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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
8:45 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 60
URGING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS TO SUPPORT
EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE REDUCTION OF FREE-ROAMING CAT
POPULATIONS USING THE TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE STRATEGY

House Concurrent Resolution 60 urges State Departments and private land owners to support reduction of at-large cat populations using the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy. **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 as 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 substantial health risk to humans and wildlife due to being the only known reproductive host of the toxoplasmosis parasite (*Toxoplasmosis 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, toxoplasmosis can impact the immune system and has been known to primarily impact pregnant women and unborn children. 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 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 13-146-10 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.

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 resolution that are contradicted by scientific evidence. TNRM does not reduce colony populations over time. This has been shown many times across different studies that look at the outcomes of TNRM practices, and is summarized in a 2009 review paper by Longcore et al. While some advocates for TNRM claim that TNRM is successful, the metric for "success" used by advocates is the perceived wellness of the cats themselves, not the reduction of population size. In fact, studies have shown that TNRM 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 has been achieved in other regions using aggressive adoption campaigns, for at least a subset of feral cats that are adoptable.

The Department disputes the statement in this resolution that claims that TNRM programs have not been pursued in areas where endangered or native species are common. Visit most coastal wetlands or near-shore areas in Hawaii and you are likely to find native and endangered animals well within the 3-mile range of TNRM cat colonies. The cats of such colonies and even domestic cats are documented to each have the potential to directly take over 100 birds in a year. In addition, cat colonies established in areas near shores and waterways are the perfect conduit for toxoplasmosis eggs to enter into the ocean and infect both the ocean going public and our endangered State Mammal, the Hawaiian monk seal.

The Department recognizes that cats do control some rodents in Hawaii, although the overall effect on rodent populations from cat predation is unknown. However, Hawaii's native predators, including the Hawaiian owl, Pueo, and the Hawaiian Hawk, 'Io, also prey on introduced rodents, putting cats in direct competition with native species for food. Therefore a cat's service as rodent control comes at the cost of loss of native and endangered species through both predation and competition for food. The Department therefore would strongly urge containment of cats in favor of increased protection of native birds.

The Department also suggests that TNR may not be humane, as the title of the measure suggests. 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, and other vulnerable native species. 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.



Neighborhood Cats

the feral cat experts!

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

March 18, 2018

House Committee on Agriculture

RE: HCR 60 (RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE)

Neighborhood Cats, a non-profit specializing in the management of free-roaming cats with branches in New York, New Jersey and Hawaii, **strongly supports HCR 60.**

The presence of feral and stray cats on the Hawaiian landscape has been an issue for many years. In order to reduce the numbers of cats, more must be done than pointing out their potential negative impacts and declaring they should not be there. Some in the community, notably those involved in conservation, advocate the use of lethal force, ignoring that this approach has been attempted and failed for decades, and is opposed by a significant portion of the public.

On the other hand, the use of sterilization, which is the essence of Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM), has broad public support and can reduce the number of cats entering shelters, lessen the volume of nuisance complaints and lower the size of treated cat colonies. These results are demonstrated in peer-reviewed studies published in reputable academic journals, contrary to persistent erroneous claims there is no proof the method is effective. A list of some of this research is attached.

For too long, the work and expense of managing free-roaming cat populations through TNRM has been borne by private citizens in Hawaii under constant rhetorical and policy-making attack by certain Hawaiian state agencies, especially the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We urge the Legislature to support the many thousands of citizens who are responsibly managing the cats and encourage more to join them by passing this measure.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director

Research on Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage

Levy, J.K et. al., *Effect of high-impact targeted trap-neuter-return and adoption of community cats on cat intake to a shelter*, The Veterinary Journal (2014), doi: 10.1016/j.tvjl.2014.05.001.

Finkler H, Gunther I, and Terkel J. (2011) *Behavioral differences between urban feeding groups of neutered and sexually intact free-roaming cats following a trap-neuter-return procedure*, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 238, no. 9; 1141–1149.

Zaubrecher, K.I. and Smith, R.E. (1993) *Neutering of feral cats as an alternative to eradication programs*, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 203, 449-452.

Levy, J.K., Gale, D.W., and Gale, L.A. (2003) *Evaluation of the effect of a long-term trap-neuter-return and adoption program on a free-roaming cat population*, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 222, 42-46.

Natoli, E. et al. (2006) *Management of feral domestic cats in the urban environment of Rome (Italy)*, Preventative Veterinary Medicine, doi:10.1016/j.prevetmed.2006.06.005

Centonze, L., Levy, J.K. (2002) *Characteristics of free-roaming cats and their caretakers*, Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association, 220, 1627-1633.

Tan, K., Rand, J., Morton, M. (2017) *Trap-neuter-return activities in urban stray cat colonies in Australia*, Animals 2017, 7, 46; doi: 10.3390/ani7060046

Ireland, T., Neilan, R. M. (2016) *A spatial agent-based model of feral cats and analysis of population and nuisance controls*, Ecological Modelling, 337, 123-136, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.ecolmodel.2016.06.014>

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 6:19:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Vivian S. Toellner	Hui Pono Holoholona	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha, The current numbers of euthanasia on Hawai'i Island is staggering as reported each month by HIHS. **Round up to kill over decades has proven unsuccessful, and overall more costly.** At the Kea'au Humane Society facility approx. 10 to 1 more cats are being euthanized per month than the Kona and Waimea Humane Society facilities, showing that the need for Multiple Mash Spay/Neuter clinics are in extreme need.

Unwanted litter births leads to **animal abandonment**, when the community is aware of the high euthanasia rate. the goal is to **reduce animal overpopulation humanely** with every low cost/no cost spay/neuter opportunity needs to be pursued, to decrease the horrific numbers of **healthy animals being euthanized daily for population control.**

Hui Pono Holoholona has partnered with Animal Balance and is holding a MASH cat s/n clinic now this week! March 21-25, 2018 in Hilo. Turnout is expected to exceed 700 cats for free surgery. This is proof what the community wants and is willing to stand in line to receive. **Support for TNRM is growing.** More and more realize that if "kill'em worked" we would not be having this discussion today. Please support every effort to increase spay/neuter and kindness to animals.

Aloha & Mahalo, Vivian Toellner, Treasurer

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:09:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christin Matsushige	HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please support HCR60 concerning TNRM for free-roaming cats.

Thank you,

Christin Matsushige, President

HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION

hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 5:48:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:50:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:30:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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 scientist 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 HCR60.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:05:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 7:03:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K. Saiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:34:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HCR60

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 7:53:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I wish I could attend in person to provide oral testimony, but my work schedule prohibits my participation. There is a grassroots army of volunteers working hard, not costing the tax payer, to solve the issue of stray cats (and other animals). In my experience, oft times that grassroots army is hamstrung by (well meaning) civil servants and misguided rules that limit the volunteer's ability to get into some of the biggest problem areas. HCR60 will create an environment where more traps can be set, more animals be sterilized, and possibly, someday, getting the stray problem under control. What has happened in the past has not worked. Lets try something positive, like HCR60 .

Aloha

Rich Thompson

Resident and registered voter.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 9:06:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary James	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

The resolution as written provides the many reasons why TNRM should be supported by the community, especially by those who care for endangered species. It addresses both human issues and cat issues and following its recommendations will improve the entire community.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:04:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this measure to encourage and allow more land owners/managers to work with volunteer cat colony caregivers to manage the population of Free-Roaming cats.

These animals exist in our Community through no fault of their own (i.e. abandoned).

They deserve help and compassion.

Please appropriately recognize the people who dedicate their time and resources to responsible TNRM.

- Trapping (humanely)
- Neutering (by those who are qualified to do so)
- Return (return them to their Community)
- Manage (humanely manage the colony to insure population is kept under control)

Their work reduces the harm caused by those who abandon pets and fail to spay/neuter animals who they allow to roam.

“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

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:29:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HCR60. 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 that I feed we are 100% complete on TNRM, and 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 reduce the feral cat population and perhaps someday eradicate through attrition. It is the humanely thing to do. I strongly support this effort and highly encourage all members of legislative bodies to support this effort as well.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:00:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Jenkins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HCR60 for humane treatment of feral colonies through trap neuter release program. This program is supported by animal welfare groups and has proven to be an effective way to manage feral cat colonies. Cruelty towards animals should never be a convenient solution to a problem. We love our cats on the island and would not want them to be mistreated. TNRM is a humane and effective solution to the feral cat colony problem.

MY NAME IS DIANNE STEWART AND I WORK WITH A SMALL GROUP OF INDIVIDUALS TO MANAGE A COLONY OF 55 CATS ON THE FORT SHAFTER MILITARY INSTALLATION. THE PROGRAM WAS STARTED @10 YEARS AGO AND THE AREA WHERE THE COLONY RESIDES IS @1/3 OF THE INSTALLATION (@15 ACRES). WHEN THE FIRST COLONY MANAGER BEGAN THE PROGRAM THE NUMBER OF CATS WAS ESTIMATED TO BE @112 CATS.

OVER 10 YEARS CATS HAVE BEEN TRAPPED, NEUTERED AND ASSESSED FOR POSSIBLE PLACEMENT INTO HOMES. THOSE THAT COULD BE PLACED WERE AND A LARGE NUMBER OF THE CATS WERE ALSO PLACED INTO SANCTUARY. THE REMAINDER COMPRISE THE COLONY AS IT EXISTS TODAY. WE HAVE 55 CATS THAT ARE CATALOGUED, MICROCHIPPED AND OF THESE 51 ARE STERILIZED. THE COLONY HAS REMAINED STABLE OVER THE PAST 9 YEARS AND OUR ABILITY TO SHOW SUCCESS HAS RESULTED IN THE GARRISON COMMAND APPROVING A PILOT PROGRAM TO SHOW THE EFFECTIVENESS OF TNRM ON FORT SHAFTER. WORKING WITH THE GARRISON STAFF WE HAVE ADJUSTED LOCATIONS FOR FEEDING, ASSISTED HOMEOWNERS AND OTHERS WITH TRAPPING AND HAVE REMOVED AND ADOPTED OUT 14 KITTENS DURING THE LAST KITTEN SEASON.

THERE ARE OVER 300,000 ESTIMATED FERAL CATS ON OAHU, WHICH IS @85,000 ACRES, MEANING WE HAVE @3.5 FERAL CATS PER ACRE. ON THE 15 ACRES OF FORT SHAFTER THAT WE MANAGE, WE HAVE OUR FAIR SHARE OF FERAL/FREE ROAMING CATS ($3.5 \times 15 = 52.5$) LIVING IN A CONTROLLED SPACE, WITH A CONTROLLED DIET AND AN EFFECTIVENESS RATE OF ALMOST 96% (51 OF 55) IN VACCINATION, STERILIZATION AND HAVE HAD NO COLONY GROWTH OVER 9 YEARS. THE MEDIAN AGE IN THE COLONY IS 4.8 YEARS WITH OLDER CATS 10 YEARS OF AGE.

FORT SHAFTER IS FENCED BUT HAS DRAINAGE CANALS THAT RUN THROUGH IT AND ALSO HAS MUCH UNDEVELOPED LAND WHERE FERAL CATS CAN THRIVE IN NUMBER. WE EXPLAINED TO THE GARRISON THAT THEIR PRIOR METHOD OF SIMPLY TRAPPING AND REMOVING THE CATS FROM THE BASE WAS NOT WORKING, AS MASS TRAPPING IN ONE AREA ONLY RESULTED IN CREATING A VOID WHERE NEW CATS COULD THEN REHOME. AT A MEETING WITH THE GARRISON STAFF, WE DISCUSSED THE OPTION OF TRAPPING THE CATS VERSUS MANAGING THE COLONY. THE BASE TRAPPER MENTIONED THAT OVER THE PAST YEAR HE HAD TRAPPED 72 CATS, AND INQUIRED "HOW MANY WERE YOURS?" I RESPONDED "NONE", HE SAID "HOW DO YOU KNOW?" I RESPONDED "BECAUSE MY CATS ARE MICROCHIPPED AND WHEN YOU CATCH THEM AND TURN THEM INTO HHS, I GET CALLED AND NONE HAVE BEEN TRAPPED IN THE PAST YEAR." THIS WOULD SUPPORT OUR THEORY ON THE VACUUM EFFECT AS HE TRAPPED 72 AND NONE WERE OUR CATS, THAT MEANS THAT HE MUST CATCH AT LEAST 72 BEFORE HE TOUCHES ONE OF OUR 55, MEANING THERE ARE POTENTIALLY OVER 3,500 MORE CATS OUT THERE THAT HE CAN TRAP EVEN BEFORE REMOVING OUR COLONY.

IN TURN, BY MANAGING A COLONY WE KEEP A MANAGEABLE NUMBER OF CATS IN AN AREA AND WE KNOW THE CATS MEDICAL AND HEALTH HISTORY AND THEY IN TURN PROVIDE FREE RODENT REMOVAL SERVICES AND KEEP UNKNOWN CATS FROM MOVING ONTO THE BASE. WE USE METHODS TO RELOCATE CATS AWAY FROM HIGH TRAFFIC AREAS TO KEEP THEM AWAY FROM HUMANS TO EASE COMPLAINTS ABOUT DISEASE, NOISE AND ANIMAL WASTE. THIS ALLOWS US TO ADDRESS CONCERNS AS THEY ARISE. DURING OUR LAST WORKING GROUP WITH THE GARRISON STAFF THEY REPORTED THAT SINCE WE IMPLEMENTED THE PROGRAM THEY HAVE RECEIVED ZERO COMPLAINTS, WHEREAS, PRIOR TO OUR BECOMING SANCTIONED THE COMPLAINTS HAD BEEN WEEKLY. THE COLONY ON FORT SHAFTER IS BECOMING VIRTUALLY INVISIBLE AS WE WORK WITH THE GARRISON TO ADDRESS COMPLAINTS.

MY POINT IS TO SHOW THAT COLONY MANAGEMENT IS FAR MORE EFFECTIVE THAN JUST TRAPPING AND ALWAYS WILL BE, AS LONG AS THERE ARE FERAL CATS IN HAWAII. LIKEWISE, LEAVING MANAGED CATS, WHICH ARE A KNOWN ENTITY (VACCINATED, NEUTERED, HEALTHY, AND NOT AGGRESSIVE), VICE CREATING A VOID FOR UNKNOWN CATS (INTACT, AGGRESSIVE, AND DISEASED) IS A FAR BETTER ALTERNATIVE. TRAP NEUTER RETURN/REHOME, MANAGE WORKS AND OUR PROGRAM DEMONSTRATES THIS. WE HAVE CUT THE POPULATION IN HALF, WE HAVE HAD ZERO GROWTH OVER 9 YEARS AND THE BASE IS RECEIVING VIRTUALLY NO COMPLAINTS IN THE AREAS WE MANAGE. MAHALO FOR HEARING MY TESTIMONY!

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:33:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for reading my testimony in support of HCR 60. 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.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:50:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:56:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Collins	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:49:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cynthia L Keiki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HCR 60. I've been engaging in TNRM for four and a half years. The first colony that I fixed had 58 cats in it. As of today, there are only 17 cats left in it. When properly executed, TNRM does work.

Sincerely,

Cindy Keiki

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 5:33:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello Chair(s) And Committee Member:

Please support this very important bill now and into law this session. This finally gives a compassionate solution to dealing with this issue of stopping the breeding. This is the solution we would all want if we were in their situation needing help, water, food, because we were unlucky not to have a home and get murdered for that. They are not litter, but our fellow beings who need help just like there are times we need help. Thank you.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:21:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
eva marie kelnhofer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Jennifer Chiwa <jennifer.chiwa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:23 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HCR 60 for Hearing on 3/21/18 at 8:45 am

Aloha, Members of the House Agriculture Committee. My name is Jennifer Chiwa.

Please pass HCR 60 which urges state departments and private landowners to support effective and humane reduction of cat populations by using the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy. This resolution covers all the benefits of TNRM and would help to have this strategy implemented on a far-reaching basis. The TNRM program has been successful at the University of Hawaii - Manoa and can be used as a model by other state departments and the private sector. Furthermore, passing this resolution would help to maintain Hawaii as a leader in animal welfare.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

decoite2 - Amanda

From: selene eddie <selene.eddie@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 7:53 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

Please support this resolution. Thank you for addressing the issue in a humane manner. Aloha, Selene Mersereau

Sent from my iPad

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Wayne Niide <niidew@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, March 19, 2018 5:14 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc: Rep. Calvin Say; Senator Les Ihara; 'Stephanie Kendrick'; 'Keith Dane'; 'Peter Wolf'
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

Please pass this measure to encourage and allow more land owners/managers to work with volunteer cat colony caregivers to manage the population of Free-Roaming cats.

These animals exist in our Community through no fault of their own (i.e. abandoned).

They deserve help and compassion.

Please appropriately recognize the people who dedicate their time and resources to responsible TNRM.

- Trapping (humanely)
- Neutering (by those who are qualified to do so)
- Return (return them to their Community)
- Manage (humanely manage the colony to insure population is kept under control)

Their work reduces the harm caused by those who abandon pets and fail to spay/neuter animals who they allow to roam.

“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

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Tabi Dance <tabitha.n.lee@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 7:38 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

The Hawaiian Humane Society is disappointed that the board chose to proceed with rules that threaten animals and caregivers.

Animal advocates presented compelling, passionate and practical reasons to reject these rules. Many stayed for hours in order to present their testimony today in person. A huge mahalo to you all.

The public has consistently and overwhelmingly opposed this approach by the department. The Society, along with advocates with expertise in trap-neuter-return-manage, have offered to help humanely manage Free-Roaming Cats at the harbors as an alternative to adopting these rules.

Gov. David Ige's approval is required for these rules to be implemented. We hope he is more receptive to our call to find a compassionate path forward.

Mahalo for your support,

Tabitha

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Celia Lee <celialee327@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 3:02 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

I am writing in support of HCR 60 in support of the effective and humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations using Trap-neuter-return-manage strategy.

Celia Lee
832 15th Ave.
Honolulu, HI 96816

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Richard Marquina <vroomazoom@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:31 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Tab® 4, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

decoite2 - Amanda

From: vroomazoom <vroomazoom@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2018 10:19 AM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy Tab® 4, an AT&T 4G LTE tablet

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Emi Au <eau@asbhawaii.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:23 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit a testimony in support of SCR 60, a resolution supporting trap-neuter-return-manage as a humane and effective way to reduce the number of cats on the landscape. The hope with this measure being passed is that more land owners/managers will chose to work with volunteer cat colony caregivers to manage the population of Free-Roaming cats. These animals exist on the landscape through no fault of their own. They deserve help and compassion.

Thank you,

Emi Au

First Vice President, Director of Financial Planning & Analysis
American Savings Bank
Direct: 808.539.7857 | Cell: 808.295.2958
eau@asbhawaii.com | www.asbhawaii.com



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decoite2 - Amanda

From: Jessica D <jessdunn24@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 8:11 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of HCR 60

I support effective management of Hawaii's community cats through Trap Neuter Return & Manage.

Jessica Woo
1965 Ala Mahamoe St

Sent from my iPhone

decoite2 - Amanda

From: Kim Tomey <kimtomey@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 5:09 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HCR 60

I support the TNRM (trap/neuter/return/manage) resolution as the best way to address the problem of overpopulation created by irresponsible pet owners.

Mahalo,

Kim Tomey
[44-315 Kaneohe Bay Drive](#)
[Kaneohe, HI 96744](#)



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

LATE

Date: March 19, 2018

To: Chair Rep. Richard P. Creagan
Vice Chair Rep. Lynn DeCoite
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of HCR 60
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 8:45 a.m., Capitol conference room 312

Aloha Chair Creagan, Vice Chair DeCoite and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for HCR 60, which urges public and private land owners to support trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) as an effective and humane way to reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats.

Responsible cat colony caregivers volunteer their time and resources to feed, sterilize and care for Free-Roaming cats, as well as place them in homes when possible. Without their efforts, the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii would be exponentially larger.

The ability to work collaboratively with landowners, rather than to operate in secret, allows cat colony caregivers to be more effective. The support of landowners also can help reduce pet abandonment through enhanced security and can help curb nuisance feeding by people not involved in managing the colony.

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports reducing the population of cats on the landscape through humane strategies such as TNRM. Responsible TNRM reduces the number of cats at large, improves their quality of life and curtails nuisance behaviors that can impact the human communities surrounding cat colonies.

Please pass HCR 60 and support TNRM as a humane response to cats on the landscape.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:14:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Please show aloha to animals! A humane approach is what is needed to help with overpopulation, no kill tactics. eradication has not worked, so stop killing. TNR for feral cats is effective and humane.

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:58:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Inga Gibson	West Hawaii Humane Society	Support	Yes

Comments:



HCR60

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

House Committee on Agriculture

March 21, 2018

1:45 p.m.

Room 224

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) will recommend that the Board of Trustees **OPPOSE** SCR36, which would encourage the increased abandonment of cats and the proliferation of inhumane stray cat “colonies” that pose serious threats to native wildlife and local residents.

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

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,

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

feral cats have also been documented preying on Newell's shearwaters, wedge-tailed 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 'iliihohokauaua, 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**

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.

colonies may pose a substantial health risk for those who swim in, eat from, or otherwise 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

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.

(Foley et al. 2005). Four years of TNR at a colony in London saw the population 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, TNR 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 urging state agencies and landowners to support TNR on their lands, this measure may substantially increase the 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 ability to address the looming environmental and public health crisis that may be posed by feral cats.

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** HCR60. 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. Roebeling, 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).

LATE

HCR-60

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:40:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/21/2018 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pauline	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We love all animals! We shouldn't exterminate one to save another. Trap and kill does not work. Please, please...PLEASE, give TRAP-NEUTER-&-RELEASE a try!

We have many, dedicated colony caregivers taking care of defenseless cats...they have trapped them, taken them to the Vet's to be spade or neutered, cared for their ailments, spent allot of their own money to care for the cats and lots of their valuable time...released them and feed them nightly. I have read that colonies like these bring well-cared for cats bring the cat population HUMANELY down within 15 years. Our dog and cat pounds have been in business for many more years than 15--and they have NEVER made a dent. Give Trap-Neuter-Release your full committment and a try.