](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [Los Gatos](#) - Los Gatos "strongly encourages residents to use the City of San Jose's low-cost spay/neuter program for feral and domestic cats."^[81] The city's animal services agency, Animal Care & Services of San Jose, promotes TNR as having "proven to be the most humane and effective method of managing feral cat populations."^[76] and provides a Feral Program for \$25 including spay/neuter, vaccinations, ear-tipping, flea and ear mite treatment if needed, and microchipping.^[77]
- [Marina](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance makes it unlawful to feed "feral or abandoned nonspayed/nonneutered cats, except to trap such cat for purposes of having spayed or neutered or for proper disposal. Any person feeding any feral or abandoned cat shall be responsible for such cat in the same manner as though such person owns such cat."^[82] Animal control services are handled by the City of Salinas Animal services, which has a similar policy.^[83]

- [Milpitas](#) - The city's local ordinance sets out a minimum level of care for feral cats, and exempts feral cats from licensing requirements.^[84] The city's animal services agency, Animal Care & Services of San Jose, promotes TNR as having "proven to be the most humane and effective method of managing feral cat populations."^[76] and provides a Feral Program for \$25 including spay/neuter, vaccinations, ear-tipping, flea and ear mite treatment if needed, and microchipping.^[77]
- [Monrovia](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [Oakland](#) - The city's animal services agency, Oakland Animal Services, "supports trap, neuter, return as a means of controlling the feral cat population."^[85]
- [Orange County](#) (mixed support) - The county's Animal Services Department reported fewer complaints about cats, fewer cat admissions to the shelter, and reduced operating costs after implementing a TNR program offering free sterilization.^{[86]:1358} In August 2014, the shelter director said that the program resulted in a lower euthanasia rate in 2013.^[87] Nevertheless, the euthanasia rate remained very high (50%, many considered "too young"), including 160 cats considered ineligible for TNR.^[88] OC Animal Care provides animal control services to 17 cities and all unincorporated areas within Orange County.^[89]
- [Pasadena](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [Petaluma](#) (mixed support) - A local ordinance allowing TNR is considered too onerous for caregivers, and sets stringent limits where cats can be fed.^{[90][91]}
- [Sacramento](#) - "The City of Sacramento recognizes that feral cat colony caregivers are providing a tremendous service to the shelter by managing colonies, altering the cats, and generally reducing the need to house, feed, and euthanize these cats."^[92]
- [Sacramento County](#) - Sacramento County's Animal Care and Regulation department provides information about TNR, including a spay/neuter voucher program.^[93]
- [Salinas](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance only allows feeding feral cats if the caretaker takes responsibility via TNR.^[94] Spay/neuter vouchers are offered as for any owned pet.^[95] Anyone can trap an unwanted cat and take the cat to the local shelter.^[94] In 2010, many healthy and treatable animals were euthanized at Salinas Animal Services.^[96]
- [San Francisco](#) - In 1993, the [San Francisco SPCA](#) started a Feral Cat Assistance Program, offering free sterilization, advice and supplies to cat caretakers.^{[97]:44} The city was not directly involved until later, although benefited by animal control officers taking in fewer stray cats and receiving fewer complaints.^{[98]:87} The city now provides information on TNR, and refers people concerned about feral cats to the [San Francisco SPCA](#)'s Feral Cat Assistance Program, as well as its Feral Fix Program for free spaying, neutering and vaccinations.^[99] In 2013, combined statistics for the San Francisco SPCA and animal control reported a live release rate of 90.4%.^[100]
- [San Jose](#) - The city's animal services agency, Animal Care & Services, promotes TNR as having "proven to be the most humane and effective method of managing feral cat populations."^[76] and provides a Feral Program for \$25 including spay/neuter, vaccinations, ear-tipping, flea and ear mite treatment if needed, and microchipping.^[77] The program is also offered to residents of all cities the agency serves, including San Jose, Cupertino, Los Gatos, Milpitas and Saratoga.^[77]

- [San Mateo County](#) - The county animal services agency, the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, offers a "Feral Cat Package" including sterilization, vaccines, ear tipping, FIV/FelV testing.^[80]
- [San Marino](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]
- [Santa Clara County](#) (since 2011) - In 2011, the Santa Clara County's Animal Care & Control Division initiated a TNR program.^[101] A press release in 2012 said that "Thanks to this program, the shelter saw a 15% reduction in cat intake and an amazing 65% reduction in cat euthanasia."^[101] Subsidized feral cat surgeries are provided.^[102]
- [Saratoga](#) - The city's animal services agency, Animal Care & Services of San Jose, promotes TNR as having "proven to be the most humane and effective method of managing feral cat populations."^[76] and provides a Feral Program for \$25 including spay/neuter, vaccinations, ear-tipping, flea and ear mite treatment if needed, and microchipping.^[77]
- [Sierra Madre](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^{[69][103]}
- [Sonoma County](#) - "In Sonoma County, cats are part of our landscape.... We love Community Cats by having them spayed or neutered and letting them stay in the environment they call home."^[104]
- [South Pasadena](#) - The Pasadena Humane Society & SPCA offers free spay/neuter, vaccinations (FVRCP and rabies), and ear-tipping for feral cats throughout the cities it serves: Arcadia, Bradbury, Glendale, La Cañada Flintridge, Monrovia, Pasadena, South Pasadena, San Marino and Sierra Madre.^[69]

Colorado

- [Pueblo](#) (since 2011) - In September 2011, Pueblo Animal Services supported a change to the Pueblo Municipal Code to allow for the feeding of feral cats, if a person is a permitted Feral Cat Colony Manager.^[105] Pueblo Animal Services' website takes a motivational approach, thanking volunteer caregivers, and asking that they apply to become a Feral Cat Colony Manager.^[105] Benefits of having a permit include free or low cost vaccinations and sterilizations, and free loans of humane traps.^[105]

Connecticut

- [Connecticut](#) (State) - A Connecticut statute "permits municipalities to adopt ordinances requiring registration of feral cat 'keepers,' defined as anyone who harbors or regularly feeds a feral cat. If a municipality enacts such an ordinance, the ordinance must require the keeper to sterilize the cat and have it vaccinated against rabies. The statute also enables municipalities to adopt ordinances holding cat owners and keepers responsible if their cats cause significant property damage or severe health violations."^{[106][107]} In October 2014, the state announced a \$175,000 grant to the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for a new TNR program.^[108]
- [Quiet Corner](#) (since 2014) - In October 2014, the state announced a \$175,000 grant to the Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments for a new TNR program.^[108] Volunteers from a nine-town area would be asked to join the effort.^[108]

Delaware

- [Delaware](#) state - The Delaware Code allows for the work of feral cat caretakers: "There is no county, city or town in Delaware that has a ban on feeding feral cats."^[109] Since 2006, Delaware has had a state-funded spay/neuter program that provides low-cost certificates that can be used for feral cats.^{[109][110]}
- [Delaware City](#) (since 2014) - In January 2014, the city adopted an ordinance allowing TNR.^[111]
- [Dewey Beach](#) - TNR was included in local ordinances at some point prior to 2014.^[111] The local ordinance outlines detailed feline care provisions, including trapping procedures.^[112] The Dewey Beach Feral Cat Society and other listed organizations are exempted from getting a permit (s. 60-3).^[112]
- [Harrington](#) - "Harrington is partnering with the Delaware SPCA, The [Humane Society of the United States](#), [Alley Cat Allies](#), and volunteers from the community to implement a feral cat management program."^[113] TNR was included in local ordinances at some point prior to 2014.^[111]
- [Milford](#) - TNR was included in local ordinances at some point prior to 2014.^[111]
- [Milton](#) (mixed support) - TNR was included in local ordinances at some point prior to 2014.^[111] The local ordinance give people who trap a feral cat the option to deliver the cat to the Delaware SPCA or to TNR the cat (s. 63-19).^[114] Trapping of a feral cat requires specific authorization from Town Council for trapping off one's own property, except for the "Cat Snippers of Milton" (s. 63-20).^[114] Delivery of a feral cat to the local SPCA will likely result in euthanasia.^[115]
- [Rehoboth Beach](#) - TNR was included in local ordinances at some point prior to 2014.^[111]

District of Columbia

- [Washington](#), aka District of Columbia - TNR has long been included in the local ordinance: "The Animal Care and Control Agency shall promote: (1) The reduction of euthanasia of animals for which medical treatment or adoption is possible; and (2) The utilization of trap, spay or neuter, and return practices as a means of controlling the feral cat population; provided, that all efforts shall be made to adopt out a trapped, tamable kitten."^[116] The local animal services agency, the Washington Humane Society, has a Cat Neighborhood Partnership Program (CatNiPP) providing free spay/neuter, vaccinations and ear-tipping for any local community cats, as well as providing low cost services for cats from out of the area.^[117]

Florida

- [Broward County](#) - "Through a responsible sterilization program, Broward County Animal Care and Adoption seeks to control the number of feral cats in our community, so that the existing population can thrive and age naturally."^[118]
- [DeLand](#) (since 2013) - The city's ordinance provides for registration of designated cat colony caregivers.^[119] Colony caregivers sign an agreement, provide consent of the property owner at the colony location, and agree to various terms, such as sterilizing the cats and keeping records.^[119] Animal control retains the right to remove any cat posing a health/safety threat or nuisance.^[119]
- [Deltona](#) (pilot in 2014) - In October 2014, city commissioners approved a pilot TNR program to be developed by the city.^[120] The ordinance approving the pilot suspends enforcement of existing provisions that might conflict with the program.^[120]
- [Duval County](#) - A Feral Freedom ordinance was passed in Dec. 2010 for a trial period.^[121] Duval Cat Fix offers free surgeries to feral and owned cats in the county, a program of First Coast No More Homeless Pets.^[122]

- [Flagler Beach](#) (since 2013) -The Flagler Beach City Commission partnered with the local humane society on TNR in July 2013, and amended local ordinances accordingly in April 2014.^[123]
- [Jacksonville](#) - A "Feral Freedom" program implemented in August 2008 has become a model for other communities.^[124] The local ordinance states that "The City shall establish a program for the handling and disposition of feral animals with no requirement for a holding period before disposition. All dogs and cats that are so unsocialized as to pose a threat to the safety and welfare of employees or the public shall be expeditiously and humanely euthanized (excluding any cat that qualifies for a community cat management program established by the City)."^[125]
- [Miami-Dade County](#) (includes city of [Miami](#)) (since 2012) - The local animal services agency, Miami-Dade County Animal Services, offers sterilization, vaccinations, and delivery of the cat back to the community free of charge.^[126] Director Alex Munoz said that the program was a great success in increasing the save rate for cats.^[127]
- [Nassau County](#) (since 2013) - In October 2013, Nassau County received funding for spay/neuter of feral cats and other animals, over two years.^[128] First Coast No More Homeless Pets also offered low cost packages and transportation to county residents.^[129]
- [Orange County](#) (mixed support) - "Animal Services works in conjunction with CARE Feline TNR, a non-profit organization committed to reducing the population of feral (wild) and abandoned cats through its Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program."^[130] However, if a resident finds the cats are a nuisance and wishes to remove them, trapping options are provided.^[130]
- [Ormond Beach](#) (mixed support) - The city ordinance prohibits feeding of [feral cats](#) unless as part of a [feral cat](#) colony approved in writing by the police chief or designate.^[131] The ordinance was described as loosening previous restrictions on people who feed feral cat colonies.^[132] The city is involved in a TNR program, which it says "has proven to be of great benefit to community areas where [feral cat](#) populations once existed."^[133]
- [Palm Beach County](#) (mixed support) - A feral cat package is offered for spay/neuter and related services.^[134] The local ordinance requires annual registration of feral cat caregivers, with a notarized statement from property owners and written notification to the neighbours of a colony location.^[135] Otherwise feeding is prohibited, per s. 4.8(c).^[135] Feral cats are exempt from the local anti-roaming law, per s. 4.4(d).^[135]
- [Pinellas County](#) (pilot began 2014) - A TNR pilot project was approved in October 2014.^{[136][137]} To assess the pilot, animal services staff will track numbers of complaints, impounded cats, and colony cats reduced/stabilized in target areas.^[137]
- [Ponce Inlet](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance prohibits feeding of [feral cats](#) except by designated caregivers, for [feral cat](#) colonies approved in writing by the police department or its designate.^[138] The ordinance was described as loosening previous restrictions on people who feed [feral cat](#) colonies.^[132]
- [Port Orange](#) (since 2011) - The city adopted an ordinance permitting TNR in 2011.^[132] In June 2012, the city became involved in a TNR program,^[139] which was later expanded to residential communities.^[140] In 2014, officials reported that the city's cost of taking cats to the local humane society, where [feral cats](#) were usually [euthanized](#), had declined significantly since adopting the TNR ordinance.^[132]

Georgia

- [Athens](#) (mixed support; since 2010) - The Athens-Clarke County Commission approved TNR in March 2010.^[141] Only registered [feral cat](#) caretakers can feed and care for [feral cats](#); registrations must be renewed annually.^[142] Vouchers were made available to help fund [feral cat](#) surgeries, but the

voucher program was dropped in 2013 due to low demand.^[143] The coordinator of Campus Cats, a local TNR organization, said there continued to be many low cost clinics in the community.^[143] The county Animal Control agency will not pick up trapped cats, but operates a cat shelter and will receive cats brought in by residents.^[144]

- [Atlanta](#) (since 2013) - The local animal services agency, Fulton County Animal Services (FCAS), "saves feral cats through our trap-neuter-return program."^[145] Lifeline Animal Project (LAP) has managed FCAS since March 2013; after one year, reporting that adoptions had doubled and euthanasia was cut in half.^[146] In 2014, LAP's website said that its "Atlanta" project had neutered 22,520 feral cats over the years.^[147]
- [Columbus](#) (since 2013) - In 2013, "lifesaving has reached a record high for Columbus cats, thanks to the new Community Free-Roaming Cat (CFRC) Program. The program utilizes Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR) methods to reduce free roaming cat populations, and has been made possible because of a Life Saving PetSmart Grant, which was awarded to Columbus in September of last year."^[148] In August 2014, the program was to be expanded: "Best Friends and PetSmart Charities will invest approximately \$600,000 that will cover one full-time staff member to run the program, a transport van, spay/neuter surgeries and other vet costs, TNR program supplies, marketing support and staff training."^[149]
- [DeKalb County](#) (since 2011) - In August 2011, DeKalb County began a Feral Freedom program, "and we're amazed at how quickly we've seen a turnaround. Last year, we were inundated with cats and kittens, and now we might have one or two in our cat area."^[150] The county shelter offers TNR advice and low cost spay/neutering for feral cats.^[151]
- [Fayette County](#) (trial period in 2014) - In April 2014, the Fayette County Commission approved a six-month trial of a TNR program.^[152]
- [Fulton County](#) (since 2013) - The county animal services agency, Fulton County Animal Services (FCAS), "saves feral cats through our trap-neuter-return program."^[145] Lifeline Animal Project (LAP) has managed FCAS since March 2013; after one year, reporting that adoptions had doubled and euthanasia was cut in half.^[146] In 2014, LAP's website said that its "Atlanta" project had neutered 22,520 feral cats over the years.^[147]
- [Madison](#) - The city ordinance provides for the managed care of [feral cats](#).^[153] A humane society can act as sponsor; who maintains records, reports annually to the city, and approves [feral cat](#) colony caretakers.^[153] Caretakers report the sponsor semi-annually.^[153] Animal control officers undertake to notify the sponsor if ear-tipped or otherwise identified colony cats are received; the sponsor notifies the caretaker for return of the cat to the colony.^[153]

Illinois

- [Cook County](#) (includes [Chicago](#)) (since 2007) - "About 12,000 cats have been spayed or neutered and vaccinated under the county's privately funded trap-neuter-release program since 2007".^[154]

Indiana

- [Indianapolis](#) - The city/county offers a Community Cat Package including spay/neuter, pain meds, ear-tip, vaccinations, medical treatment and TNR help.^[155]
- [Johnson County](#) (since 2013) - In September 2013, the county adopted a Feral Freedom ordinance: "Not long ago, Johnson County killed hundreds of healthy cats just because they didn't have homes. This year, these strays are instead being captured, neutered and returned to their colonies."^[156]

- [Marion County](#) - The city/county offers a Community Cat Package including spay/neuter, pain medication, ear-tipping, vaccinations, medical treatment and TNR help.^[155]

Illinois

- [Cook County](#) (includes [Chicago](#)) (since 2007) - In October 2007, the county adopted an ordinance outlining a system that allowed TNR, including having colony caretakers register their colony with an approved sponsor.^[157] Any animal humane society agreeing to comply with the requirements can act as a sponsor.^[157] Sponsors maintain records on numbers of cats and other details, report annually to the city, and help to resolve complaints.^[157] The system was appreciated by a cat caretaker who had TNRd 153 cats over 7 years in a single city block.^[158] Chicago's 47th ward area was starting a pilot TNR program in 2012, "putting area feral cats to work battling its rat problem."^[159]

Kentucky

- [Louisville](#) (since 2007) - In 2007, Louisville Metro Animal Services (LMAS) partnered with a local TNR group, Alley Cat Advocates, and stopped [euthanizing feral cats](#) that the organization had [neutered](#).^[160] In 2010, the organizations secured a grant to [spay and neuter](#) cats in a targeted area, resulting in a 51% decrease in intakes from that area.^[160] Following this, the city ordinance was amended from requiring "unowned cats to be rounded up and [euthanized](#) if inside homes were not found for them"^[160] to allowing the LMAS to develop a TNR program, and exempt community cat caretakers from licensing and other requirements of owned cats.^[161] Caretakers are permitted to provide food, water, and medical care, and seek help from LMAS if needed to prevent the suffering of a community cat.^[161] In 2012, the efforts were bolstered by an [ASPCA](#) partnership providing grants and guidance to LMAS, Alley Cat Advocates, and the Kentucky Humane Society.^[162]

Louisiana

- [Baton Rouge](#) (since 2014) - In September 2014, Baton Rouge Metro Council approved a TNR program "to reduce the number of stray cats in the community. Under the new measure, the Companion Animal Alliance will pick up stray cats and neuter them and return them from where they were picked up."^[163]
- [Lafayette](#) (since 2014) - In November 2014, the city council approved a TNR ordinance.^[164] "The ordinance encourages residents to register as colony caretakers, trap [feral](#) or stray cats and take them to Almost Home Humane Society to have them neutered, ear-tipped and vaccinated. The cats will then be returned to the area where they were trapped."^[164] Fines may apply for unregistered caregivers.^[164]

Maryland

- [Baltimore](#) (since 2009) - In November 2007, the city ordinance was amended to allow TNR.^[165] [Alley Cat Allies](#) considered the ordinance a model for other jurisdictions, as it defined feral cats correctly; distinguished caregivers from owners; and distinguished "return" from abandonment.^[166] The law appears to have come into effect in 2009.^{[167][168]} In 2013, the city joined the TNR effort with the Baltimore Community Cat Project, aided by [Best Friends Animal Society](#) and PetSmart Charities.^[168] In February 2014, the city joined multiple organizations in a three-day effort sterilizing, vaccinating and providing medical help to 110 community cats in a low income community.^[169]

Nebraska

- [Bellevue](#) (since 2014) - A local ordinance passed in January 2014 provides for TNR, exempting feral cats from leash laws and ownership, and requiring sterilization of 80% of colony cats.^[170]
- [Omaha](#) (mixed support) - The Nebraska Humane Society was involved in an 18-month TNR trial, noting that the numbers of stray cats declined over that period.^[171] The society continues to offer free sterilization to colony caretakers, and explains the city's somewhat onerous ordinance to potential caregivers.^[171] Cat caretakers must apply for a permit every two years, providing proof of vaccinations and sterilization.^[172] No public property locations are permitted.^[172] Failure to relocate cats can be grounds for losing a permit.^[172]

Nevada

- [Clark County](#) (since 2008) - "On October 1, 2008, the Managed Care of Feral Cats ordinance went into effect in the unincorporated Clark County. This program is designed to assist Feral cat caretakers to connect to better manage feral cat colonies."^[173]
- [Fernley](#) - Fernley does not pick up feral cats, but will provide a trap so the feral cat can be brought to the Nevada Humane Society or other rescue group.^[174] The Nevada Humane Society is a no kill organization, and advertises barn cats for relocation on its website.^[175]
- [Las Vegas](#) (since 2008) - The city is served by Clark County animal services, which implemented a TNR program in 2008.^[173] In 2012, the city's ordinance was made less onerous, allowing caretakers to register with a private sponsor, rather than reporting to animal control; and providing cat descriptions rather than two photos of each cat.^[176]

New Jersey

- [Atlantic City](#) (since 2000) - "Atlantic City's chapter of Alley Cat Allies is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, having worked with the government since 2000 to keep feral colonies under control".^[177]
- [Kearney](#) (trial starting in 2014) - In October 2014, Kearny Town Council approved a TNR trial, to be reassessed at the end of 2015.^[178]
- [Maplewood](#) (pilot starting in 2014) - In October 2014, the township approved a three-year pilot TNR program beginning in December 2014.^[179] The program permits care of [feral cat](#) colonies only in accordance with a program registering caretakers; supervised by a sponsor, a newly formed organization, Furry Hearts.^[179] Persons in violation of the ordinance are subject to fines.^[180]

New Mexico

- [Albuquerque](#) - "Cat euthanasia rates have dropped drastically due to a large, community-based effort to use Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) to control the Albuquerque feral cat population."^[181] The city provides information about community cats and TNR on its Web site,^{[182][183]} and pays for surgery of feral cats.^[181] They no longer rent traps to people concerned about nuisance cats, but provide contact information for TNR organizations and information about cat deterrents.^{[181][182]} They will not pick up a cat unless the cat has bitten a person or the cat is injured.^[182] The local ordinance was revised from treating caregivers as owners who were expected to register the cats and keep them from roaming.^{[181][184]} TNR in Albuquerque has proved ineffective at preventing property damage: community cats overran Albuquerque's Kirtland neighborhood, preventing residents from being able to run their air conditioners in the summer.^[185] Concerns about the welfare of feral cats in Albuquerque's TNR program also caused an animal rights activist, Marcy Britton, to sue the City of Albuquerque for its use of TNR.^[186]

New York

- [Amherst](#) (since 2014) - In October, 2014, the Town Board approved a TNR plan: "Under the new plan, a group of volunteers will trap the cats, spay or neuter them and then vaccinate the felines before releasing them back into nature. Council members said the plan will help reduce the feral cat population with no cost to taxpayers."^[187]
- [Buffalo](#) (since 2014) - In June 2014, the city passed an ordinance "which recognizes the right of free roaming cats to exist and be properly cared for. The City has also budgeted \$50,000 for Trap Neuter Vaccinate and Release activity in the coming fiscal year."^[188]
- [Canandaigua](#) (since 2012) - In 2012, the city ordinance was changed to allow specific TNR efforts by an organization, The Colony Caregivers.^[189] Colonies must be registered with the City Manager, which can be done by email.^[190] The City retains the power to declare a colony a public nuisance.^[190]
- [New York City](#) (mixed support; since 2011) - In April 2014, a New York Times article said that three years ago the city shifted to TNR as a new approach to control stray cats.^[191] Animal Care and Control of NYC provides information about TNR on its website.^[192]

Oklahoma

- [Oklahoma City](#) (since 2007; expanded in 2012) - "Since March 2007 more than 8,000 cats have been TNR'd in Oklahoma City, directly impacting the city's euthanasia rate, and saving taxpayer dollars that previously funded the euthanasia of animals."^[193] In May 2012, a Feral Freedom or Community Cats Program expanded the TNR effort.^[194] The program "allows Shelter staff to sterilize and vaccinate stray, feral and free roaming cats without an ID and return them to their neighborhoods of origin a day or two later. The cat's ear will be notched to identify that it has been sterilized."^[194]

Pennsylvania

- [Derry](#) (since 2012) - The township was involved in the creation of Derry Township Community Cats, a TNR program launched in 2012.^[195]
- [Emmaus](#) (since 2013) - Emmaus Council has contracted with local sanctuary for TNR at \$15 per cat.^[196]
- [Hummelstown](#) (since 2014) - Hummelstown Borough Council approved a TNR program in May 2014.^[197]
- [Philadelphia](#) (since 2014) - A new Community Cats Project was announced in August 2014.^[198] With funding from PetSmart Charities and [Best Friends Animal Society](#), the three-year program "will furnish staff and equipment to neuter 4,000 cats the first year and 12,000 in three years, focusing on low-income neighborhoods across the city."^[198] The City Shelter is updating its website to include information about the program.^[199]
- [Steelton](#) (since 2010) - When Councilwoman "Maria Marcinko took office in 2010, faced with high costs for the "trap and kill" approach, the community opted for TNR."^[200]
- [Swatara Township, Dauphin County](#) (since 2012) - A TNR program was launched in June 2012 with the help of the Steelton Borough Community Cat Program.^[201] The program is free to township residents, and is "full-service. Volunteers trap the cats, take them to the Steelton facility until spay/neuter day, provide the surgery, vaccines and other medical care, and then provide three days of convalescence before returning the cats to their original location."^[201] In October 2013, Commissioner Jeff Varner said "the township used to get a lot of complaints about feral cats, but not so much any more."^[202]

South Carolina

- [Charleston](#) (since 2012) - A free-roaming cat program was planned for a two-year trial period, despite the city's misgivings "that free roaming cats may be in violation of law and constitute a public safety and health threat" to citizens.^[203] After being sterilized, vaccinated, microchipped, ear-tipped, and deemed healthy, "A free roaming cat shall be returned to the area where it was trapped, unless a request from the property owner or the caretaker of the property where the cat is trapped, requests that the cat be relocated to a location other than where it was trapped." Further, "Free roaming cats shall only be allowed as long as they do not create a nuisance."^[203] The free-roaming cat program was evaluated as successful and continued beyond the two-year trial period.^[204] The TNR program is part of the community's plan to become no kill.^[205]
- [Spartanburg](#) (since 2013) - The city received a grant from PetSmart Charities for a one-year TNR program beginning in January 2013.^[206] In May, the city had seen some success, with over 180 cats in the program.^[206] The city planned to reapply for another grant if the program was successful.^[206]

Tennessee

- [Chattanooga](#) - The city's 2012 ordinance defines feral cat and community cat,^{[207]:7-2} and exempts them from requirements that animals not be at large.^{[207]:7-36} The city's animal services agency promotes TNR as cost-effective.^[208] The city's animal services agency holds feral cat clinics in October to celebration National Feral Cat Day.^[209]

Texas

- [Austin](#) - The city's website states: "Austin Humane Society in partnership with Austin Animal Center has an exciting new program called Community Cats. This program uses a method called Trap-Neuter-Return or TNR. TNR with the Community Cats Program provides free sterilization, rabies vaccinations, and a place for cats to recover after surgery."^[210] Austin was recognized for saving all healthy and treatable pets in 2012 with a 94% save rate.^[211] The city planned to work together with partners to continue to grow animal welfare programs including TNR.^[211]
- [Dallas](#) (mixed support) - Dallas Animal Services provides information about TNR and the local ordinance providing for TNR on its website.^[212] "Section 7-3.1 of the city ordinance makes it a defense to prosecution that the animal is: 'A feral cat participating in a trap, neuter and return program approved by the Code Compliance director.'"^[212] Cat caretakers need to apply to the Feral Friends Community Cat Alliance to become colony managers; who are then responsible for getting the cats sterilized, vaccinated, evaluated and ear-tipped.^[212] Local agencies will help by providing or referring low cost sterilizations, vaccinations and microchips.^[212] Ear-tipped cats brought to the shelter may be released back into the colony, but other feral cats brought in are impounded and likely euthanized.^[212]
- [Garland](#) (pilot in 2014) - A city-wide pilot TNR project was approved on October 6, 2014, and launched on National [Feral Cat](#) Day ten days later.^[213] Local organization Garland Pawsibilities will offer training to residents and low cost spay/neuter services for [feral cats](#).^{[213][214]} The program involves certification of colony managers.^[215] Most residents weighing in on the program on a local news site expressed support for it.^[216] The city has information about TNR on its website, but also offers traps for citizens to trap nuisance animals including [feral cats](#) to bring into the animal shelter.^[217]
- [Houston](#) - "The city of Houston promotes TNR for the management of our city's feral cats, and citizens are encouraged to feed and care for feral cats as long as they are in accordance with the following three requirements. Any citizen feeding feral cats must be actively working towards getting

all cats in the colony spayed and neutered (i.e. accomplishing the TNR of the colony), must be feeding in a way that does not attract raccoons or possums, and must have the permission of the property owner/manager to be feeding the cats if the colony location is not on either their own property or on city property. As long as citizens are in accordance with these requirements, they are encouraged to feed and care for the feral cats within their colony and can submit an application to become an official colony manager."^[218]

- [Fort Worth](#) - "The City of Fort Worth endorses Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) as a humane method of controlling feral cat populations and as a means of establishing a coalition of community-based resources. The Fort Worth program focuses on coordinating the efforts of compassionate members of the community who serve as feral cat colony sponsors and feral cat colony caretakers."^[219]
- [San Antonio](#) (since 2012) - In 2012, the city endorsed TNR as "a lot more humane, progressive and innovative than simply trapping and euthanizing. That's what we've done for 40-plus years, and there are still a lot of cats out there; it didn't work."^[220] In May 2014, San Antonio's Animal Care Services reported a 90% live release rate for cats, stating that the success was "built on increased spay/neuter, community cat programs and feline placement."^[221]
- [Waco](#) - The city's website explained that community cats were exceptions to animal ordinances, effective January 1, 2014: "In addition to the state-mandatory rabies vaccination, outside cats, both owned and unowned, must be spayed or neutered. No microchip required for community cats with the Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) left ear tip, performed during spay/neuter surgery."^[222] Community cats within a certain zip code qualify for free TNR services, including spay/neuter, rabies vaccination, and ear-tipping.^[222]

Utah

- [Utah](#) State - Extensive state legislation exists, known as the "Community Cat Act".^[223] Community cats are exempt from licensing and feeding bans, and may be released prior to the 5 day holding period for other animals received by a shelter.^[224] Caretakers do not have custody of a cat.^[224]
- [St. George](#) (since 2004) - In 2009, the city was named as one of the supporters of One More Chance Animal Rescue Program, which had TNRd more than 1100 animals in 5 years.^[225] In January 2013, the city expanded their involvement by partnering with Best Friends Animal Society on a Feral Freedom program diverting cats from shelters and into the community.^[226] As a result, the save rate for cats was increased from 44% in 2012, to 98% in 2013.^[226]
- [Salt Lake City](#) (since 2006) - The city provided a TNR process in its animal ordinance in 2006.^[227] In 2012, the requirements to register a colony were removed.^[228] Now a Feral Freedom program is in place: an impounded feral cat is held for the mandatory holding period; then sterilized, ear-tipped, vaccinated, and released near the original location where the cat was found.^[229] Working with Best Friends Animal Society, Salt Lake County Animal Services officials are seeking caretakers for feral cat colonies.^[230]

Virginia

- [Fairfax County](#) (since 2008) - "Working with hundreds of feral cat colony caretakers, the Shelter provides free spay or neuter surgery and basic medical care to feral cats. Since 2008, over 3,000 feral cats have been spayed or neutered through the Shelter's Trap-Neuter-Return program.... The Shelter has seen a significant reduction in the number of kittens entering our facility and Foster Program since our TNR program was established in 2008."^[231]

- [Hampton](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance includes a section on the unlawful care of feral cats, and requires annual registration for feral cat caregivers; feral cats in registered colonies are exempted from cat licensing requirements. ^[232]
- [Isle of Wight County](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance includes a section on the unlawful care of feral cats, and requires annual registration of feral cat caregivers; feral cats in registered colonies are exempted from cat licensing requirements. ^[233]
- [Newport News](#) (mixed support) - The local ordinance includes a section on the unlawful care of feral cats, and requires annual registration for feral cat caregivers; feral cats in registered colonies are exempted from cat licensing requirements. ^[234] The city's Animal Services Division provides assistance with "Feral cat abatement" including trap rentals, ^[235] after which feral cats brought in are euthanized. ^[236]
- [West Point](#) (mixed support) - Feral cat caregivers are required to be responsible for sterilization, keeping medical records, and regular feeding, but do not have to be registered. ^[237] The Town Council suspended actively trapping feral cats, but provides traps on request, and there is concern that feral cats are being killed. ^[238]

Washington

- [King County](#) - Regional Animal Services offers a barn cat program to rehome feral cats. ^[239]

Wisconsin

- [Oconto](#) - The local ordinance provides: "Feral cat communities may be licensed under a program that provides health checks and spay and neuter services for these animals. Cats in such a colony should be microchipped when they are captured for health checks." Cat licensing is voluntary. ^[240]

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:33:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Isabelle Martinez | Testifying for Cat People of Oahu | Support | No |

Comments:

We love all animals but we shouldn't exterminate one to save another. Trap and kill does not work. Give Trap and Release a try!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:53:07 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rylee Brooke Kamahele | Testifying for Hashtag Speak Up Movement | Support | No |

Comments:

According to studies done by The Humane Society of the United States, the most HUMANE AND EFFICIENT way to decrease the cat population is through a combination of TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) and state shelter supported RTF (Return-To-Field)

Combining TNR and RTF means that the community, through cat colony caregivers, would continue to monitor cat colonies and sterilize the cats in their colonies and, our main open admission animal shelter, The Hawaiian Humane Society, would intake feral cats, microchip, sterilize, and vaccinate the cats, and return them to the sites in which they are found rather than euthanizing.

Trap and Kill Methods Can Have the Opposite Effects

There was a study done in two sites in Tasmania where they tried culling to lower the cat population and in one site they had a **75% increase** in cats and the other had a **211% increase**

Researchers believe that the cat population increased because the cats tend to live in areas where they have resources available and new cats simply move in when the dominant cats are no longer there to protect their territory

With more resources available, cats can easily reproduce and repopulate

Cats that were left unsterilized have kittens and those kittens survive better because resources are more easily available to them and those kittens will grow up and have more kittens

Culling becomes a cycle that will never end. Cats will continue to move in and have more kittens and will constantly need to be culled. *Culling is not an effective or efficient solution to reduce cat populations.*

Colony Cat Caregivers and Anti-Cat People Have the SAME Goal!

Both sides ultimately want to reduce the cat population in Hawaii. Caring for a colony is exhausting, draining, and expensive. It is not fun and not something they are doing as a hobby. People need to understand that the neighborhood cat feeder who does TNR is doing a public service at their own expense. While the public is angry at these people, they are the real reason you do not have even more cats in the area.

Issues with DLNR's Approach to Kill Cats

Cats are being caught and left in traps for days with no food, water, or shelter

Cats being killed *by any means necessary* is cruel, inhumane, and not the right example the state should be setting for the public

Is DLNR being monitored and held accountable for animal cruelty?

Why do we have such a big problem?

The state doesn't enforce sterilization and many people choose not to spay or neuter

There are not enough homes for these animals and the public continues breed animals irresponsibly and does not sterilize pets which would stop contributing to the number of unwanted animals

The public is uneducated about more affordable options for spay and neuter

People are constantly dumping their pets, most of which are not sterilized

Property managers are trapping and dumping

Colony caregivers are being harrassed and threatened even though they are really doing a public service with their own money

What can we do?

Allow managed TNR on state lands

Allow TNR and feeding to be done so that the colonies are able to be managed efficiently

Provide better programs and networks to support caretakers and trappers that will encourage people to continue doing TNR

Make sure the funding for low cost spay and neuter is being used for sterilizations

Enforce fines and harsher penalties against animal abandonment

Get our state shelter on board with RTF over euthanasia

We don't need to kill cats, what we need is to find a real solution to the cat overpopulation. TNR is the common ground for both cat lovers and people who find cats to be a nuisance. It is the PROVEN, MOST EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, PROACTIVE, and HUMANE way to address Hawaii's cat overpopulation problem.

Feeders/Colony Care Givers

The "crazy cat lady" feeding stray cats DOES NOT want more cats! This is why most people who care for cat colonies are actively monitoring their cats and doing TNR

Responsible caregivers sterilize pregnant cats which means unborn kittens are aborted in the process and are not adding to the population

They did not create the cat problem, the cats were already there

Feeding keeps cats from wandering so colonies are more maintainable

Feeding also helps gain the trust of the cats and enables the caregivers to watch for new cats or kittens so they can maintain the colony through TNR

Cat colony caregivers have found that there is a huge problem with people dumping cats that are not sterilized and they have actively been helping with the cat population problem by catching dumped cats and sterilizing

With caregivers being registered and monitored, it would ensure that the cats are being sterilized and not just fed and will provide a support network that will benefit all parties

With a database, TNR can be run more efficiently and will reduce our cat overpopulation problem, and this will also provide a database that will help to monitor cats statewide and create a way to identify areas where help is needed

The only scientifically proven way to stabilize and decrease free roaming cat populations is to stop the breeding cycle through sterilization and return the cats to their original environment. It is humane and effective.

Culling might seem like the most logical approach, but it doesn't address the root of the problem, which is the ongoing reproduction of feral cats. This means that culling is a bandaid for the problem, not a real solution. It is a reaction to the feral cat crisis, not effective management of the problem.

Feeding Bans Won't Help

People think that if caregivers stop feeding cats, they will go away. This is simply not true. If the cats do choose to leave, they usually will move closer to homes and businesses to find food.

A Few Benefits of TNR

Stops reproduction

Reduces noise problems such as fighting or mating sounds

Reduces odor caused by territorial male cats

Proven to reduce cat populations

Cheaper than euthanization and sheltering cats

Cats and Monk Seals

Many animal problems are actually caused by humans. The cat overpopulation problem is due to humans AND humans are responsible for the decrease in numbers and endangered status of the Hawaiian Monk Seal.

It is our responsibility to find a solution to the problem we, as humans, have created. *We should not kill one animal for the benefit of the another, especially when we are able to come up with better solutions that actually work.* In the 1900's, our monk seals were hunted to near extinction. Humans have taken their habitats, caused food shortages, harmed them with pollution, marine debris, and fishing gear, disturbed them and their pups so they are unable to rest on our shores, and recently have purposely murdered them. To hold cats accountable for harming monk seals and punish them with death is morally wrong. If any species should be held liable, its humans! The same can be said about our cetaceans.

Cats and Protected Birds

Nationally, cats are 3rd on the list of the 6 major causes of bird deaths. All other causes are human related. Human hunting or killing of birds, human structures, habitat loss, pesticide poisoning, habitat destruction, agricultural and landscaping activities, oil spills, entanglement in fishing line or other materials, lead poisoning, electrocution, and plastic pollution are a few causes of death.

Rats are one of the biggest natural predators of our birds and their nests. Cats actually help to maintain rat populations. Studies done by The Humane Society of the United States for terns has found that the removal of cats changes the behavior of rats. They found that there was a decrease in adult tern deaths with the removal of cats, but mynahs and rats began taking eggs and tern chicks. This solved nothing. All the removal of cats did was change the predator.

As humans, I like to think that we are capable of outsmarting cats. Can we really find no humane solution to protecting our birds? I would recommend special types of fencing around nesting sites as a start along with TNR.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:20:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kitty Ng | Testifying for Hawaii Happy Cats | Support | No |

Comments:

As a colony caregiver I definitely support HB2593 . This bill is a major step forward in helping the caregivers and the cats they care for .

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 5:55:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cathy Goeggel | Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i | Support | Yes |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:31:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Athena Robello | Testifying for Poi Dogs & Popoki | Support | No |

Comments:

I have been a colony caregiver for almost 20 years. TNR works!!!

There are many dedicated people & organizations that work hard to spay & neuter the cats that are less fortunate to be living on the streets, parks, beaches, etc.

The program works. We love all animals. Regardless if they have a home or not.

Killing feral cats is not the humane answer. TNR is a great program.

Mahalo,

Athena Robello

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 2:21:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Barbara Burger | Testifying for Poi Dogs and Popoki | Support | No |

Comments:

Trap and kill does not work. Trap,neuter, and return is the only humane way to manage the feral cat population.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:02:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donya | Testifying for Feline Foundation of Maui | Support | Yes |

Comments:

I am an advocate of TNRM since 1970 when I encountered my first feral cat on Oahu, as a college student at UH -Long before there was any such program....

Now I live on Maui, and was a founding board member of Feline Foundation of Maui...

We successfully organized caretakers and provided them with free spay neuter and ear tattoo...

Funding ended but the mission continues through private donors and Maui Humane Society.

Caretakers need to be protected from harassment by naive on lookers who do not understand

the value of this program...This bill would provide such necessary support.

I would like to add that proper humane trapping procedure includes a mentor to educate on such

and must include that traps be attended at all times...Also it is a good measure to ID colonies by

zip code. Thank you!!!!

Donya Izbicki

808-298-1207

donyacat@gmail.com

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 10:02:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Juan Carlos Guerra | Individual | Comments | No |

Comments:

Esteemed members of the Senate:

I would like to voice my opinion on the veterinary aspects of HB 2593. I am a mixed animal veterinarian on the big island of Hawaii. During my training I volunteered at our local humane society and worked towards helping in their pet abandonment and over population program. I have seen several control programs and see their value depending on the situation in which they are applied. **There is language in the bill that would seem to make the issue of trap-neuter-release (TNR) vs. euthanasia as a black and white issue where TNR is the clear winner.**

1. **“Euthanasia does not address the problem of exponential increases in the cat population”**: BOTH TNR and euthanasia can tackle the exponential increases in the cat population with varying degrees of efficiencies. You must keep in mind that both programs must continue to be funded and implemented for perpetuity in order to work (people will continue to abandon their pets). **A depopulation protocol can quickly decrease population size and slow exponential increases within a few years with adequate funding. TNR typically takes longer and it may not address the total population numbers until decades in, especially if cats continue to be abandoned (Lohr 2013).** I would like to point out that Hawaii is a special case as there is a limited amount of space for the cats, and **their presence negatively impacts human health and threatens critically endangered species.** These threats can be best tackled by swift reduction in population numbers and maintaining the population numbers as low as possible and away from critical areas.
2. **“Cats from a colony are euthanized, they leave a vacuum that is filled when other unsterilized cats enter the same colony”**: This assumes that if there is a full cat colony that other cats somehow will not enter the population. **Cats will continue to be abandoned**, especially if the public believes that someone will take care of it in a colony. In TNR these cats may not join an established colony, but that is due to competition and **they will either have to compete for resources (with malnutrition and fighting as a possible outcome), or they will establish a new colony** and begin reproducing there.

3. **“TNR is more humane than euthanasia”**: I find that this statement goes against our veterinary oath. Our job as veterinarians is help animals and end suffering when needed. **Euthanasia is a humane way of dealing with pain and disease, this includes euthanizing animals that are malnourished and cannot be supported by the resources available.** TNR is humane but it is NOT more humane than euthanasia. **TNR involves surgical procedures with risks and complications.** Pain medications are typically given on the day of the procedure but with feral animals that typically is the last medication they’ll receive. It is naïve to think that animals do not experience some degree of post-operative pain and inflammation after they are spayed and neutered. The pain may be tolerable, but nonetheless it is there. Additionally there a small risk of complications, and again, as feral cats these are difficult to treat should they arise. **In addition feral cat colonies are exposed to several infectious diseases such as Feline Leukemia and Feline Immunodeficiency Virus that negatively affects the cats’ quality of life.** Euthanasia is an overdose of an anesthetic and it is no different than anesthetizing a patient for a spay/neuter. As such, **TNR is acceptable but it is not more humane than euthanasia.**
4. **TNR is less costly than euthanasia**: TNR involves trapping, transporting, medicating, performing surgery, and release. Euthanasia involves trapping, transporting, and euthanasia. As a private practitioner I can say that **a well performed spay (with appropriate monitoring) is more expensive and time consuming than euthanasia.**

I would like the facts to be correct and known before you make a decision on this issue. Euthanasia is not any less humane than TNR. We must look at this issue from the quality of life of the cats and the dangers to public health and endangered animals. Animals do not know about death and the life of mouse or a cat is no less important than that of a human just because it lives for a short amount of time by human standards. **Our job as caretakers is to provide a good quality of life to our animals, and euthanasia is an acceptable option when it is required.** And remember, **Hawaii is not like the mainland, we need to find our own way of dealing with the feral cat problem in a way that is financially feasible and protects the unique native biodiversity that we have left.**

Sincerely,

Juan Carlos Guerra, DVM

References

-Lohr CA, et al; Costs and benefits of trap-neuter-release and euthanasia for removal of urban cats in Oahu, Hawaii; [Conserv Biol.](#) 2013 Feb;27(1):64-73

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:09:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| peggy pratt | Individual | Comments | No |

Comments:

TNR is the best way to control the cat population. Not only does it control the population but it also helps control rodent issues. I personally live near a chicken farm and always had problem with rats. Ever since I started to TNR strays and feed a small colony, I see a big difference in the rat problem. Trapping and killing will only increase problems. As far as toxo, I had 3 pregnancy while taking care of house cats along with my strays and haven' had any problems. I think more info needs to be discussed correctly with all the facts. Some that where submitted are not 100 percent accurate. Humans are Just as responsible for killing of birds and other animals that are protected

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 7:56:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melinda Buck | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2593. Over the last five years I have been a caretaker for a feral cat community. I personal TNR and it's been successful. I original started with over twenty cats and now down to 8. I have found forever home for some. I have paid out of pocket to spay or neuter. I am thankful for Poi Dogs and Popoki offering reasonably priced spay and neuter. Mass killings is not a humane solution. Working with all all the cat rescues is the right solutions.

Please support HB2593 this is the humane solution. Thank you for reading my testimony.

Thank you for support HB2593

Melinda Buck

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:04:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jackie G | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support bill HB2593. There are many caretakers and Non-profits willing to help the feral situation by Steralizing and re-releasing back to their surroundings. Please support this bill, so Non-profits can get to work on getting the feral cat population under control by spay and neutering them.

We love all animals, but we shouldn't exterminate one to save another. Trap and kill does not work

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 8:37:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dr. Karen Tyson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a clinical psychologist as well as a cat colony caretaker, I see this issue from two perspectives. First, many of the colony caretakers are retired individuals seeking to make a difference in their community and find a sense of purpose to keep them connected in the community and with fellow animal lovers. This serves their mental health needs and create opportunities for people to have meaning and purpose in their individual lives.

Second, as a colony caretaker, I assist with five colonies, I have trapped many cats and taken them to the humane society for sterilization and vaccinations and then release them. Additionally, I have successfully removed more than 25 cats from assorted communities and placed them successfully in domestic homes. I provide medical care for sick or injured cats and ensure the colonies I care for are healthy and highly managed. This is by far the most humane way to manage this situation, the cats are often dumped by people no longer wanting them or moving out of state, these cats are typically the ones easy to re-home and get off the street. By having a trap and release program and caretakers who will oversee the needs and populations of colonies is a responsible option to reduce the population over time. It can work, it does work and it serves the needs of the community and is most humane to the animals.

Please support the Trap and Release program and give this community a fair chance to make this effort successful.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dr. Karen Tyson

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:38:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wayne Sugimoto | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Anything besides TNRM is just cruel and inhumane, not to mention unethical.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:42:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| pjkb | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Trap and kill does not work. Please give TNR a try. There are effective options out there and TNR is one of them.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:48:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jessica Halvorson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of HB2593. I am a caretaker for 11 feral cat colonies and am very involved in the rescue community. I can attest that trapping to kill does not work because I have seen the lack of results in existing colonies for which I care. Trapping to kill leaves territories open for other cats to move in and so we see an endless cycle. Trap, neuter, release has worked with my colonies and I see the numbers decrease or remain steady with responsible caretaking that includes sterilization, educating the community on the importance of sterilization, vet care, and pulling friendly cats whenever possible so they can go into foster care or be adopted. Colony caretakers are vital members of our community who deserve recognition and respect for their hard work and sacrifice. They don't deserve to be reprimanded for providing a much needed service. These animals are a community issue, and as a community we need to work together in an ethical way to reduce the feral cat population in a manner that will maintain current territory and hold numbers steady or even decrease them over time. We can't do this without caretakers.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:49:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sharon Williams | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 10:50:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Williams | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:21:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Skyla Hammond | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

As a person who has been involved in cat welfare and rescue for many years, I support this bill. I support the no-kill nation concept, wherein we should respect all animal species. Exterminating one species to benefit another does not work. TNR works, as has been shown in many places, most notably "The Happiest Place on Earth", Disneyland. About 200 cats call Disneyland home. There are those who have stated that TNR works on the mainland, but will not work here. There is no empirical evidence to support that notion.

The so-called feral cat problem is not a cat problem, but a human problem. TNR works to reduce the feral cat problem by attrition. The real problem comes when people fail to sterilize their pet cats, then abandon them either directly into an established colony or leaving them behind when they move, and the unsterilized cats reproduce and create new, unmanaged colonies. Colony caretakers know the cats in their colonies, and are vigilant about ensuring any newcomers are sterilized, and that kittens are removed and socialized and put up for adoption.

In addition to this bill, we need stricter enforcement of the city ordinance that states any cat over six months old that goes outdoors must be sterilized. Further, since this is not a cat problem, but a human problem, there need to be laws addressing animal abandonment, with stiff enough penalties to deter dumping of cats and dogs.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:57:11 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| gretchen hahn | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I wish to endorse the HB2593 HD1 and in support of this bill - there is ample evidence that the practice of TNR is the most humane means of managing the overpopulation of the feral cats and other animals. There are many successful agencies in the community who are already implementing these practices such as Cat Friends, Poi Dogs and Popoki and Oahu SPCA. I endorse this bill and encourage the lawmakers of the Hawaii State Legislature to stand behind such measures and humane practices. We need to update the model and practices of how to manage these feral populations. Hawaii is lagging behind in their policies and practices. Let's move forward and choose to implement a carefully thought out solution. Aloha!!! Gretchen Hahn

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 1:14:51 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dennis Y. Fujii | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 2593 HD 1. As a former caretaker of a feral cat colony on Sand Island adjacent to the Marine Education Center parking lot, I seen vehicle try to runover the cats to kids shooting BB guns at the cats. They have a very difficult life as a feral cat. I support the intent of HB 2593 HD1 to Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) as a humane way of controlling Hawaii's feral cat population. There are some very dedicated people in the community who work tirelessly to TNR feral cats populations around the island. Finding inexpensive facilities to neuter the cats is a constant struggle especially when caring residents do not have the funds to pay out of pocket. The Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) had a group of feral cat caretakers and community people who, through FaceBook, would communicate issues and problems. The saddest posting I've seen are from people who want to trap, ask around for traps, then struggle to find a vet who would neuter the cats at a cheap price. I believe by developing a policy to TNR is a step in the right direction. There will be other issues that will need to be address to ensure the success of the program, like working with the HHS, UH and Department of Agriculture Animal Quarantine Station of offer inexpensive neutering services. Thank you for this opportunity to comment of HB 2593 HD 1. Dennis Fujii

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 5:02:23 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara R Silverman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Culling of cats is not a humane solution. Life of sentient beings deserves humane protection. As a former volunteer with TNR, I have observed positive outcomes of the program. TNR volunteers need support. Many of the cats are pets that are dumped by uncaring owners or malicious people who trap and "relocate" pets.

As a mental health provider, I am concerned about the cruelty to animals in the community. This behavior of indifference to the pain and suffering of animals is a strong indicator of future abuse to human beings. The man involved in the Florida school shooting had a history of hurting animals.

In Mililani, I filed a police report regarding a man who drove up from Waianae to shoot cats with a rifle for his enjoyment. The police apprehended him, and no punishment followed. This occurred in an area where a Kamaaina Kids is not far away.

By supporting the protection of cats with TNR, you are also sending a strong signal that you care about overall community safety.

Mahalo.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 5:34:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nona | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

ALL LIVES MATTER. I provide food, water & shelter to the stray cats that come and live on my property. A friend of ours captured quite a few of our cats and had them sterilized & returned them back to us safely. I know she's been providing that kind of care to other cats in different areas. Though I know there's a lot of feral cats but it would be better to catch, sterilize and release these kitties is humanely better than to just kill them off. After that put them up for adoption so they can have a chance at life with people or family that would love and take care of them. Cats can be a part of a family too if you have the time and patience to care for them and show them love. Im a cat lover, I have been since I was a little girl in Kalihi. My cats are definitely a part of my family and they always will be. I have adopted & feral ones and the feral ones know that I'm their "caretaker" cause I show them that i am on a daily basis and I talk to them like their my little kids. And because of that we have a connection/bond. If I had acres of land I would build a cat sanctuary so they can roam free and be safe from people that would purposely hurt or kill them and from automobiles.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 5:56:16 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| judith carluccio | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Trap, Neuter, Release works. Management of feral populations need to be dealt with humanely.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 7:27:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lee Cuccia | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please allow this bill to pass. We are supposed to be the Aloha State, yet we show zero aloha to feral cats. There is so much incorrect information out there about them, but really, the most effective as well as humane way to deal with them is to permit caretakers to care for them. This keeps them healthy and fed (far less need to hunt) and caretakes spay and neuter them, preventing the proliferation of yet more cats. If you work with the caretakers, and significant impact can be made on decreasing the population. Humanely. Its a win win. Mahalo.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:29:18 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LINDA SCHOONOVER | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TNR works and should be implemented here in Hawaii. Providing that non-profit organizations be allowed to keep doing TNR to help keep the feral cat population under control without the means of unnecessary barbaric killing of these innocent animals. I've have seen first hand that TNR does work to prevent pregnancies within the feral colonies. In fact, my mother on the mainland had 17 ferals she cared for which started out as only 2 (male & female) who showed up on her property. The female got pregnant and the numbers escalated. I personally caught each one and had them taken in for spay/neuter. She is now down to 2 and they have become indoor pets to her. Had I not done the TNR, the numbers would have been, well...do the math. A female feline can have approximately 4 kittens per litter and have them 2 times a year. Felines can mate at the early age of 3 months. So I fully support TNR and the non-profit organizations here on Hawaii especially Poi Dogs & Popoki, Cat Friends and Joey's Felines.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 9:36:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Maria da Silva | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a Feral Cat Colony care taker in Hawaii for the last year and a half in Waipahu.

We have around 50 cats, all fixed, dewormed and flea treated. From this colony we have pulled more than 20 cats that were friendly for adoption, several already got adopted. The numbers always varies as the main problem is cats being dumped by irresponsible owners and/or PCSsing military who cannot take their animals for a reason or another, which still is irresponsability. Just in the last year, we had 6 cats that were fixed and microchipped to someone, but the numbers were not registered or number were not valid. Just dumped cats we had around 20 cats, 10 kittens at once in a box. It is really rare for us to have a borned kitten in our colony as all of the cats are already fixed, unless is a new dumped preganant mama cat, which did not happen to me but happened with a friend who also practice TNR in her neighborhood.

Please ask me what I do for my neighborhood, I do care and control the cat colony. If I didnt the numbers would be higher. I wish each person in my neighborhood would do something positive for our community.

There is a need of a better microchip registration rules and abandonment fines.

I have managed a cat colony in San Antonio Texas in the San Antonio College campus, there were 40 cats, they all got fixed, some got adopted, the remaining 30 are still in the campus being managed by students and staff. A student club was created for the cats, the school President approved the program and more people got envolved. The cat colony is under control for the past 2 years.

There are several citizens in our state who care and control the cat population which are created by those irresponsible owners and people who do not like cats and steal the from their owners and dump them somewhere else. It is not the cats fault but people's fault.

Please support these kind and dedicated people who use their own money and time to do the work, TNR, that many people dont. Please help us to control, educate and care for these animals.

I am a Hawaii resident for the past 14 years and I would like my tax money to be used in prol of a good cause of caring and implementing a good rule and law in favor of safety of the feral cats.

V/R

Maria da Silva.

Senator Mike Gabbard
Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

HB2593 Relating to Feral Cats

Hearing: March 21, 2018 1:15 P.M.

Hello my name is Chloe Oshiro I am a junior at Mililani High School. I also volunteer at a cat shelter called Joey's Feline Friends. I am testifying in support of HB2593 relating to feral cats.

I support this bill because I am a strong believer in humane solutions for dealing with the feral cat population like Trap-Sterilize-Release. I have met with nonprofits that do trap-sterilize-release and those kind hearted people who spend their time and money doing this in certain areas has been very effective. They are essential to creating a healthy and safe environment for people. They take sick cats to the vet, which stops the spread of diseases or fleas. They home elderly cats that can no longer survive outside. They sterilize all the cats which prevents the population from growing. This effectively gets rid of the feral cat colonies. I believe that trap-sterilize-release is effective and if the government were to get involved we could eradicate the feral cat populations humanely.

Chloe Oshiro
(808)-589-6041

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 11:50:02 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helene Yates | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

We currently manage a colony of approximately 50 cats that have been TNR'd over the years - this is a very controlled colony and is maintained wonderfully. Please let the TNR and caretakers of the island cats continue on as has always been. There is so much being done to educate other caretakers on the importance of TNR - we recently started a pilot group on a military base to start controlling those colonies also. As you can see, even the military has come to see that TNR is the way to go.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 12:02:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katie Ward | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB2593. As an active member of the TNR community here on Oahu I would love for our span of possible locations to TNR to increase, as it would greatly help with the cat overpopulation issue.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 1:33:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| udom stamegna | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I'm in full support of TNR, the problem of our island over populate with feral and strayed cats is from irresponsible pets own that abandon their pets or dumped their animals withou getting them fix. We should penalize them instead of the animals.

Mahalo,

Ms Udom Stamegna

Testimony of
Robyn Springen, CPA
On

**HB2593
SUPPORT**

Thank you, Members of the Committee for providing the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of House Bill 2593.

I am a feral cat colony caretaker who has seen firsthand the success of Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM). The entire colony is sterilized and stabilized, thus resulting in the elimination of reproduction amongst the cat population in the area. No new kittens are being created and as a result, the colony will not naturally increase in size. The colony is kept healthy and any health concerns are addressed immediately by myself as the caretaker. Ft. Shafter has seen incredible results with its TNR program and I am confident HB2593 will contribute to countless future TNRM success stories.

The “catch and kill” method is an archaic attempt at permanent animal control. The futile method has been attempted for decades to no avail, particularly from a financial aspect. Euthanasia of the hundreds of thousands of feral cats in Hawaii would be financially ineffective to the state and its taxpayers.

Cats have lived and thrived for thousands of years outside, only within the last 60-70 years making the transition into domesticated pets. The feral cat population was not created by humans, but it can be effectively and humanely managed by humans.

The colony I care for and manage is a success story I hope the Members of the Committee take into consideration when voting on HB2593. TNRM does work and will continue to efficaciously manage the feral cat population in Hawaii.

I appreciate your consideration in supporting HB2593.

Sincerely,

Robyn Springen

Robyn Springen, CPA

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:02:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ingrid Deoliveira | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 3:13:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kassandra Parton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

The TNR, or trap, neuter, and release program, has been statistically shown that this course of action is better for our community, feral cats, and even for the government. Trapping and killing does not solve the problem as cats mate and reproduce too fast for anyone to keep or catch up with anyways. By getting the cats neutered or spayed, you are helping prevent the problem of overpopulation of feral cats, loss of native wildlife and plants, and controlling the population at its source. Many of these cats that are named "feral cats" are not feral to begin with as a large number of them are strays or abandoned by their owners. I do not understand why this is such a huge issue to be able to sign something like this into law. No one is asking any government type people to go out of their way to take care of the cats. There are already people on the ground and running doing that for us, and you, with their own money, time, and resources. A little bit of help from the government could go a long way in battling and solving this problem, not just trying to sweep it under the rug like it doesn't exist. If you're not a cat lover, fine, but that doesn't mean you need to be mean or rude or shoot down a bill if it has the support of the people because of your own personal bias. Many people, including some of you, would throw an absolute fit if the situation was reversed and they were talking about doing this with dogs instead. All we're asking for is some help. Not for your life, cars, or whatever, but to help us help you with the feral cat population by doing the right thing and attacking the problem at its source instead of meaninglessly killing cats.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 5:20:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sierra Williams | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:45:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tami Schatz | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in support of Bill HB2593 in accordance with the scientific studies done on the vacuum effect in which case if culling is done to the cats that other cats or rodents will move into the area because the resources that attracted the cats to the area in the first place will still be available. There are colony feeders on the island who through there own resources are working to manage the colonies through the humane manner of trap neuter and release in order to prevent the colonies from growing larger. Department of Land and Natural resources are trying their best to persuade people that culling is the only way to deal with the cat overpopulation problem in the islands, by using fear tactics stating that toxoplasmosis is caused by the feral cats and therefore they should be extinguished. In fact, Toxoplasmosis is not a "public health" issue in Hawaii in the sense that we don't see large numbers of cases where individuals require treatment for toxoplasmosis. Undercooked meat is most likely the number one contributor to toxoplasmosis, but there are no studies that have proven that feral cats are the cause for humans that contact toxoplasmosis. By enabling colony feeders to not only be protected under the law to feed their colonies without harassment by not only individuals but also law enforcement is in the best interest to protect their civil rights. The bill will also give accountability to colony feeders, and that can enable the state to get a better idea of what overpopulation problem is actually and if like suspected that TNR is actually helping to reduce the problem over time. Passing Bill HB2593 is in the best interest of the state and the colony feeders in an effort to work together to get the overpopulation problem under control in a humane manner.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:22:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gillian Stetekluh | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2593. TNR is proven to be the only effective means of population control. Years of attempted extermination or removal of feral cats proves that method simply does not work. In regards to the environmental impact of community cats, all I can say is no one life matters more than another. We should not punish and demonize a species for the mistakes of humans in bringing them here and allowing them to reproduce uncontrollably. All we can do is our best to control their numbers in a humane and compassionate fashion.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:14:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| April Schroeder | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I was unwittingly thrust into this debate by the cruel actions of a neighbor who trapped and dumped my three cats in 2012. They were my family. They have never been found, and my only, fading, hope of ever recovering them lays in the careworn hands of the individuals who dedicate their time and personal finances to alleviating the suffering of animals who have been victimized or abandoned by the people of Hawaii, and unfortunately frequently, by members of the military.

TNRM is effective, provided we also enforce existing laws against animal cruelty and abandonment. I strongly support this bill as a step toward humane management of our feral cat population and view it's passage as a small step toward justice for the people and animals who, like me, have been so terribly harmed by those who seek to normalize and ignore the inhumane treatment of animals.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 1:43:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| linda zaner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TNR has been shown in various states to control the feral feline population, in a HUMANE manner, not just killing outright. Many feral cats have been socialized, I for one have one from Florida, which was trapped and neutered and then brought to shelter and socialized. He is a wonderful cat, very loving, you would not know he had been feral.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 1:36:44 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chloe Hartwell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass HB 2593 Relating to Feral Cats. Trap-neuter-return, or TNR, has been proven to be the most humane and effective way to manage and reduce feral cat populations. This will ultimately reduce the feral cat population more effectively than euthanasia. I was greatly disappointed to learn of the high euthanasia rates of the Hawaiian Humane Society, and believe that this bill is a more humane and strategic approach to feral cat over-population. The bill would facilitate oversight and support for volunteers, and grant them access to important areas that can benefit from TNR.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:32:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| carole richelieu | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:25:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Paul Stetekluh | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TNR is the most effective way to improve the stray cat situation in the hawaiian islands. I have witnessed cat colonies in my neighborhood go from expanding rapidly to well controlled due to the efforts of every-day people conducting TNR. It is a humane and effective way of reducing and controlling the stray cat populations.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 9:43:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| jessica middleton | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass this law, feral cats are out of control and are wreaking havoc on our native ecosystem. Something must be done ASAP! Mahalo

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:13:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kylie Takashima | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Within my own neighborhood we've had feral cat problems. At first it was thought that the removal of the cats would reduce or rid of the problem by neighbors upset that their yards/property were being damaged. However, this did nothing to slow the multiplication of cats in the neighborhood. Together, we've independently TNR'd 15 cats on our street in 2014-2015. Currently there are only 6-7 cats that still come around/are still alive. TNR does work.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:21:38 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Patricia Thomas | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am hoping that this bill passes. We who take care of these precious animals are very passionate about keeping them alive, healthy and unable to reproduce. We are the ones that take it upon ourselves to do so at our own expense. Please help save the lives of innocent animals. Thank you for reading my cry for help we truly love what we do. The area that I take care of has gone down to 15 cats. When I started taking care of them there were about 50 or more. Please pass this for the people that work so hard.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:55:17 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Hanna | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

On behalf of all social animal lovers in Hawaii and throughout the US, I strongly support hb 2593 as a truly effective and humane alternative to managing and ultimately alleviating the feral cat population in Hawaii. Killing one species inhabitant to protect another is not only cruel, it's unnecessary and inhumane. It is an insult that stains the image of Hawaii and is contradictive to everything Hawaii stands for. Hundreds of hard working and compassionate volunteers have been practicing TNR for decades with proven results without the recognition or support from our local Government.

More importantly, passing this bill will not only give the DLNR authority to trap and kill, it will send a message to the public that inhumane and abusive tactics like poisoning, lethal traps, guns, bow & arrows, and drowning, are accepted means of kulling the TNR colonies.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 6:49:35 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kelley Streadbeck | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 8:07:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jo Ann Kocher | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2593 Relating to Feral Cats. I am a responsible cat owner who anguishes over the many community/feral cats on the streets of Oahu. These animals are not there by choice. They are there because, at some time in the past, irresponsible owners failed to spay/neuter their cats, let them roam free or abandoned them. Fortunately, there are several non-profit organizations who devote their time, energy and often personal funds to help these cats. They practice Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR), which is the only humane way to stop these cats from reproducing. Euthanasia is not the answer. I support this bill because it: Requires both the state and county to allow TNR in lieu of euthanasia of feral cats Requires nonprofit animal welfare organizations to oversee cat colony caregiver and the TNR efforts at those colonies Requires cat colony caregivers to register with a nonprofit and manage their colony including TNR and tracking colony numbers Cat overpopulation is a major problem on Oahu. Please vote for this bill which will allow the aforementioned non-profit organizations to work with dedicated and committed caregivers to reduce the number of cats roaming the street or being euthanized. Please feel free to contact me with any questions at Tiger2Balm@aol.com or 808 395 1300. Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion on this important issue.

Jo Ann C. Kocher



Honolulu, HI 96825

I am writing in support of HB2593.

There is no doubt in anybody's mind that there are a lot of feral cats on Oahu. Having no natural predators (besides humans) cat populations, if left unchecked, can quickly become out of control and unmanageable. Even though it is frowned upon by some, there are people who care for and take care of the feral cat colonies. The responsible caregivers will have the cats sterilized with the proven Trap-Neuter-Release method of animal control. It is logical that if there are no more kittens, eventually the colony will die out naturally through attrition.

According to their own website (<http://www.hawaiianhumane.org/feral-cat-sterilizations/>), even the Hawaiian Humane Society "supports responsible Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM), a humane and effective long-term strategy to reduce the number of cats at large and improve their quality of life" ... "the population stabilizes and decreases as cats live out their natural lives without reproducing. As a result, millions of unwanted kittens have been spared from life on the streets."

The trap-and-kill mentality of dealing with feral cats is old and outdated. And it does not work. TNR is the only proven long term, humane, and compassionate solution to cat overpopulation. HB 2593 will give the numerous animal welfare organizations and private citizens the support they need to continue their mission of ending feral cat overpopulation.

By requiring a non profit animal welfare organization to oversee the cat colony caregivers, TNR efforts will be monitored, helping better manage the cat colonies. You will be able to track the colony numbers, which will justify TNR over euthanasia.

There is no money in this for any non-profit animal welfare organization. Animal rescue is done for the love of the animals.

Thank you.

My name is Celeste Kato and I can be reached at ckato1@aol.com.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:17:52 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Allan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Strongly support HB2593. This is a giant step forward to humanely control the feral cat population in Hawaii. There are states on the mainland that are proactively working with non-profit organizations, their citizens, and TNR programs to control the feral cat population. Why can't Hawaii do the same?

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:48:11 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexandrian Tse | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Countless individuals in Hawaii dedicate their time and money to responsibly caring for free-roaming cats, which benefits the entire community. TNRM programs, if properly managed, really do help. Colonies that are properly cared for tend to be healthier, which should reduce concerns of cats spreading diseases. I've often seen my ferals lounging around after a meal, watching birds eat their leftovers, so it's my belief that fat, happy cats are less likely to hunt down and kill birds for food. I have been managing a colony for several years, and have seen the population stabilize. No new kittens in two years.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:22:25 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Apodaca | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2593. The current feral cat population is caused by insensitive people who feel it is o.k. to throw away their unwanted cats. There are many of us who value life and give our all to take care of these helpless creatures. At one of the sites where I feed we are 100% complete on TNRM, and are only one cat away from being complete at the second site that has about 70 cats. Please allow us to continue the TNRM process in order to humanly reduce the feral cat population, and perhaps someday eradicate through attrition. It is the humane thing to do.

I strongly support this effort and highly encourage all members of legislative bodies to support this effort as well.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:25:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Heyd | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:58:31 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janice Uga | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha, honorable council members:

I am 100% in full SUPPORT of HB 2593 related to cats, especially the part fo Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR). According to estimates from the Hawaiian Humane Society, this island has a huge overpopulation of felines on this island. I have been involved in feline resue as a private foster for the last nine years. I use my own monies, goods, etc. to rescue, rehabilitation, and adopt out felines once they are sterilized and microchipped. In addition, I have three rescues of my own from the time that I rescued a 2-week-old, 8-ounce orange kittens who suffered from a bad eye infection and was infested with fleas. I have nursed week-old kittens and taken in cats who were rehomed from their owners. My heart breaks knowing that I can not do more to help the felines. Please consider this bill and think of the future positive outcomes that will occur as a result of the TNR process. The Hawaiian Humane Society euthanizations over 80% of the felines who come into their posession EACH YEAR. There's a way to significanty reduce such a thing from happening and it all starts with this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Uga

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:49:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Loo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 3:28:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Victoria Anderson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

March 16, 2018

Dear Senators Gabbard, Riviere, Nishihara, and Wakai:

I am an animal lover and rescuer of strays. I currently have two pitbull mixes and five cats, all of whom are rescues.

TNRM is something that we desperately need in Hawaii because of the exponential growth of our feral cat population. I am not a colony caregiver, but am becoming one in the very near future, as I am working on starting a pilot feral cat TNRM program in Waipahu by the Don Quiote and Waipahu Post Office areas and am in the very beginning stages of getting this program going.

I am a complete newcomer to TNRM, but have frequently seen the feral cats at Don Quiote and have always felt sorry for them. I believe that all animals' lives should be cherished, whether they are domesticated or not, so if this bill is passed, it would give the many feral cat colony caregivers the much-needed hope, support, and protection in caring for their colonies, and the ability to help those feral kittens who are innocently born into this world to find a forever home or be humanely euthanized, if they are too ill or suffering.

Last November, I spoke to Don Quiote management and they want to get the cats away from the front of the store (parking lot area), so.. we are working together to try and get the cats a designated area in the back to eat, sleep, congregate, and do their business in.

This designated area also would be managed by myself and whomever can and wants to assist me in their spare time. There was another woman who was going to help me, but she no longer can commit herself to this project and she left suddenly. Despite the challenges of tackling this startup TNRM program on my own and without extensive experience, I am still determined to help these cats the best way that I can, and am passionately committed to giving them a better quality of life than the one that they have now, scavenging and surviving in the parking lot of Don Quiote/Zippy's Waipahu and the outer lying areas, which are not deemed the safest, as there is heavy traffic in and around the parking lot. It just pains me to see the dead cats and kittens who are run over on Farrington Highway when I go to Zippy's or Don Quiote.

I am an avid animal lover-- always have been and always will be. And I have always dreamt of saving ALL of the animals if I could. Ever since I was little, about 7 or 8, I'd bring home stray dogs and cats and keep them as my pets. At one time, I had 14 cats, 10 dogs, 20 birds, a turtle, and a rabbit, and I owned them all at once!

My father couldn't say *no* to me, and he was an animal lover, too, so it made things easier. It sounds crazy today, but I'm 49 now and have ALWAYS had animals, as they bring me a certain comfort and happiness that other people and material things just can't. In my opinion, if people don't like animals or if they don't have any pets, then something definitely must be wrong with THEM!

In 2006, I rescued a kitten who was dumped on the street right outside of my house in Waipahu. I heard the car door slam and then the tiny 'mews' of a kitten. I looked outside and saw this kitten about 4 weeks old just standing in the middle of the road, so I quickly went out and tried to save it.

I mewed back at him and he heard me and came running straight towards me, and entered my yard, right through the chain-link fence. My pitbull was with me outside, but luckily, she was smart enough not to hurt the innocent kitten, so she just watched in wonder as the little guy squeezed his way through.

I grabbed him and brought him inside, then gave him a bath and set him up in our washroom downstairs. He turned out to have ringworm, coccidia (intestinal parasite), symblepharon (adhesion between the eyelid and eyeball, thus making his eyes appear crossed), and stage 4 heart murmur/cardiomyopathy.

He had to be quarantined from my other animals for over a month. I named him Marky, after one of the Ramones, a band that I adore, and also since he had a white mark on his back that looked like a question mark.

My vet didn't give Marky very long to live, but said that if Marky stayed on heart meds, he could have a good life, although it could be a short one.

Marky lived until he was eight. Three years more than what the vet had predicted for him. He passed away peacefully one summer day from complications with his heart and the onset of pancreatitis.

In the last few weeks, I noticed he was getting weaker and losing weight, so I brought him to a vet cardiologist and the vet cardiologist could not believe that Marky was still alive! Those were his exact words to me..

The cardiologist told me that he had never seen a heart in a cat so huge and so damaged in all of his years in vet medicine. He said Marky was an anomaly, and that I was lucky to have him for the years that I still did. I was so sad, because the vet said that he couldn't see Marky living longer than six months. And he was right.

In that brief time that Marky was with me, he brought me so much joy and happiness with his lovingly unique and goofy ways of being a kitty. He let me carry him around and sing to him like a baby, give him all the kisses I wanted, and he always cuddled up in my lap and purred away whenever he got the chance.

Having Marky with me helped me pull myself back out of the darkness again, as I was also going through a very difficult time in my life, having just gotten out of an abusive and toxic 11-year relationship, then suddenly being single for the first time again in a long time. I was in the process of healing myself from the pain and fear of getting close to someone ever again.

I too, had a big heart that was severely damaged--not physically, but emotionally. So it seemed like kismet for me to save Marky that day, since he in turn, saved me with his unconditional love and for that, I am eternally grateful..

I believe that ALL cats and animals alike deserve to live a decent life. The feral ones who are not fortunate to be kept as pets should be given a chance to live without fear and have the help that they need. Not only that, but the dozens of cat colony caregivers that I associate with have repeatedly noted that they have been harassed, threatened, and even assaulted by passersby, residents, troublemakers, and even by some police officers just because they are feeding the feral cats out of the kindness and generosity of their hearts.

I have read numerous posts in my Facebook Cat Group page about somebody being harassed and bullied and as long as the colony caregivers are not protected under this bill, the bullying and harassment will continue, thereby, possibly leading to colony caregivers and their cats getting injured and/or killed.

What a big price to pay for simply wanting to help the feral cats have a second chance at living a good life..I implore you and the powers that be to PLEASE help the feral cats and give them the second chance that they deserve.

In closing, here are the lyrics to the song I wrote for my cat, Marky. Very few people inspire me to write a song about them, and here I wrote these lyrics for a cat--my remarkable cat, who brought unconditional love into my life just at the time that I needed to feel it the most!

Hope you enjoy it and hope that you consider what I and thousands of other animal lovers want for the benefit of all living beings in Hawaii—feline, canine, and human.

Thank you all so much for your time and attention to my testimony.

Respect and Aloha,

Caryl (Nishioka) Leroh
Waipahu, HI 96797

MARKY'S SONG

Lyrics by Caryl Leroh |09.2014| Revised 10.2016

V1

*I think of you when the sunlight hits my face
Feels like the warmth that is your soul
Your mere presence brightened up this dreary place
When you got here, my half became a whole.*

*Your sweetness, innocence, and loving heart
Your tender step--a joyful prance
So grateful I gave you a brand new start
You almost lost your second chance.*

CHORUS

*You carried your love and burdens so heavy in your heart
Shared your inner radiance with me from the start
And all your love and burdens—I shared with you with joy
Can't forget, won't regret, how could I, my brave little boy?*

V2

*You looked at me and ran straight into my arms
Not knowing who or what I was
But you felt safe away from any harm
Your faith in me, all I needed just because*

*That first time I held you and took you inside
So full of wonder and oh so fragile
I knew you came to me for this reason why
I instantly loved you with my first smile..*

CHORUS

*You carried your love and burdens so heavy in your heart
Shared your inner radiance with me from the start
And all your love and burdens—I shared with you with joy
Can't forget, won't regret, how could I, my brave little boy?*

*I knew one day would be the end of forever
But in the meantime, your cuddles were mine
You were here--a priceless, blessed treasure
Unconditional love, your gift.. so divine.*

BRIDGE

*Then one hot day in August, my fear had come true
I came home to you but you had just gone
Slept by the door and slipped away with the garden in your view
My hope just died, 'cos the end had finally won.*

V3

*The tears I shed for you—they flowed for days
Couldn't kill the pain, no matter how I tried
Unraveled and tore my heartstrings all to shreds
Can't believe you're no longer by my side*

*So thank you for the warmth that was your soul
The years with you were happiest of 'em all
I must let go, and let you be one with your light
Always in my heart, and you fought a hell of a fight!*

END CHORUS:

*You carried your love and burdens so heavy in your heart
Shared your inner radiance with me from the start
And all your love and burdens—I shared with you with joy
Can't forget, won't regret, how could I, my brave little boy?*

*You carried your love and burdens so heavy in your heart
Shared your inner radiance with me from the start
And all your love and burdens—I shared with you with joy
Never forget, won't regret, Never forget, won't regret..*

I think of you when the sunlight hits my face..

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 4:24:33 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rebeca Zamora | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:10:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| M. Markl | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello Chair(s) And Committee Members:

Yes Yes Yes. Please help this very necessary and important bill. Because Hawaii images itself to the world as a compassionate nature place, this is the bill that proves it and will lift Hawaii's status and spirit as proof of this. This is the compassionate choice and solution, I am sure you would want for yourselves if you were scared, hungry and thirsty rather than be killed coldbloodedly for not being lucky enough to have someone to protect and love you. Please support this bill at your hearing and with your colleagues to become law this session. Thank you.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:36:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stephen A. Geimer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It is important to keep a balance in life. HB 2593 will do that. Making abandoned pets suffer is not good balance. The registered cat caretakers have reduced the population humanely and their efforts should be supported.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 6:59:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Carlina McCue | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 6:54:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andrea Nandoskar | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support HB2593 HD1 with the following amendments:

1. cat colonies should be registered by zip code rather than by actual address
2. cat traps must not be left unattended- full stop

Mahalo for supporting this bill.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:21:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vicki | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I believe spaying and neutering cats to limit population growth has been working and is more humane than killing them.

Testimony in support of HB2593, HD1

Thank you for hearing HB2593. It's an important bill that includes many issues important to those who care about the safety and health of Hawaii's cats and people. The more the public can understand and support the role of those of us who care about animals and use the system of trap, sterilize, return, and manage (TSRM), the more we can accomplish to control the number of free-roaming cats.

Cats are not meant to be living in our forests and open spaces. They are there only because of thoughtless people who release them, most often not sterilized, not realizing or caring about the danger they pose. The cats are not at fault and there are many of us working to improve the situation.

Those who practice TSRM do so at their own cost and on their own time, preventing the birth of uncountable kittens. This number could reach into the millions using the formulas used by some. The TSRM practitioners also maintain the areas where their colonies exist, with the goal of no cats remaining in the area. Without those practicing TSRM, the number of feral cats in our various environments would increase quickly. With the support of the communities, TSRM could be expanded, lowering kitten birthrates even more. But when some in the community make disparaging remarks about those caring for colonies or make it necessary for those working with the cats to do so after dark, avoiding being noticed, there will be fewer who are willing to volunteer to do the work necessary to lower the number of free-roaming cats.

Please also note that TSRM is rarely if ever practiced in areas where there are endangered or protected species. While a very few of these areas may overlap, these overlapping areas could be addressed by those concerned and compromises could be reached. But this will never happen if many people who are against TSRM continue to speak out against the practice under any circumstances and in any area.

I agree with all of the recommended changes proposed by the Humane Society of the United States in Keith Dane's testimony provided to the House Finance Committee for their hearing on March 1, 2018, at 2:30pm. Unfortunately, none of these amendments were incorporated into the bill at that hearing. I ask that these amendments be considered by this committee for incorporation into the bill. I also support the amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Finally, I suggest using a zip code or similar broad address for the registered colonies. Many caregivers will be very hesitant to give actual addresses for their colonies which will limit the success of the program. I also suggest increasing the penalties for animal abandonment and increasing the enforcement of these violations.

Thank you again for your consideration of this bill.

Mary James
felinitous@yahoo.com

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:17:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Eric Alquisa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan and Committee Members,

Please support and pass HB2593.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:17:57 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Denise S. Honda | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am writing IN SUPPORT of HB 2593.

I have been a volunteer at a cat shelter for the past three years and have seen first hand how the local cat supporters truly care about the humane treatment of feral/free-roaming cats. They are passionate about supporting TNRM and knowledgeable about how to ensure its effectiveness. They are willing to do what it takes to make it work. But, they need the support that this bill provides to make it successful.

There are many who are already participating in effective TNRM projects but many more would be willing to participate if this bill was passed. Currently, many colony caretakers are fearful because people who do not understand TNRM "retaliate" thinking that these caretakers of part of the feral cat overpopulation problem.

Passing this bill will give colony caretakers and feeders the freedom to FULLY implement TNRM programs and its effectiveness can finally be realized.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 7:08:42 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katherine Linster | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I urge you to pass HB 2593 which is a step forward in advancing TNRM, which is a humane long term solution to the growing cat population caused by people. There are no shortcuts to this problem and our actions and decisions on how we solve the problem caused by the most invasive , irresponsible and deadly species, humans, will determine the type of community we live in.

Further, I urge you to find out the truth behind the misinformation that is being spread. Cats are not the source of toxoplasmosis and a TNRM cat community is immune to toxoplasmosis which decreases the spread of it. The source of toxoplasmosis are birds and small rodents. The growth of the cat population is due to domestic dumping of unfixed cats. TNRM caretakers end up managing and fixing these cats too. I urge you to support humane, and humane does not mean killing, it means acting in a way that causes the least harm. TNRM causes the least harm and is the only method that works.

Katherine Linster

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 9:50:35 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| osiris herrera | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Hello, my Name is Osiris Herrera and I live in Waianae, HI.

First of all, I would like to thank you all for this opportunity to an open door of communication regarding TNR efforts. I support this bill very passionately because i know that this is the only humane way to reduce the cat population in the state of Hawaii. I know that many of the community members of this state are concern with the presence of the cats and the threat they think that they pose to other native species. I also would like to believe that we are a civilized community and see the value in life of all animals and not pick and choose who is worthy of life.

I have read many articles from toxoplasmosis to feline hunting to diseases that are publicized with very limited research and backing. These articles are publicized and fed to the residents of Hawaii through social media and radio stations etc. if you only knew the horrible stigma that this created on a species that we ourselves domesticated and brought here. These erroneous articles based of very little research have caused LIVING BEINGS to be poisoned, ripped apart by dogs, shot with arrows, etc. NO LIVING BEING DESERVES THIS. The kind of suffering the cat colonies endure as a result of very irresponsible information being spread is atrocious. Most of these innocent animals were once someones pet, a loving member of someones home that they decided could fend for themselves in the wild because they no longer wanted to take responsibility for their family pet. I hope that the council sees this and can find the compassion in their hearts to support this bill.

TNR is done all over the island by nothing but volunteers who spend their own time and money to protect the cat colonies because we know the value of other living beings. These volunteers have direct contact with these animals and see that they each have a personality; they learn to trust, they love and they also feel fear, pain and sadness. most of these amazing human being endure seeing these same colonies they love and care for out of their own pockets being poisoned and trapped. They see more than just a pest that needs to be eliminated or a weed that needs to be pulled and tossed away. It would really help if TNR can have solid support and laws put into place to help this program be as successful as it has been in many other parts of the world. I believe we can manage the cat population and also protect other species by sterilizing these cats(reducing population), vetting them (reduce any diseases), and feeding them (reduction in hunting). TNR can also help prevent other colonies from sprouting up by

keeping old colonies in place that are healthy and established. Eliminating a colony will only promote another colony moving in, this is why TNR is so important. WE must take responsibility as a human race to HUMANELY reduce the population of these living creature by us all coming together to do support TNR in all communities, put laws into place to stop the mass killings (euthanasia cost more money), stop people from senselessly murdering these cats in the most painful and inhumane way. I have to trust in my heart and have faith in you all reading this, that you will have the compassion in your hearts to protect these innocent animals from suffering at the hands the very humans they once trusted. The vast majority of these cat colonies are dumped pets that are abandoned by their families, cold, hungry, alone and scared. They did nothing wrong . I beg and plead for us all to take responsibility to help these cat colonies. All we have to do is pass this bill and we can have the resources to make a difference. Thank you all so much for an the opportunity for open dialogue.

Very Respectfully,

Osiris Herrera

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:11:41 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Helene P Navaro | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

We strongly support HB 2593 and strongly support TNRM the humane and effective way of controlling feral cat overpopulation.

Catch and Kill simply doesnt work. TNRM works. Feral cats stay in colonies where they can be fed and sick, injured and abandoned ones can be removed. If not fed and catch and kill is in effect what will happen is after pest control companies caught a few cats the rest will start to roam the neighborhood and start breeding and breeding and breeding. How awful it is for our neighborhood. Sick cats to roam to look for food in garbage cans in people yards etc.. the negative impact is monumental. Again Catch and Kill is not effective and inhumane.

PLEASE SUPPORT TNRM simply because it is the right thing to do if you know Cats.

The Toxo Misinformation is just a scare tactic to undermine TNR.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration and support for HB 2593. Mahalo Nui Loa!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 9:17:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angelina Prokudina | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am a volunteer at the Humane Society, foster for a feral kitten right now, and owner to two cats of my own. I am in support of this bill as it is important to fix the cat and further return them back to their environment if they are adults. Euthanization can not be used for healthy animals and further more should not be used on animals with minor colds or light weight either. Each life deserves a chance. Overpopulation will not be fixed by killing animals. It will be fixed by spaying and neutering. After all how can you look into your children's eyes and tell them you support something that kills a lot of lives. So many studies have been done where you there is a direct correlation that goes from animal cruelty to cruelty to those around you. Let's think of the future and cut out animal cruelty and control those who still express it in any way. I support the trap and RELEASE program!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:33:55 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Perry | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support TNR efforts. Statistics show it is much more successful than euthanasia, and frankly, is a more humane practice.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:44:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brandy Massner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TNR as “the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies.” More and more cats are released on public lands due to the increasing population of domestic cats, and TNR is used to help reduce that population by spaying and neutering the reproductive adults.

The caretakers need to be able to do their job without being harassed and threatened.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:34:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Haley Parker | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:10:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shiloh Francis | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Trap-neuter-return, or TNR, has been proven to be the most humane and effective way to manage and reduce feral cat populations. While there have been great efforts to TNR across the island and the state, volunteers have been prevented from doing so in much needed areas such as near boat harbors, city parks, and other government properties. Ultimately, this has prevented efforts to further reduce the feral cat population. TNR can only be successful if it is allowed, and thus it is extremely important that TNR be allowed in more areas. I believe that passing HB 2593 will ultimately reduce feral cat colony numbers and protect our environment, while simultaneously reducing the massively high annual euthanasia rate of stray cats at the Hawaiian Humane Society. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:13:48 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaitlin Hurst | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I fully support HB2593.

As a trapper on the island of Oahu I have seen first hand the positive effects that TNR can have in an area. TNR can stabilize a colony and keep new unfixed cats from infiltrating the area leading to an increase in the population.

Contracting with a rescue group to oversee these colony caretakers will ensure and even more successful TNR system. It will allow for that group to better assess the needs of the different areas and be able to assist in making sure TNR is started and maintained. Allowing such a group to establish a formal TNR/colony caregiver process will yield fast and effective results. In the colony that I established a TNR process for we have not seen any new kittens in over 6 months and the noise/mess complaints have stopped.

With the amount of people on this island who dump their animals, eradicating cats will never happen. Our best option is to control the population through TNR while working on better ways to contain the problem of those who dump pets.

I hope you consider the humane option of allowing a rescue group to oversee colony caretakers and establish a TNR program so we can continue to slow the population growth of cats on this island.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:14:17 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Susana Castillo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Getting rid of feral cats will only cause a disruption with rats and mice. 100% against this bill.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:33:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Melissa Coulommbe | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:38:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kathryn Lautenslager | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:34:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Singer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:42:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| qiu xia lin | Individual | Support | Yes |

Comments:

I think trap , sterilize, and release is a better approach than trapping to kill. There are people that might think getting the cat complete will solve any problem. but I don't think eradication of cats is possible. Getting rid of one specific species of the ecosystem doesn't not save any problem, in fact it will create more problem.

The worship of cats in ancient Egypt was well-founded. cats saved lives by defending families from vermin. without them, civilization as we know it might have never survived. Now we are even thinking about killing them, where there are caretakers willing to provide a safer environment for cats and human, so that we can live harmoniously together.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:09:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alexis E. Jamison | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please pass HB 2593 Relating to Feral Cats. Trap-neuter-return, or TNR, has been proven to be the most humane and effective way to manage and reduce feral cat populations. While there have been great efforts to TNR across the island and the state, volunteers have been prevented from doing so in much needed areas such as near boat harbors, city parks, and other government properties. Ultimately, this has stifled efforts to further reduce the feral cat population. TNR can only be successful if it is allowed, and thus it is extremely important that TNR be allowed in more areas.

I believe that passing HB 2593 will ultimately reduce feral cat colony numbers and protect our environment, while simultaneously reducing the massively high annual euthanasia rate of stray cats at the Hawaiian Humane Society (85+% in Fiscal Year 2016, with 7,496 stray cats euthanized, including 3,787 being feral/unsocialized). As the Aloha state, we must show all animals compassion and work together for a humane solution to the feral cat overpopulation problem. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:25:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mandy Joosten | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Cats have been living outside for thousands of years and they will continue to be a part of our society whether TNR is implemented or not. There is no humane alternative to TNR, the sad reality is that the vast majority of feral cats brought into a shelter will be euthanized. However, if they are allowed to live out their natural lives, most can have a lifespan similar to a pet cat.

Unfortunately, many statements are made about feral cats and how they impose a threat to human and wildlife's health. A study carried out in 2006 (Jennifer L. Wallace and Julie K. Levy, Population Characteristics of Feral Cats Admitted to Seven TrapNeuter-Return Programs in the United States, 8(4) J. Feline Med. Surg. 279, 282 (2006)) showed that out of 103,643 stray and feral cats, less than 1% of the cats needed to be euthanized due to debilitating conditions, trauma, or infectious diseases. Cats that are part of a TNR program and being looked after by caretakers will be more closely followed and possibly be up-to-date on vaccinations too.

To address 'the need to protect wildlife', you should want to **control the community cat population for the sake of the cats, the birds and the environment as a whole.** Catching and killing stray and free roaming cats is not only inhumane, it simply doesn't work.

There are many volunteer caretakers who are willing to step up and help control the cat population humanely. Moreover, TNR has been shown to be successful in other places and subsequently decreased shelter killing rates. **Why not at least give it try?!**

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:12:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jackie Woodruff | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is especially close to my heart!!! Please don't let this important opportunity to provide responsible TNR for managed colonies be lost for us colony caretakers. I work directly with non profit agencies including Joey's Feline Friends, as well as the OSPCA and the Hawaii Humane Society to humanely manage multiple colonies that have resulted over the years from illegal dumps. Along with other volunteers, I've been able to help provide food, water, shelter, sterilization, and medical treatments for abandoned cats in the North Shore area thanks to the non profits alliances I've made with the organizations mentioned.

Two days ago at my office in Kahuku, I heard a cardoor out back and upon opening the backdoor to the office, found a man speeding away in his SUV after dumping 4 newborn kittens in the middle of the parking lot! I was furious!! I immediately brought them into my office, took their picture, posted it on the online forum I'm a part of for colony advocacy, and within seconds had arranged for someone to come pick them up and transport them to the OSPCA where they were paired with a nursing mama cat and have a chance to live a healthy, safe live and can bring joy to others. See the problem is not "feral" cats. The problem is irresponsible and careless humans!!!

Please help us to help the innocent. Yes there are plenty of folks that disregard cats as a nuisance. Don't listen to those people --their way is not the solution. We advocates are doing all the work to make a difference, and we need your support.

Mahalo Nui Loa

Jackie Woodruff

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:08:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deborah Wilson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please give TNR a chance to work!

HHS has tried it by euthanizing thousands and thousands year after year.

It is ineffective ! All animals are important but we shouldn't exterminate one to save another.

TRAP AND KILL does not work.

Give TNR a try.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:06:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| colleen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It is with great sadness that we even have to write these to try and save other living creatures. It's even more heart wrenching that people can be so cruel to throw out beloved family members and think someone else will always take care of them. These animals, most didn't ask to be there, have no voice. We are all animal lovers and to think that wiping out one species will work is false. Please let responsible care takers attempt the TNR and see how well it works. Let people show you they can manage these cats without doing more damage to the environment. We're all animal lovers and we need to show compassion for other living creatures.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:02:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Lisa Kart | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:52:45 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Paige Blose | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 11:34:24 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anna C. Rose | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support the use of colony caregivers on federal, public and private land to trap and sterilize and release versus trap to kill. Studies have proven that killing cats will only allow more cats to move in and colonize the area. The best way to keep population down is to TNR program. Also the most Humane way to treat the cats. Please pass this bill to help to solve this problem.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:42:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| joel fischer | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL!

HB2593, HD1 is our best chance to HUMANELY and EFFECTIVELY deal with the issues surrounding the feral cat situation. To not pass this bill would be a huge slap in the face to all those volunteers who for many years have been caring for cat colonies, expending their time energy and money to manage these colonies.

I have recently reviewed the research on managing and decreasing the size of cat colonies. I am sorry to report that both OHA and DLNR are not telling the truth about the results of TNRM strategies. They are the best methods for reducing colonies. Killing feral cats has been shown in research to be completely ineffective. DLNR has been particularly bloodthirsty and inaccurate in their reporting, and their testimony should be disregarded. Why OHA is joining in with DLNR to provide such misleading information is very strange indeed.

Please support this bill. It is the only ethical way to proceed.

Thank you,

joel

Dr. Joel Fischer

Professor (Ret.)

University of Hawai`i, Manoa

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:33:25 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Pamela Coleman | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:25:20 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Joy Inada | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:21:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Linda Anegawa MD | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly SUPPORT legislation that allows feral colony caretakers to perform TNR for island feral cats. This is a humane and just solution that protects wildlife and the public health. Killing feral animals is NOT a solution.

Thank you,

Linda Anegawa MD

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:06:41 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shawne Schmidt | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:49:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Joanne Kai | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:40:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Holly Harris | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

As an individual who has practiced, and continues to do so, with TNR of feral cats nationwide for decades, I can testify first-hand the positive effectiveness for all concerned, in doing so. Not only is it the most effective way to reduce feral cat populations, but it enables a healthier, constantly monitored population as well.

Educated caregivers of the colonies, help control disease, illness, injuries, actively adopt any socialized kittens born before neutering, help educate the public and train/teach new caregivers, know and use techniques to control any personal or environmental damage, help lower any monetary costs to the public, and help keep a more humane and healthy relationship for all.

The most common source in the United States of the transfer of the Toxoplasmosis parasite, is not through cats, but through eating raw meat, and unwashed fruits and vegetables.

PLEASE support this bill, and allow TNR programs and caregivers, to show the state of Hawaii, that this is the most effective way to reduce feral cat population, which will reduce any issues related to their existence, which is what we all want.

Thank you,

Holly Harris

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:23:24 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| loresha iwane | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Help stray cats! Tired of people torturing innocent animals!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:41:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hilson Reidpath | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2593 HD1.

As a resident of Oahu I have seen the problem of feral cats continue to grow. I have also seen a great deal of misunderstanding spread throughout the community about the goals of trap-steralize-return. I strongly support the state creating an infrastructure that addresses an undeniably serious problem in an informed and compassionate. Give the the people who understand and want to help these animals the legislative protections they need to do their work. There is a strong and active community that already exists for this, this measure would only further strengthen their efforts.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:37:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Breanne O'Neil | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am testifying as an individual citizen that HB2593 be supported. As a wildlife ecologist and conservation major I personally support HB2593. Trap-Neuter-Return is a humane way to reduce the feral population on Oahu without euthanizing these animals that we, humans, created. It is not the cat's fault that humans lack the responsibility to properly spay and neuter their animals.

Colony caretakers should utilize the Trap-Neuter-Return to properly maintain and monitor feral populations. Not only will this allow for the reduction of the overpopulation of ferals on Oahu, it will also allow for the education on the importance of spay and neuter.

Thank you for your your time and care consideration.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 7:24:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christina Martell | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support HB 2593 as it pertains to feral cats. When I first arrived on the island and witnessed kind people feeding homeless cats I thought it was such a kind and selfless thing to do. As I became more familiar with the plights of these animals I was outraged at the attitude a lot of people have regarding them and the way they are treated.

I rescued two small kittens who showed up on my doorstep, sick, cold and hungry. I nursed them back to health and with help from Poi Dogs and Popoki, they were sterilized and now are a part of my family. I have since helped to rescue sterilize and domesticate several cats that I have found myself or taken in from other kind souls, had them neutered at Poi Dogs and Popoki's mobile unit also and found loving, caring homes for them. These cats did not chose to be homeless, hungry and free roaming on this island. It isn't their fault that they are in this predicament, it is people who caused this and people who should help to get it under control, by humane actions such as TNR.

I began feeding a small colony myself a few months ago, it all started with one little black kitty who was searching for food. I followed her and when I opened the can of cat food, 8 more came mewling for some food themselves. With the help of kind people who have loaned me a trap and provided me with donated certificates to do the TNR, my colony will stay small and manageable. If this bill is passed, it will help other people to do the same that don't have access to the same resources.

Please pass this bill and give caretakers the help and support they need to help all of the innocent cats on this island.

Sincerely,

Christina Martell

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:44:57 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| kellie cowper johnasen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support TNR for feral colonies. This is humane and has been proven successful. Feral cats help control the rodent population without the use of harmful pesticides that seep into the earth and cause other animals to get sick and die. TNR does work! I support this bill.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:46:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| alissa collins | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I am in complete support of HB 2593. The passing of HB 2593 Relating to Feral Cats in colonies here in Hawaii will not only help those that take care of colonies but allow for TNR. Trap-Nueter-Release has been proven to be the *most* humane and effective way to manage and reduce feral cat populations. This will ultimately reduce the feral cat population more effectively than euthanasia. The bill would facilitate oversight and support for volunteers, and grant them access to important areas that can benefit from TNR. Thanks for your time.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:55:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| stacy tokunaga | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

TNR is and always will be a better option than trapping to kill. It is not only necessary but is the humane thing to do. It is not the fault of these cats that they are in this situation and they should not be punished for it. Do the right thing and allow colony caretakers to TNR.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 9:11:12 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hoku Higa | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I support the the bill HB 2593 to allow Trap-Neuter-Return on government lands instead of Trap-Kill.

Mahalo

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 9:32:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wayne Niide | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Please support HB 2593.

Free Roaming Cats are present in our Community through no fault of their own (i.e. free roaming pets, abandonment).

Hence, they do exist and deserve humane treatment by a proper TNRM program managed by Caretakers:

1. Trapping (humanely)
2. Neutering (to minimize colony population)
3. Return (return them to their Community...home)
4. Manage (monitor colony and then...repeat #1 – 4 to keep population under control)

TNRM does work and deserves your support.

In addition, support and recognition should be given to the Caretakers of colonies who tirelessly give their own time and money to manage a colony.

Lastly please don't forget that these cats are God's creatures and supporting HB2593 could be looked upon as your personal effort at divine intervention.

“Never, never be afraid to do what’s right, especially if the well-being of a person or animal is at stake. Society’s punishments are small compared to the wounds we inflict on our soul when we look the other way.” [Martin Luther King Jr.](#)

Thank you!

Wayne Niide

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:42:26 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tammy Ahlo | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support Bill HB2593 HD1. I appose killing by any means. Killing is not the answer and will not solve the problem. TNRM works there should be more focus on the people who abandon these animals. This is were the whole problem starts. A feral cat was once someone's pet that was no longer wanted. We need to work together. Start by making it affordable for people to fix their pets.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 5:47:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mary Christal | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill. TNR is used in many communities across the nation and it works. Trap and kill does not work and is cruel. Show compassion; many of these cats have been dumped by irresponsible owners.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 6:56:27 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Len Fergusen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:24:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Julie Chen | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support HB2593 HD1. TNR is the humane and effective way to reduce the feral/community cat population in Hawaii.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:40:46 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| El P. Lopes | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 9:03:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Denise Wigmore | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 8:17:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| David Duffy | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committees

I am not writing in my private capacity. I am a biologist and have worked on endangered and invasive wildlife for forty years, with several publications on the management of feral cats. In 2012, Paula Capece and I wrote a peer-reviewed paper entitled the Biology and Impacts of Pacific Island Invasive Species. 7. The Domestic Cat (*Felis catus*) in Pacific Science 66(2):173-212 (University of Hawaii Press). It summarizes what we know about cats in the Pacific from their colonization to their impact, to their diseases, to their management. Reprints are online at <http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hpicesu/UHBotany/PDF/2012.pdf>

I would like to refer to the testimony previously submitted by Chairperson Case of DLNR and by OHA who oppose HB 2593. They have made cogent arguments as to why this bill should not see the light of day.

The bill enshrines Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR) as the official management method for feral and other outdoor cats in Hawaii. Apart from sentiment, there is little to no evidence that TNR works except in small colonies of cats in areas where further immigration is impossible. Even the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals oppose TNR: cats are released back into the environment to be chased by dogs, run over by cars or to die slowly of feline AIDS and other diseases. Cats returned to the wild can continue to kill our native birds. Cat droppings can continue to spread Toxoplasmosis to our monk seals, 'alalā and dolphins, all of which have been found dead and infected with Toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis can also cause birth defects in human babies.

This bill would delegate parts of two state functions, management of our wildlife and of public safety, to a private organization. There are no details of how this would work, or how much it would cost. Others testifying in favor have suggested that the organization's operatives should be kept secret. It is hard to see how there could be any accountability. The bill calls for "Exempting registered feral cat caretakers from state and county laws relating to the feeding and confinement of cats." So, operating above the law, caretakers could turn our sand boxes, school grounds, public parks and even our private lands into litter boxes?

Cat colonies have been established near areas with migratory or endangered birds that enjoy protection under state and federal law and treaties. If this bill becomes law, the state would be sponsoring violations of these laws by legalizing the take (killing) of such species. The state can expect to be sued, as New York State currently is, in federal court.

Capece and I in our paper suggest: “Compromise management might best fall into three broad classes: (1) eradication of cats should be confined to islands and other areas of high native biodiversity where reintroduction can be prevented; (2) in a landscape of low or moderate biological value, efforts should be made to educate the public to reduce the impact of their cats on remaining wildlife, while excluding cats from “islands” of elevated biodiversity values or human sensitivity; (3) in drastically simplified urban ecosystems, management should occur only in response to local complaints.” In only the third case might TNR be an option.

Management of outdoor cats is complex. This bill has an admirable goal but for legal, ethical, ecological and humane reasons, it is just not the answer.

Respectfully submitted,

David Cameron Duffy Ph.D.

Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit

University of Hawaii Manoa

(address given only for purposes of identification, I do not speak for the university in this testimony)

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:22:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bryan Berkowitz | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

There are 300,000 to 600,000 feral cats on Maui according to the Maui Humane Society. There are 150,000 people. These feral cats are detrimental to our native endangered bird population and marine mammals as they spread toxoplasmosis. Our once beautiful beaches are turning into giant litterboxes. We do not need more people feeding more feral cats. Trap Neuter Release does not work. <https://abcbirds.org/program/cats-indoors/trap-neuter-release/>

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:52:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| ANDREW SALENGER | Individual | Oppose | Yes |

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, on behalf of all bird and marine mammals in Hawaii, but especially the endemic endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal. Because feral cats carry and spread toxo, there need to be more restrictions on feral cat colonies.

It is not enough for the Senate to look at this bill aimed at feral cat colonies and conclude this is a good cause without considering the known and obvious effects of passing this legislation. Here, it is obvious that in trying to encourage humane feral cat treatment that this bill actually hurts one or more critically endangered species.

If every feral cat in Hawaii died at the same time, there still would be plenty of cats in Hawaii (house cats). And if Hawaii ever needed more cats, then the mainland US and pretty much every nation around the world could easily pitch in and send us some. BUT, there is no way to increase the number of critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals once they are gone. They will be lost forever, much like the Caribbean Monk Seal.

Rather than treating this as a bill about the humane treatment of feral cats, you should see this as an attack on biodiversity in Hawaii. Do not let feral cats prevail over Hawaii's natural wildlife. Both cannot be protected - you have to make a choice. Choose the seal!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:45:01 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Travis Usinger | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Hello, I am currently attending UH Manoa as a graduate student in the Natural Resources and Environmental Management program. I am strongly against this bill because I believe that trap, neuter, release programs are ineffective and have high risks of promoting disease, predation of native bird populations, and causing harm to people's pet cats at home from cat fights. I am citing this research as my evidence for this position.

Costs and benefits of trap-neuter-release and euthanasia for removal of urban cats in Oahu, Hawaii.

Conserv Biol. 2013 Feb;27(1):64-73. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01935.x. Epub 2012 Sep 25.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23009077>

"When no additional domestic cats were abandoned by owners and the trap and euthanize program removed 30,000 cats in the first year, the colony was extirpated in at least 75% of model simulations within the second year. It took 30 years for trap-neuter-release to extirpate the colony."

Thank you,

Travis Usinger

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 8:37:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Glenn Metzler | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Representatives,

I am a biologist working in Hawaii for 12 years. It cannot be any clearer based on studies that feral cats kill large numbers of birds in Hawaii, many of which are endangered. In addition their feces are the source of the parasitic disease toxoplasmosis which affects mammals including humans. This bill does not solve these problems and makes them potentially worse. Please do not support this bill.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Glenn Metzler

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 5:43:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jody Smith | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

This is a terrible idea for Hawaii. TNRM is not effective here in our island ecosystems. From our tropic birds on East O'ahu to our endangered pueo nesting in the grasses of West O'ahu, our native birds are dangerously imperiled by feral cats (and other introduced predators such as mongoose and rats). TNRM does not eliminate the instinct in cats to HUNT. This cannot be mitigated in any way -- these animals can no longer be allowed to live freely on our Hawaiian landscapes.

Furthermore, TNRM is not truly compassionate -- merely providing food to these animals, without medication and medical care is not truly compassionate, it's just cheap to do. These cats need to be cared for in a sanctuary environment, such as is being done in the Lana'i Cat Sanctuary, where both cats and birds are protected.

lanaicatsanctuary.org

Don't fall for these false arguments about TNRM citing studies from the mainland, where we have local scientists who have documented the DAMAGE free roaming cats are causing on our islands.

Don't forget the problem of TOXOPLASMOSIS organisms which multiply in the gut of cats and is transferred by water and infected food to our endangered monk seals. Of course this disease poses a threat to humans as well.

Please oppose HB2593.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 1:30:15 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret Dicey | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition to HB2593 HD1.

I agree that the feral cat population in the Hawaiian Islands is a problem that needs to be effectively addressed. However, I do not support Trap Sterilize and Return or HB2593 HD1 as a solution that benefits the Hawaii ecosystem or its native fauna. Hawaii continues to struggle with the negative impact of introduced species on its unique and precious native fauna and flora. Cats are, by their nature, carnivorous predators that cannot distinguish between abundant introduced bird species and Hawaii's critically endangered endemic birds. Legally allowing feral cat colonies is in opposition to the dedicated efforts of those who are working to preserve and restore the endangered endemic and indigenous bird populations. Cats which carry *Toxoplasmosa gondii* are a threat to our unique and endangered Hawaiian Monk Seal.

I have lived in the same rural forested subdivision on the Big Island for 40 years, and within the last year endemic apapane and amakihi have extended their range into my neighborhood. I have documented that the apapane have been breeding here at 500' elevation during the last two breeding seasons. It is encouraging progress to see these native species returning to lower elevations that they historically inhabited, but from which they had been extirpated by negative environmental impacts. It is hoped that these beautiful and unique Hawaiian birds will continue to spread to the lower elevations they previously inhabited. Feral cat populations will have an opposing impact on this process.

Yes, we need a solution to the spread of feral cats, but legally sanctioning feral cat populations is not the solution, and will have unintended negative impacts on Hawaii's fragile nature environment.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 11:07:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| LANCE TANINO | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

I oppose HB2593 HD1. Feral cats do not need caretakers, neither do feral chickens, rats, and mongoose. Feral cats should be treated as pests, they need to be removed at all costs as well as mongoose and rats. Feral cats have been proven scientifically to be harmful to native wildlife (birds, monk seals, and other marine mammals). Feral cat colonies are also not healthy for humans. We do not need feral cat colonies at public parks and beaches.

Thank you very much,

Lance Tanino, Wildlife Biologist

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:38:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Andre Francis Raine | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

I completely oppose this bill and frankly am surprised to see it has got this far already.

Firstly, I fail to understand how a bill such as this can allow a single interest group to operate entirely outside of the law. It states that the bill 'Exempts registered caretakers of feral cats from state laws and county ordinances relating to the feeding and confinement of cats.' Why should cat caretakers be allowed immunity to the law, and through what legitimate reason?

This is particularly baffling when one considers the well known and scientifically documented impacts that feral cats have on both human health and native and endangered wildlife.

For human health, there is a huge body of scientific research and medical evidence that highlights the impact feral cats have on humans, both indirectly through contact with urine and faeces, as well as directly through scratches and bites. Concentrating feral animals at a feeding station amplifies this impact. The human health impacts are particularly troubling, including diseases such as toxoplasmosis (which can cause spontaneous abortion, congenital toxoplasmosis which can affect children and severe symptoms in individuals with compromised immune systems), cat-scratch disease and sporotrichosis. Children come into contact with cat faeces at beaches and playgrounds, as well as fleas and a host of parasites in areas where the animals are concentrated.

The second main issue with cat colonies is their impact on native and endangered Hawaiian wildlife. The state of Hawaii is the extinction capital of the US, with a large number of endangered species that are perilously close to extinction. A well-known cause of the decline of many of these species is introduced predators, particularly cats. Cats have been documented preying on endangered species such as Nene, Hawaiian Moorhen, Newell's Shearwater, Hawaiian Petrel - often in very large numbers. A single cat is capable of killing large numbers of these birds in a very short period of time. Furthermore, cats coming from colonies near coastal areas are regularly documented killing large numbers of nesting Wedge-tailed Shearwaters and wetland species. All of these species are protected by law. Toxoplasmosis has also now been found to be the cause of death of critically endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals and Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins - troubling in itself, but even more so when one considers

that there must be significant amounts of toxoplasmosis in our near-shore waters for dolphins to contract the disease and die from it.

Finally, TNR programs - while perhaps well intentioned - do not work. This has been proven over and over again and presented in an array of scientific papers. They do not result in a decline in cat colonies, for a wide range of documented reasons (including the impossibility of neutering all of the animals in a cat colony as many of the animals are trap shy coupled with the extremely high breeding rate of those cats that remain un-neutered, and the addition of new cats into the TNR area). All TNR programs will do is continue to perpetuate the problem on our landscape.

The vast majority of people in Hawaii do not want feral cats on the landscape. They do not want feeding stations with rusty tins and rotting food scattered across the areas they walk or go for recreation. They do not want their children picking up cat faeces when they are building sand castles or visiting playgrounds.

I would therefore urge you, for all of these reasons, to reject this bill.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:01:03 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D. | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:53:44 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Monte Wayne Tudor-Long | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing today to urge you to oppose the bill HR2593 "Relating to Feral Cats". I am one of your constituents living in Maui's Upcountry area. I have extensive experience working in conservation, particular with respect to detecting, controlling and eradicating invasive species here on Maui that cause irreparable harm to the 'Ä• ina.

Section 1 of this bill contain many inaccuracies and omissions. The very first paragraph mentions problems that arise from feral cats but neglects to mention their most significant impact here in Hawai'i: they are predators in an ecosystem that evolved for millions of years devoid of anything resembling carnivorous mammals. The documentation is clear: feral cats contribute substantially to the killing of endangered native species and have done so for two centuries. As you surely know, Hawai'i is the Earth's "Extinction Capital" -- and one of the reasons for this is the irresponsible and misguided behavior of human beings who inadvertently introduce non-native species into our ecosystems and then fail to support the removal of those species. A vote in favor of this bill is a vote in favor of a destructive alien predator and against Hawai'i's endangered species and ecosystems.

Section 1, Paragraph 2 states that "euthanasia does not address the problem of exponential increases in the cat population", and implies that unsterilized cats living outside of a "colony" are not already actively breeding and contributing to the species' population growth in the state. Both of these notions are completely false: feral cats do not need to reside in a "colony" to reproduce: they range widely throughout Hawai'i's native forests, far from the colonies that this bill refers to -- and they are breeding in these wild areas just fine. It is true that euthanizing only those cats living in a known colony would fail to address the exponential increase in the cat population elsewhere. However those of us dedicated to eradicating harmful invasive species are engaged in work far from the places that the "caretakers" of feral cats are focussed on, out in the wild areas where feral cats endure without any input from humans. The eradication of any invasive species will only happen via an extensive program involving euthanasia at both these colonies as well as throughout Hawai'i's wildlands. If you are doubtful, please speak with any of the experts at Maui Invasive Species Committee, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, the Department of Land & Natural Resources, or the

Hawaii Department of Agriculture who are steeped in Hawai'i's invasive species crisis every single day. With respect to the "vacuum" mentioned in this paragraph: if these feral cat colonies were not provided with food and care from humans, they would not even exist. The population size of a colony is not fixed by some external factor: it is entirely dependant upon the amount of support provided to it by humans. Without constant feeding the cats would eventually disperse: these colonies were created by the people providing the food, and any "vacuum" that exists is artificially created by these caretakers.

Section 1, Paragraph 3 states that euthanasia is less "humane" than the trap-sterilize-return process. This statement is true only if one values the life of an invasive non-native mammalian predator over the lives of the countless native animals and even species that these cats are annihilating. No one can legitimately claim to care about Hawai'i's endangered species and ecosystems if they support the preservation of an invasive predator like feral cats. This paragraph also contains the illogical argument that the trap-sterilize-return process will lead to the gradual reduction in the colony's size, presumably through attrition via natural death. Whether an individual cat's place in a colony is vacated through natural death or euthanasia, the supposed "vacuum" created looks the same to the supposedly non-breeding loner feral cats living on the periphery: according to this bill's logic, one of them would immediately fill this vacuum, resulting in the colony's population remaining stable. Again, the size of the colony is a direct function of the food and care provided to it by humans.

In short, this bill is an irresponsible abdication of our responsibility to preserve and care for Hawai'i's native species. By supporting this bill you would be endorsing and codifying the preservation of a non-native species whose presence in the state is known to significantly contribute to the destruction of native species. Please show your support for Hawai'i's 'Ä• ina and its endangered native species by opposing this bill.

Mahalo.

Monte Tudor-Long

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 8:54:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Javier Cotin | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

I wish start by saying that while I am a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I am offering this as personal testimony and do not speak on behalf of the University.

I am strongly against this bill. There have been several well documented research studies that show that TNR does not work to actually reduce cat population numbers. In some cases it actually increases the problem as people then see cat colonies as a safe place to abandon their cats.

Even when done "successfully" the measure by cat advocates is not reduction of cats but how well the cats are living. In the mean time the cats continue to degrade the environment by killing more native species directly or by spreading diseases including toxoplasmosis and hookworms.

I love cats, but I think if we keep such a big cat colonies in Hawaii, or keep promoting the TNR, endemic and native animals on Hawaii are doomed, and all the conservation effort will be wasted.

Please follow the example of Australia and New Zealand. Cats should be kept indoors, or away from the native ecosystems.

Best regards and mahalo

Javier.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:31:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rae | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB2593 relating to feral cats. I am a Hawai'i resident, born and raised on O'ahu, with a degree in Biology and a Masters in Environmental Studies. I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I know that this a very emotionally-charged issue. However, I ask that you look at this issue rationally.

Feral cats have been added to Hawai'i's list of most impactful invasive species.

"Feral cats were among little fire ants, rapid ohia death, pigs and other species on a list of some of the most impactful invasive species in Hawai'i, submitted to the Western Governors' Association by Gov. David Ige." (Source: <http://www.thegardenisland.com/2018/03/18/hawaii-news/feral-cats-make-invasive-species-list/>)

Why would we grant immunity (exemption to state laws and county ordinances) to people who are helping a recognized invasive species persist in the environment? Just because cats are spayed or neutered doesn't stop them from hunting. Yes, I understand that it's not the fault of cats that they are in this situation. Yet, it is not the fault of fire ants either but difficult decisions have to be made to protect our fragile ecosystems, native wildlife, and natural resources.

TNR is not supported by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Throughout the life of this bill, DLNR has consistently submitted testimony in opposition due to impacts of cats on wildlife and natural resources, toxoplasmosis, and because it would open up the state to potential lawsuits under the Endangered Species Act (like what is currently happening in New York).

TNR does not work.

The publications that TNR advocates use to show that TNR works are studies that have sample sizes of hundreds to a few thousands of cats (one study by Levy, Isaza, and Scott in the Veterinary Journal that an individual cited as proof that TNR works in their testimony before the House Committee on Agriculture had a sample size of 2,366 cats).

This number simply cannot scale to the hundreds of thousands of cats we have in our islands. TNR cannot possibly do enough to stem the growth of the hundreds of thousands of cats in our islands. TNR is not the solution to help reduce our growing feral cat epidemic.

TNR is not more humane than euthanasia.

The process of TNR and humane euthanasia are the same up until the animal is anesthetized. Once the animal is put under, that's when either the euthanasia or surgery happens. With euthanasia, the cat doesn't wake up from the anesthesia. With TNR, the cat gets the surgery and is put back out in the environment without ongoing pain medication, flea treatments, or follow-up veterinarian visits. I've been trapped in a hotel parking lot because a colony of cats was being fed behind my car. The smell is what hits your first. Then looking at these animals, I could see the poor condition in many of the cats were in. No amount of food thrown at them could make up for the lack of ongoing care. Just because "no kill" methods may make us feel better, it doesn't change the fact that TNR is inhumane. Whether something is humane should be focused on quality of life, not length of life.

This bill starts with false statements in SECTION 1.

The bill states, *"although counties may attempt to control the feral cat population by euthanizing feral cats, euthanasia does not address the problem of exponential increases in the cat population. When cats from a colony are euthanized, they leave a vacuum that is filled when other unsterilized cats enter the same colony and start reproducing."*

Let's think about this for a second. When a cat is taken out of the population and humanely euthanized, it can't reproduce. When a cat is sterilized and returned to a colony, it can't reproduce. The only difference between the two scenarios is that one is returned to the population and the other is removed. Yes, another cat will fill in for the cat taken out of the population, because our islands are overrun by so many cats. If you keep with the humane euthanasia program, you can begin chipping away at the population numbers. Another cat cannot take the place of a sterilized cat because the cat is still there, but that doesn't mean that other cats are not still reproducing around it. A cat colony is not like a fenced sanctuary; "non-colony" cats can still come and go. If humane euthanasia is like bailing out a sinking boat with a small bucket, TNR is like bailing out your sinking boat with a thimble that's got holes in it.

The bill goes on to say, *"The legislature further finds that the trap-sterilize-return process is not only more humane than euthanization, but less costly. In the trap-sterilize-return process, feral cats are caught in humane traps, sterilized so that they can no longer reproduce, and surgically ear-tipped or ear-notched on one ear so that they may be easily identified as sterilized. The process may also include removing fleas and vaccinating the cats."*

TNR is not less costly than humane euthanasia. For humane euthanasia you need to trap, transport, euthanize the animal and it's done. For TNR, you would need to trap, transport, sterilize, remove fleas, provide vaccinations, and transport the animal back to the colony. I'm also assuming you'd also want to continue care when possible right? So add on to the initial TNR costs the additional costs of ongoing veterinary care for sickness and injuries, food, water, maintenance, etc. The money that the state puts into managing public parks, beaches, restoring native habitat, and protecting native species is also wasted because the cats defecate in these areas, predate native wildlife, and spread disease. The statement that TNR is less costly just doesn't add up.

The biggest issue I have with this bill is section 3, registered caretaker privileges, which exempts feral cat caretakers from state law and county ordinances. Laws and ordinances are created for a reason and we all should have to follow them. It's infuriating that organizations/individuals that are degrading our environment, putting cats in inhumane conditions, jeopardizing our native wildlife and natural resources, and deteriorating public health would be granted immunity for their actions. I understand that caretakers mean well, they put a lot of effort and heart into their work. However, good intentions do not change reality.

I'm tired of reading articles that highlight the political will and conservation efforts of places like New Zealand, then juxtaposing their triumphs with the struggles of Hawai'i and the rest of the United States to get the feral cat issue under control because the solutions are tough. We are islands. There is finite space. And this finite space is occupied by rare native species that are found nowhere else in the world. Species that have been shown via video footage or necropsies to have suffered mortalities due to cats.

For the sake of our environment, native wildlife, public health and even the welfare of cats, please do not move HB2593 forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:48:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lauren Michelle Morawski | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

PLEASE DO NOT SUPPORT THIS AWFUL AND INHUMANE BILL HB2593 . WE AS HUMANKIND ARE WAY BETTER THEN THIS. TN and Release is far more humane way to care for our feral cats then death. Please keep in mind we LOVE animals and caring for them in humane ways raises our consciousness and teaches the younger generation to be compassionate and Kind, characteristics that need to be reinforced in our modern society. This bill is not a Humane piece of legislation PLEASE do not support this bill!! mahalo piha

Testimony in opposition to HB2593 HD1

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB2593 as a resident of Waialua, Oahu, as a veterinarian who cares deeply for animal welfare, and as an avid gardener and supporter of local agriculture. This bill would allow the use of public lands to support private interests (Trap-Neuter-Release/Return, or TNR programs) that have proven inability to deal with cat overpopulation, leading to consequences for human health and the health and survival of our precious native and endangered species. The risks that cats pose are ugly and often underrepresented. Voting to support TNR is a vote to keep cats on the landscape and put human and wildlife health at risk.

We have a severe cat overpopulation problem in Hawaii and it needs to be addressed, but not through TNR as proposed in HB2593. TNR may superficially appear to be a humane solution for the cats but it neglects the harsh realities that these animals are highly efficient breeders, capable predators and the only definitive host of *Toxoplasma gondii*, an infectious, potentially deadly parasite that contaminates the environment and is spread **exclusively** through cat feces. Scientific support for effective TNR is limited to very small populations and geographic areas where immigration of new cats can be finely controlled. That is not the case for our islands, where cats number in the tens to hundreds of thousands on Oahu alone. Cats can be anywhere on the landscape in Hawaii, whether it be in the mountains or near the beaches, and still pose a substantial threat to native wildlife and endangered species through both disease transmission (toxoplasmosis) and predation. The State of Hawaii should not be condoning TNR, an ill-informed, seemingly noble practice that has long-lasting repercussions for our health and that of our ecosystem.

This is an important issue to me as an avid gardener and someone who is dependent upon supplementing my family's food through local and home-grown produce but is put at risk from diseases carried by outdoor cats, especially as a pregnant woman expecting my first child.

Instead, efforts and resources must focus on preventing abandonment and educating our public that cats need to stay indoors for their own best welfare and for that of human and wildlife health. Organizations, agencies and individuals on both sides of the TNR issue will agree that this is a key component to managing the cat overpopulation problem and this is where negotiations and state efforts must focus, not on allowing and funding TNR.

Some facts of great importance:

- Whether feral, part of colonies, free-roaming pets, spayed or neutered, all outdoor cats put our health at risk by contaminating our environment with *Toxoplasma gondii*, a parasite that can cause abortion, birth defects, illness and in extreme cases, death.

- *Toxoplasma* infections impact our native and endangered wildlife too. This disease has killed several Hawaiian monk seals, 'alala, nene and more. When populations are endangered, a small number of deaths has a big impact on the future of the species.
- Feeding cats does not prevent predatory behaviors.
- Spaying/neutering cats does nothing to prevent disease spread/environmental contamination with *Toxoplasma* eggs
- The feces from a single cat can contain millions of microscopic, infectious *Toxoplasma* eggs that are long-lived in soil, salt and fresh water (for months to years) - persisting long after the feces have decomposed. They are flushed mauka to makai and contaminate our environment at all levels.
- Cats are the ONLY species that deposit these eggs in the environment and hence all infections and all environmental/prey contamination originate with cats.
- Cats can become re-infected later in life - this is not just a kitten problem.
- It takes as little as one egg to cause infection in people and other animals, and pregnant women exposed during pregnancy are at high risk.

Personally, this bill affects my family and my community in this way:

- Cat feces contaminate the soil in which we grow our food and the food itself (produce and meat). The diseases they transmit, most notably toxoplasmosis, are a health risk to us and our native wildlife.
- Buying food locally is important to our quality of life and that of our community, but being at risk for these diseases is a great concern.
- Free-roaming cats are a nuisance and destroy my garden.
- Their feces contaminate my backyard/garden with diseases as mentioned above. I can become infected through gardening and as a pregnant woman, my unborn baby is at higher risk.
- Our yard has a stream behind it that drains straight to the ocean, meaning that the diseases passed in cat feces can go straight to our nearshore waters and can infect wildlife including the native Hawaiian moorhen residing in our stream (plus there's the risk cats pose to these waterbirds through predation).
- We care greatly for the other native wildlife that have been impacted both by predation and by disease that spurs from cats.

Please stand up for the facts and our human and ecosystem health, especially for those of us at increased risk of exposure through gardening and agriculture (and pregnancy/raising families).

Sincerely,

Michelle Barbieri Lino

Waialua, HI

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:05:58 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Smith | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

I oppose this bill for several reasons:

1. There is no funding allotted for this program.
2. There is no agency specified to oversee this program.
3. Several recent studies have shown that trap, neuter and release (TNR) programs are ineffective in dealing with feral cat populations.

One study by Lohr, et. al. ([Conserv Biol.](#) 2013 Feb;27(1):64-73) analyzed data collected on Oahu. This study modeled changes over 30 years in abundance of cats in a feral colony in response to management methods. The study concluded that " When no additional domestic cats were abandoned by owners and the trap and euthanize program removed 30,000 cats in the first year, the colony was extirpated in at least 75% of model simulations within the second year. It took 30 years for trap-neuter-release to extirpate the colony." The same study showed that TNR never reduced numbers of cats to near-zero in the same 30 year period. In addition, TNR was twice as expensive to implement as the trap and euthanize program. Finally, the use of volunteers showed TNR to be still less cost-effective than trap and euthanize programs to employ.

Another study by McCarthy, et. al. ([J Am Vet Med Assoc.](#) 2013 Aug 15;243(4):502-11) determined the effectiveness of three methods to control feral cat populations. "Unless > 57% of cats were captured and neutered annually by TNR or removed by lethal control, there was minimal effect on population size." A capture rate of >82% was required for TNR to reduce populations in 4000 days.

At the present time many TNR programs do not produce substantial and persistent reductions in cat populations.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:11:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lynette Williams | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:13:53 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brooke McFarland | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

TNR is an ineffective, inhumane and dangerous practice. TNR does not reduce the number of cats on the landscape, and results in the death of native wildlife and disease for humans and marine mammals. TNR feeding stations attract cats to areas that are often used by the community and result in unsanitary conditions at our parks and playgrounds, as well as many other places. Cats on the landscape are also subject to disease, parasites and violence and have shortened lives. We should be discouraging the concept of TNR and community cats and instead working to educate the public about the need to neuter and spay their animals, keep them inside and turn over unwanted animals to the Humane Society or a rescue organization. Cats do not belong outdoors in Hawaii.

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:26:02 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Uyen Truong | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 4:41:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Paul Smith | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

This is an irresponsible bill that should NEVER be passed and instituted into law.

Feral cats are introduced, non-native, invasive predators that have been established in the fragile Hawaiian Island ecosystem. They pose a clear and present threat to a large number of threatened and endangered species found throughout the Hawaiian islands. Direct predation of endangered shearwaters, Oahu elepaio, and other terrestrial and marine birds by feral cats has been repeatedly documented throughout the islands. Multiple deaths of critically endangered Hawaiian Monk seals have been directly attributed to toxoplasmosis infection resulting from feral cat feces runoff into the ocean. Support of TNR will only serve to maintain this scourge on the environment.

From a practical perspective, over 50% TNR colonies fail to reduce feral cat populations within their action area. The most effective colonies have only managed to reduce feral cat populations by about 40% over a 10 year period. These results were achieved with significant financial input for sterilization and maintenance of an active adoption program. These "successful" programs were also analyzed at a local level, and failed to make any impacts on a landscape scale. Many TNR programs fail outright because of lack of oversight, inconsistent volunteerism, and variable funding, leaving the community back at square one after implementation of this "humane" tactic. TNR is not effective and does not meet the needs of the community for reducing feral cat populations.

From the financial side, there is nothing positive about this bill. Multiple millions of federal and state dollars are spent every year on conservation and preservation of threatened and endangered flora and fauna. All of the military services, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, and numerous non-governmental agencies are tasked through regulatory requirements to implement measures to protect and preserve threatened and endangered wildlife in Hawaii. Much of their action is aimed at controlling predators, including feral cats. Passage of this bill would create new government spending that would work DIRECTLY AGAINST the legally mandated tasks of these agencies.

From a community perspective, passage of this bill would signal that the legislature is choosing to place the desires of a loud and organized minority of the population over

the comfort, safety, health, and well being of the majority. Passage of this bill will remove avenues of recourse for members of the community that have legitimate complaints regarding cat colonies and their caretakers. Citizens will be forced to live with the smell of cat urine and feces associated with cat colonies. Citizens with cat allergies will have no way to alleviate the problem if their neighbor wants to feed a feral cat colony, and cats are routinely roaming their property.

I urge that this horrible bill be cut down now. Passage of this bill would be fiscally, environmentally, and morally irresponsible. The state of Hawaii should be looking at ways to eliminate invasive predators from the Islands, not protect them!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 7:32:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ilana Nimz | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

In Hawaii, feral cats are an invasive species that harms native wildlife. Please do not encourage Trap Neuter Release programs- this is an inappropriate solution. Feral cats should be removed from the environment to prevent spread of disease (i.e. Toxoplasmosis) and their killing native and endangered animals (i.e. waterbirds, seabirds)

Aloha,

Hawai'i state senate, I am writing to express my concern with HB2593. Feral cats are recognized as one of the most damaging invasive species in the world and are responsible for the extinction of 30-40 species globally including several native birds here in Hawai'i. Cats continue to pose major threats to birds and other wildlife in Hawai'i as well as to public health. The western governors association have moved to include cats as the number 13 spot for worst invasive species in the western US and Hawai'i.

Feral cats are the leading cause of adult seabird mortality throughout the state and have driven populations of 'u'au (Hawaiian petrel) down nearly 90% and a'o (Newell's shearwater) by 70% on Kaua'i since the 1990s. These birds are an important cultural resource found only here in Hawai'i. Cat colonies pose significant risk to these seabirds especially during fledging periods as these birds can become confused by lights and become grounded where they are then easy prey for colony cats. Cats have also been observed catching and killing several other species of native endangered birds in low elevations including 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian gallinule), 'alae ke'oke'o (Hawaiian coot), ae'o (Hawaiian stilt), Nēnē (Hawaiian goose), u'au kani (Wedge-tailed shearwater) and many migratory species of shorebirds such as kōlea (Pacific golden plover) and 'ulili (wandering tattler). In addition to these birds in low elevations cats can spread to all habitat types in Hawai'i and prey upon all species of forest birds such as 'i'iwi, 'elepaio, palila, and the recently returned to the wild 'alala.

Cats also spread disease to native birds and marine mammals and toxoplasmosis (which can only be transmitted by cats) is the leading pathogenic cause of death for Hawaiian monk seals. Toxoplasmosis has also been found in nēnē, 'alala, and other seabirds. Toxoplasmosis also has very negative affects on people and has been linked to fundamental psychological changes, depression, schizophrenia and miscarriage in pregnant women.

HB2593 is trying to put forward several unfounded principles and misconceptions about the TNR process. For one there is little to know evidence of a "vacuum" effect when you remove a cat from an area of course a cat will likely fill it but if humane euthanasia is continued over the long term there will be zero cats on the landscape. TNR on the other hand has been completely unsuccessful in reducing and removing cats from an area. There is a large amount of literature on the topic now and again and again it has been found that it does not reduce cat numbers, in fact in many areas cat numbers have increased because people feel more comfortable abandoning cats. Sterilized well fed cats are also less territorial leading to higher cat densities. Additionally, practicing humane euthanasia in areas will encourage people not to dump their pets keeping more cats out of the environment.

Regarding TNR being more cost efficient: TNR may be cheaper over the short term but over the long term it will lead to greater costs in terms of human health, wildlife loss and a degradation of public spaces. Trapping and euthanizing cats instantly removes them from the environment preventing future damages from that animal.

TNR is widely practiced in Hawai'i and continues to degrade our coastal areas, allow the inhumane keeping of cats, contributes to the decline of endangered species, and facilitates

population growth of other invasive mammals such as pigs, rats, and mongoose. These practices directly threaten culturally important resources and jeopardize the foundation of many Hawaiian cultural practices. As a person of native Hawaiian decent it pains me to see the legislature consider actions that threaten the survival of culturally significant species to preserve an invasive predator on the landscape. Caving to pressures from animal welfare groups and perusing TNR will prove to be disastrous and will undoubtedly contribute to the further decline and extinctions of our precious cultural resources. Please vote down this measure or be prepared to be added to the list of causes for the extinction of our native species.

Mahalo nui for your time,

Bret Nainoa Mossman

**SENATE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT and
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS**

Wednesday 1:15 p.m., March 21, 2018 – State Capitol Conference Room 224

In STRONG OPPOSITION to HB 2593 Relating to Feral Cats

Aloha Chairpersons Gabbard, Riviere, Nishihara, Wakai and members of the Committees,

House Bill 2593 would require some unidentified state or county entity to contract with a nonprofit organization to oversee caretakers of feral cats, exempt registered caretakers of feral cats from state and county laws, and establish a feral cat trap-sterilize-return process.

I am in STRONG OPPOSITION to this bill for the following reasons:

1. HB 2593 is an infringement of my right to enjoy a healthy, disease-free and fecal-free public space. Too many of our parks, beaches, and harbors are posing as a safe-haven for “feral” cats. Scientific data shows that feral cat urine and feces are direct vectors for the spread of diseases such as toxoplasmosis, cat scratch disease, salmonella, campylobacter, giardia and cryptosporidium, roundworm and ringworm. Many of these diseases and bacteria are particularly harmful to pregnant women, young children and other individuals with immune compromised systems. Why would legislators want to increase disease-risk in our public spaces, and prioritize the existence of feral cats over people?
2. Our public parks are already challenged with issues of homelessness, littering, and poor upkeep and maintenance. Adding feeding stations for feral cats will only exacerbate the problem of maintaining our public spaces.
3. Contracting or expending funds/staff time to oversee so-called “caretakers” of feral cats is a blatant misuse of precious tax-payer dollars. If caretakers of feral cats wish to really ‘care for the cats’ – then these people should bring the cats into their homes. This is not a government problem, and therefore public tax-payer dollars should not be expended for this purpose.
4. Feral cat colony caretakers should NOT be allowed to use public parks and beaches for their private desires. Just as a person is not allowed to set-up a makeshift house at a public park, or leave their dog, tied up with food and

water at a public park – so too, feral cat caretakers should not be allowed to use public spaces for their long-term private use.

5. Cats are NOT cared for or treated humanely when left in a feral cat colony. People are delusional to think that dropping off food and water once in a while or even daily is humane treatment. Humane treatment for a pet animal means providing proper medical treatment, food, water, and shelter. Humane treatment for a non-pet animal means allowing it to exist on its own and respecting its existence and consciousness. Do feral cat caretakers view feral cats as their “pets” or something else? If viewed as a pet, then they should be brought home and not left in a public space. If *not* viewed as a pet, then feral cats should be left alone. If the animals cannot provide for themselves, such as in the case of feral cats, then logic dictates that they should not be left to exist on their own. Therefore, feral cats should be humanely removed from public areas and placed where they belong – in homes or private establishments.
6. HB 2593 deliberately harms Hawai‘i’s unique native wildlife. The same diseases that harm humans also negatively effects our native wildlife. Toxoplasmosis has been shown to kill endangered Hawaiian monk seals and is thought to also effect other marine life. Moreover, hundreds of Hawai‘i’s seabirds (some also endangered) are killed by feral cats each year. If HB 2593 passes, how does the state or local lead contracting entity intend to comply with state and federal endangered species laws?

I expect that our legislators will carefully consider the questions and issues that I’ve raised above. To be clear, I love animals and believe in their humane treatment. I am also a proud and responsible cat owner. However, HB 2593 is misdirected, will not achieve its intended purpose, will create more problems, and is a blatant misuse of tax-payer dollars. Please act now and KILL HB 2593.

Respectfully yours,
Lasha-Lynn H. Salbosa
Honolulu, HI 96825

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 8:02:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Wayne | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments:

Please OPPOSE this misinformed measure. Mahalo!

HB-2593-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/21/2018 7:17:28 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:15:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robin Kaye | Individual | Oppose | No |

Comments: