

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:05 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: angela.amlin@noaa.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Amlin	NOAA Fisheries	Comments Only	No

Comments: THE SENATE THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE REGULAR SESSION OF 2017 COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Chair; Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair February 15, 2017 Regarding SB 1262 – Comments from NOAA Fisheries Service, Pacific Islands Regional Office NOAA Fisheries Service would like to offer the following comments that we believe are relevant to your consideration of SB 1262. Our interest in SB 1262 stems from our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act to promote the conservation of marine mammals, including Hawaii’s whales, dolphins, and endangered Hawaiian monk seals. We support the intent of SB 1262 to address the issue of free roaming cats and their impacts on native wildlife. Infected cats are the sole environmental source in Hawaii of the Toxoplasma gondii organism, which causes the infectious, and potentially deadly, disease toxoplasmosis. Large populations of feral cats in the main Hawaiian Islands are the primary reason why the disease has become a serious threat for monk seals and other marine mammals, including Hawaiian spinner dolphins. At least eight monk seal deaths since 2001 have been attributed to toxoplasmosis and this is considered a minimum number because mortality investigations are not possible for seals that disappear and die undetected, or carcasses that are found in advanced stages of decomposition. This number also does not included suspected deaths, or fetuses that were aborted or stillborn as a result of a mother infected with toxoplasmosis. Nor does it address lost reproductive potential of female seals, which comprise about 65% of documented toxoplasmosis-related deaths. In 2016, NOAA Fisheries Service with the Hawaii’s Department of Land and Resources convened an interagency meeting and invited representatives from State and Federal agencies and nonprofits to share information on feral cats and toxoplasmosis. Recognizing this is a multifaceted problem that would require a multifaceted solution, the Toxoplasmosis and At-Large Cat Technical Working Group (TACTWG) was formed. The TACTWG draft charter recognizes that to reduce the impact of toxoplasmosis to native wildlife and people in Hawaii, as well as reduce levels of cat predation on Hawaii’s native species, the working group would need to: share information, facilitate collaboration, provide access to and inform policy makers on current scientific

information and research, and share such information with and engage interested parties to support the actions necessary to reduce the threat of toxoplasmosis in Hawaii. Currently TACTWG consists of representatives from 15 federal, state, and county-level agencies, and while the group's membership is currently limited to government agencies, TACTWG recognizes the importance of providing opportunities for the input of interested parties including non-government stakeholders, non-profit groups, and any other interested parties as appropriate to achieve the stated goal. We seek to provide information to assist and contribute to effective and achievable solutions to Hawaii's at-large cat problem to the greatest extent possible. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure. We look forward to working with the Hawaii State Legislature, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, and other government and non-government partners on this issue, which is vital to the recovery of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and supports the conservation of other marine mammals. Ann M. Garrett Assistant Regional Administrator for Protected Resources Pacific Islands Regional Office National Marine Fisheries Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND**

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 1262
RELATING TO WILDLIFE**

Senate Bill 1262 proposes to establish a cat and wildlife taskforce within the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to make recommendations regarding feral and free roaming cats. **The Department offers the following comments.**

The Department notes that feral and free roaming cats have substantial negative impacts on Hawaii's unique, native wildlife, both through predation and the spread of the toxoplasmosis parasite. Today, 28% of all threatened and endangered species in the United States (U.S.) are located in Hawaii, and 78% of all U.S. species extinctions have occurred in Hawaii. Reducing predation is a critical component of avoiding further declines in populations of Hawaii's natural resources.

In addition to preying on native wildlife (cats kill an estimated 2.4 billion wild birds per year in the U.S.), cats pose a substantial health risk to humans and wildlife as the only known reproductive host of the toxoplasmosis parasite. Toxoplasmosis reproduces only in the feline digestive system, and a single cat can excrete in its feces 145 billion eggs in a year. 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 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded at least eight deaths of the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, attributable to toxoplasmosis infection. Toxoplasmosis can also infect Hawaii's native birds, including the nene and the alala. In humans, toxoplasmosis can impact the immune system. The primary human health impact of toxoplasmosis is on pregnant women and unborn children: toxoplasmosis infection during pregnancy can result in severe damage to the unborn child and

may result in miscarriage, stillbirth, or substantial birth defects including enlargement or smallness of the head.

The Department faces ongoing challenges to public health and recreation in state parks and small boat harbors and other state lands from the unauthorized maintenance of cat colonies. Cat advocates feed cats in areas such as He'eia State Park, Diamond Head State Park, and Ke'ehi Small Boat Harbor on Oahu, resulting in maintained colonies of many dozens of cats in each place. Cats that are trapped and taken to humane animal shelters are released back to the registered owners if tagged, and quickly end up back in the parks and harbors if registered to the person maintaining the cat colony. Members of the public abandon cats in parks and harbors and public lands if they think they will be fed there rather than taking them to an animal shelter. As a result, our public recreational areas are littered with cat feces and cat food and the rats, mongoose and pathogens they attract.

The Department recognizes that cats are popular pets, and that discussions regarding methods to mitigate the impact of cats on native wildlife and public health and recreation are controversial and emotional. The Department was previously involved over the course of several years in a cat and wildlife task force similar to that proposed by this measure. The task force did not identify common ground on solutions for mitigating impacts of cats, largely due to insistence of cat advocates that a method known as Trap, Neuter, Release (TNR, also known as Trap, Neuter, Release, Manage or TNRM) be the primary tool for hypothetically reducing the number of cats on the landscape. The concept behind TNR is that a managed, neutered population will decrease in size over time until it is eliminated. A number of peer-reviewed, scientific publications have demonstrated that TNR is not an effective tool at reducing feral cat populations and contributes to a maintained presence of feral cats on the landscape that, despite being cared for and fed, continue to harm wildlife and act as vectors of disease. In fact, utilizing TNR often increases the size of cat colonies as they provide an opportunity for owners of unwanted pets to abandon animals with an assumption that their pets will be cared for by the colony caretaker. Cat colonies also increase in size over time due to natural reproduction, which occurs if all new arrivals to cat colonies are not immediately neutered.

The Department also notes that the use of State funds to support TNR could expose the state to liability for the decline in threatened and endangered species under the Endangered Species Act.

In addition, the Department refers to a Kaua'i Feral Cat Task Force that was convened in 2014 to address the issue of feral cats on Kaua'i, where a number of threatened and endangered seabirds are at risk of extinction due, in part, to the impacts of cats. The Kaua'i Feral Cat Task Force has been the most successful effort to date to utilize the recommendations of both wildlife advocates and cat advocates in identifying potential solutions. The Kaua'i Feral Cat Task Force recognized that long-term support of TNR is not a scientifically valid option for reducing the impact of cats and that any further utilization of TNR require a strict end date for TNR efforts.

The recommendations of this task force (www.accord3.com/docs/FCTF%20Report%20FINAL.pdf) include:

- A long-term goal of zero feral, abandoned and stray cats on the island of Kaua'i by 2025;

- Creation of an ordinance to require licensing of pet cats, currently pending a hearing by the Kauaʻi County Council;
- Utilizing scientific and technical expertise to establish a baseline for free roaming cat populations;
- Funding the Kauaʻi Humane Society to seize and impound feral cats with the goal of returning animals to owners or providing opportunities for adoption wherever possible, and providing euthanasia services when necessary;
- Requiring pet owners on private properties near sensitive wildlife habitats to keep pets on their private property;
- Prohibiting the feeding, sheltering, or maintenance of cats on county properties;
- Allowing TNR to persist only under strict guidelines for management and with a required end date of five years after the passage of the licensing ordinance. After this date, all cat colonies must be located on private property, completely fenced, registered, certified, and monitored by private individuals and not reliant on county funding; and
- Adopting a practice of "Trap, Adopt, or Euthanize."

The Department does not wish to replicate the Kauaʻi Feral Cat Task Force process unnecessarily. That process took over 7 months to complete, countless hours of participants, and cost over \$30,000 in facilitation expenses, and the results are now being litigated by some of the participants asserting sunshine law violations. The Department has participated over the years, including in the past year, with various stakeholders in small group discussions not part of a statutory framework, and found them more productive in seeking understanding of differing points of view and finding mutual common ground.

The Department notes that the creation of a statewide task force may not be necessary, as the Kauaʻi Feral Cat Task Force has already identified a model for humane reduction of free roaming cat populations. The Department further notes that this measure does not have a stated long-term goal of zero free roaming cats, licensing and registration, a required end date to cat colony management, or a prohibition on feeding, sheltering, or maintenance of cats on State lands.

The Department notes that the proposed composition of the voting members of the task force as currently written in this measure is comprised of four representatives from organizations charged with protecting native wildlife, five representatives from the Humane Society or a "national animal protection organization" and a veterinarian with specific experience in large-scale spay-neuter programs utilized in TNR. The composition of this task force ensures that the interests of Hawaii's threatened and endangered wildlife and public health and recreation will have a minority representation, and the likely outcomes of this task force would likely be in conflict with the Department's mandates to protect Hawaii's native wildlife and public recreational facilities.

The Department suggests that the following amendments be made to this measure:

- The task force focus on the issue of feral cats in state parks, harbors and other public recreational areas;
- That the task force membership be non-voting and make recommendations by consensus rather than majority vote;

- That the task force be comprised equally of the interests of 1) native wildlife, 2) public health and recreation, and 3) the welfare of cats;
- That this process be locally-driven, thus removing the representatives of national organizations listed in SECTION 1(b) (6) and (7);
- That the task force review the recommendations of the Kaua'i Feral Cat Task Force, be tasked with adapting these recommendations for statewide implementation; and
- The Legislature provides an appropriation from general revenues of \$40,000 for facilitation and expenses of the work of this task force.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Chair Karl Rhoads, Senate Committee on Water and Land members

In Support Of: SB 1262

Date: February 15, 2017 3 p.m.

Testimony By: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

My name is Keith Dane. I am the Hawaii Policy Advisor for The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), and I appreciate the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of SB1262 on behalf of our Hawaii members and supporters.

The HSUS supports collaborative efforts, such as coalition-based initiatives like the one put forth in this legislation, to humanely reduce outdoor cat populations while protecting threatened and endangered wildlife populations. The scope of the problem is so large, both geographically and in terms of the sheer number of cats, that a triage approach is needed to protect the most vulnerable wildlife populations that are experiencing documented and quantifiable impacts from cats. Also, incremental progress must be made to address harm done to all species of wild animals vulnerable to cat predation, as they all hold inherent value. Through wildlife-sensitive-area mapping, cat-colony relocation or feeding modification, the establishment of appropriate sanctuaries, and other innovative solutions, the negative impacts can be lessened and eventually eliminated.

Based on our experience with coalition-based efforts across the country, we'd like to offer a few recommendations to improve the inclusiveness, accessibility and effectiveness of this task force. Similar efforts in New Jersey, Delaware and Illinois have shown that common ground can be found and much can be accomplished when there is a balanced forum for stakeholders to share their information.

Regarding the task force membership, we strongly recommend adding a member to represent Hawaii-based trap/neuter/return and cat advocacy efforts. While the county humane societies are represented, having a voice at the table that is dedicated to working with cats in the field will be an asset to the group, and gives a voice to those folks that may feel disenfranchised by the membership line-up originally proposed.

We also note that no mention is made of the mechanism for selection of the appropriate individuals to best represent each entity. Task forces on this topic can work, but the right people have to be at the table- individuals who are open to discussion and compromise and who have enough authority to be able to speak for their respective organizations. Having obstructionist individuals or just filling a seat with anyone who volunteers can backfire and set efforts to address this issue even further behind. While many of the agencies or organizations listed will vet potential members and nominate the appropriate person, all seats should ultimately be filled utilizing the same impartial process, preferably through this Committee or a selected legislator who is dedicated to seeing this effort through.

Concerning the meeting mechanisms and logistic concerns of the task force, we have two recommendations. The first is that the facilitator may act as a tie-breaking vote in the event that a tie occurs. Having an evenly numbered task force can be counterproductive since the members can naturally devolve into two equal camps, barring progress. Having the facilitator empowered to break potential stalemates is important to ensure that the task force keeps moving in a productive manner. Second, we highly recommend that at least one meeting be held as an open-comment forum where stakeholders not represented by the task force members have a chance to present their ideas and information. The cat and wildlife issue is one where emotions run high, and the task force needs a mechanism to allow citizens to truly feel heard. The current task force in Illinois is holding three public forum meetings around the state and is a good model to consider.

Lastly, regarding the scope of duties of the task force, we want to note that the task force is supposed to “Review policy recommendations and statutes from other states or municipalities.” This is appropriate and we sincerely hope that all ideas, efforts, statutes, and mechanisms will be reviewed. Specific mention here of the Kauai Feral Cat Taskforce results, some of which is currently tied up in a legal challenge under the state’s Sunshine Law, is premature and unnecessary. While that effort should be one of many reviewed by the task force, it does not need to be singled out in the legislative language, appearing to give it more credence than any other effort/recommendations/program in either Hawaii or any other state.

We thank you for considering our comments, and stand ready to assist with any questions, amendment recommendations, or any other actions that would be helpful. These recommendations are offered in the same spirit as this legislation itself- to create a welcome, balanced and effective forum for the issues of outdoors cats, native wildlife and humane management.

Keith Dane
301-312-1489

WTL Testimony

From: Peter Tierney <petespointers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 8:51 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Subject: Support SB1262 Cat Task Force

SPCA Maui and our 1,000 us members support
SB1262 formation of a Cat Task Force
Peter Tierney
SPCA Maui
BOD President

Sent from my iPhone



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water and Land
By the Conservation Council for Hawai'i
Hearing: Wednesday, February 15, 2017 3 pm
Room 414

Support for SB 1262 Relating to Wildlife

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 1262, which establishes the cat and wildlife task force to make recommendations regarding the humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations and their impacts on wildlife.

Please protect our native wildlife from feral cats and pass SB 1262. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 | Honolulu, HI 96802 | Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 215 | Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Wayne Tanaka | Vice President: Koalani Kaulukukui | Secretary: Rachel Sprague
Treasurer: Les Welsh | Director: Anne Walton
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler | Administrator: Jonnetta Peters





Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 14, 2017

To: Chairman Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chairman Sen. Mike Gabbard
And Members of the Committee on Water and Land

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB1262: Relating to Wildlife
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, 3 p.m., Capitol conference room 414

The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly supports SB1262, which would establish a cat and wildlife task force to develop recommendations to the Legislature concerning free-roaming cats and their impacts on wildlife.

We support this measure because it creates an opportunity to address an issue that inspires strong feelings in a way that makes a productive dialog possible. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we believe the task force can explore the issue of free-roaming cats and their impacts on wildlife in a way that leads to collaborative ideas about how to manage conflicts in a humane fashion.

This group, facilitated by a neutral third party, will allow the participants to identify key priorities and humane strategies to address them.

The task force fairly represents both government concerns about wildlife and animal welfare expertise in humane free-roaming cat management.

To emphasize that this is a Hawaii issue in need of locally generated solutions, we would suggest an amendment to the composition of the task force to include a Hawaii-based cat advocacy group in lieu of representation by a national animal protection organization.

We urge the committee to pass SB1262 with this amendment.

Mahalo for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of assistance.



Feb. 14, 2017

To: Chairman Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chairman Sen. Mike Gabbard
And Members of the Committee on Water and Land

RE: Testimony in support of SB1262: Relating to Wildlife
Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017, 3 p.m., Capitol conference room 414

The Hawaii Island Humane Society stands with other Animal Welfare Organizations in strong support of SB1262, which would establish a cat and wildlife task force to develop recommendations to the Legislature concerning free-roaming cats and their impacts on wildlife.

We support this measure because it creates an opportunity to address an issue that inspires strong feelings in a way that makes a productive dialog possible. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, we believe the task force can explore the issue of free-roaming cats and their impacts on wildlife in a way that leads to collaborative ideas about how to manage conflicts in a humane fashion.

This group, facilitated by a neutral third party, will allow the participants to identify key priorities and humane strategies to address them.

The task force fairly represents both government concerns about wildlife and animal welfare expertise in humane free-roaming cat management.

To emphasize that this is a Hawaii issue in need of locally generated solutions, we would suggest an amendment to the composition of the task force to include a Hawaii-based cat advocacy group in lieu of representation by a national animal protection organization. We urge the committee to pass SB1262 with this amendment.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance.

Donna Whitaker
Executive Director
Hawaii Island Humane Society

From: [Ginger Towle](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 1262 Support!!!
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:30:10 AM

SB 1262 - To form A task force to protect cats and wildlife !!
To - Sen C. Rhodes Chair
This is extremely import to all communities. Everyone needs to understand the importance of these animals and the IMPORTANCE of protecting those who cannot protect themselves.
Thank you Senator Rhoads.

Mahalo

Ginger Towle -President
West Hawaii Humane Society
Box 1208, Kailua-Kona, Hi. 96745
808-329-2051



TO: Senate Water and Land Committee
February 15, 2017, 3pm

FROM: Inga Gibson, West Hawaii Humane Society
PO Box 1208, Kailua-Kona, 96745

RE: STRONG SUPPORT SB1262; Cat Taskforce

Dear Chairs Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard and Committee members,

The West Hawaii Humane Society **strongly supports SB1262** and greatly appreciates your consideration of the below amendments, for the following reasons:

- There is a growing divide between the cat and wildlife community, however, there is much common ground to be discussed in moving forward with a shared goal of humanely reducing cat numbers across Hawaii.
- Past efforts at collaboration have failed due to the lack of a formal structure to hold these critical discussions, or a requirement that recommendations (deliverables) be presented to the public and policy makers. This measure proposes just that; it sets up formal discussions with key agencies and requests that they propose joint recommendations to the public and policymakers by 2018.
- Fear and misinformation around invasive species bills, that some feel are cloaked attempts at cat eradication, have caused many in the cat and pet community to even fear the discussions that are proposed in this bill. We strongly believe that only through formal discussions can that trust be rebuilt and that so much more can be achieved, to the benefit of cats, wildlife and our communities, when communication and dialogue occur across key agencies. Further, this bill only proposes recommendations be developed, not that any formal policies or proposals be enacted or outcomes predetermined.
- To further address any concerns from those not specifically named on the taskforce we note and advise the following:
 - 1) This bill allows for unlimited advisory members and organizations to present their concerns and recommendations to the broader taskforce members (page 5, line 1, (6) and;

- 2) We have recommended that those individuals not specifically named develop a separate working group and if they like, present those recommendations to the SB1262 members for consideration of inclusion in the final recommendations or directly to legislators.
- In recognizing the critical importance and potential value of these discussions several agencies have committed to assist with funding a facilitator should state funding not be approved (by WAM). We appreciate the Committee's support and discretion in amending the funding request to reflect this commitment.

Proposed amendments (attached below):

- Per meetings with Chair Case and DLNR staff, we recommend that 2 additional staff from DLNR, Parks and Harbors Divisions, and a member of the Department of Health be added to the group. We have expanded the scope to include potential conflicts in public parks and small boat harbors (relevant to a DLNR pending rule to prohibit feeding/care of cats in parks and harbors).
- We and DLNR also support the review of the Kauai Feral Cat Taskforce recommendations, along with any other potential models or suggestions from other communities dealing with similar issues.
- We and DLNR removed the "voting" structure from membership as our goal is consensus wherever possible and removed staff from legislative committees be required to attend the meetings (as members).
- Due to concerns from the cat care community, and despite the representation from 4 statewide humane societies, some feel their concerns may not be adequately represented, thus, West Hawaii Humane Society suggests adding a representative to the taskforce from a Hawaii-based cat advocacy organization, and removed formal membership from a national organization. It is important to keep this effort and discussions focused on local issues since Hawaii has many unique factors not found on the mainland, including being the threatened and endangered species capital of the world.
- Finally, the bill now proposes 12 formal members; a number that we believe inclusive of all major stakeholder groups and interests, but not too large to be inefficient or unproductive.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony and your leadership on seeing this important measure through.

Best, Inga Gibson
West Hawaii Humane Society
westhawaiihumanesociety@gmail.com
808.922.9910

1 SECTION 1. (a) There is established within the department
2 of land and natural resources for administrative purposes only
3 the cat and wildlife task force to develop recommendations to
4 the legislature concerning free roaming cats and their impacts
5 on native wildlife and in public areas including state parks and
6 small boat harbors.

7 (b) The task force shall include the following ~~voting~~
8 twelve members:

- 9 (1) One representative each from the department of land
10 and natural resources, forestry and wildlife division,
11 state parks division and small boat harbors;
- 12 (2) One representative from the United States National
13 Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
- 14 (3) One representative from the United States Department
15 of Fish and Wildlife;
- 16 (4) One representative from each county humane society
17 contracted by a county to provide animal care and
18 control services;
- 19 (5) One Hawaii licensed veterinarian specializing in
20 large-scale spay-neuter of pets, selected by the
21 representatives in section (4) and;
- 22 (6) One representative from a Hawaii based cat advocacy
23 organization, selected by the representatives in
24 section (4)

S.B. NO.

1 (7) One representative from the Hawaii State Department of
2 Health;

3 ~~(6) One representative from a national wildlife protection~~
4 ~~organization; and~~

5 ~~(7) One representative from a national animal protection~~
6 ~~organization.~~

7 (c) The taskforce shall, by a majority vote of its
8 members, select a facilitator who meets the criteria in section

9 (1); ~~include the following non voting members:~~

10 (1) An individual from a private organization or
11 university not affiliated with any of the agencies or
12 organizations represented by a ~~voting~~ member, ~~who~~
13 ~~shall be approved by a majority of the voting members~~
14 ~~and shall serve as the task force facilitator;~~

15 ~~(2) A representative of the senate committee on~~
16 ~~agriculture and environment;~~

17 ~~(3) A representative of the senate committee on water and~~
18 ~~land;~~

19 ~~(4) A representative of the house committee on~~
20 ~~agriculture;~~

S.B. NO.

1 ~~—— (5) A representative of the house committee on water and~~
2 ~~land; and~~

3 (6) Invite participation from ~~Any~~ additional ~~non-voting~~
4 advisory members or organizations as determined and
5 approved by the ~~voting~~ members of the task force.

6 (d) The task force shall:

7 (1) Identify common goals and objectives to humanely
8 manage and reduce outdoor cat populations;

9 (2) Identify the roles and responsibilities of county,
10 state, and federal agencies in humanely reducing
11 outdoor cat populations;

12 (3) Recommend any necessary actions, including but not
13 limited to mapping the State to identify highly
14 sensitive, native wildlife habitats with documented
15 cat predation and identifying appropriate management
16 methods including humane removal, exclusion fencing,
17 community outreach, and public education campaigns;

18 (4) Review policy recommendations and statutes from other
19 states or municipalities, including the
20 recommendations of the Kauai Feral Cat Taskforce, and

S.B. NO.

1 make recommendations for future relevant legislation
2 at the state or county level; and

3 (5) Provide estimates for any necessary funding to carry
4 out the identified recommendations.

5 The task force shall be exempt from chapter 92, Hawaii Revised
6 Statutes, and shall act in an advisory capacity to address
7 concerns of free roaming cats and their impacts on native
8 wildlife and in other public areas. The task force shall meet
9 not less than five times and not use a public facility for its
10 meetings.

11 (e) Not including the facilitator, the members of the task
12 force shall serve without compensation ~~but shall be reimbursed~~
13 ~~for expenses, including travel expenses, necessary for the~~
14 ~~performance of their duties.~~

15 (f) The task force shall submit a report of its findings
16 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
17 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
18 the regular session of 2018. The report shall be posted on a
19 state-sponsored website. The task force shall provide notice
20 and hold a public hearing within thirty days of submission of

S.B. NO.

1 the report to the legislature for purposes of public comment on
2 the findings and recommendations of the task force.

3 (g) The task force shall cease to exist on June 30, 2018.

4 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
8 year 2018-2019 to cover professional fees and services for the
9 designated non-voting facilitator of the cat and wildlife task
10 force.

11 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
12 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 1, ~~July 1,~~
14 2017.

15

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 6:47 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: peterw@bestfriends.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Peter J. Wolf	Best Friends Animal Society	Oppose	No

Comments: On behalf of Best Friends Animal Society and our many supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands, I urge you to amend SB1262 to address the following concerns: 1. Voting membership of the Cat and Wildlife Task Force should include an individual who has direct experience with various aspects (e.g., trapping, coordinating caregivers, data tracking, etc.) of the trap-neuter-return (TNR) method of managing populations of unowned, free-roaming cats. 2. At least one of the Task Force's five meetings should be open to the public, allowing residents to provide input prior to the report being submitted to the Hawaii Legislature. We believe there is a great deal of common ground between the animal welfare and conservation communities, and are optimistic that—with the amendments described above—Hawaii's Cat and Wildlife Task Force will successfully identify these areas of agreement and outline a path forward toward our common goals. Thank you for your time and attention.

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

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Feb. 15, 2017

Sen. Karl Rhoads
Senate Committee on Water and Land
State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Senate Bill 1262

Chairman Rhoads and Committee Members:

We are opposed to SB 1262. This will exempt from the state open meetings law a task force investigating the feral cat situation.

We believe no such body should be given a blanket, unfettered exemption from the Sunshine Law.

Thank you for your time and attention.

Stirling Morita
President, Hawaii Chapter SPJ

Reducing Homeless Cat Populations on Kauai *Compassionate Approaches are Working Better*

Many people see trapping, removing and killing homeless outdoor cats as a necessary, fast and permanent way to reduce the cat populations, but the real experience on Kauai shows otherwise. An estimated 12,000^{i,ii} homeless cats live in Kauai's towns and neighborhoods. Over the last decade, about 23,000 of these "community" cats have been trapped, removed, and killed.ⁱⁱⁱ And yet, their numbers seem relatively unchanged.

The primary reason for this apparent contradiction is the cat's high reproductive rate. Homeless female cats, living outdoors without optimal nutrition, can produce up to 550 kittens per 100 adult females each year.^{iv, v} After cat removal, population growth rates can be as high as 95%.^{vi} Since this greatly exceeds the 20% annual catch rate, no significant population reduction was ever possible.

While most of the cat removal has been geographically scattered and short-term, some has focused within specific areas for longer time periods. This is more likely to achieve the high removal rates necessary to reduce cat populations significantly. To assess how well these focused removal efforts are working on Kauai, KCCP obtained records of 16 such projects.^{vii} These were conducted over the last 6 years, and trapped about 500 cats.

None of these have permanently removed the cats, and three were intentionally stopped due to exploding rat populations. Total population suppression is estimated at 255 cats,^{viii} or 2.1% of the island total. The most successful projects are in four wildlife areas where continuous trapping is employed: within these areas population suppression is over 90%. For the other areas, it was only 30%. The low rate is due to intermittent trapping and subsequent repopulation from high birth rates and immigration.^{ix}

Since cats' high reproductive rate is the primary factor that is confounding efforts to reduce the population, why not target their reproduction? This is what TNR does.

In the last decade, about 5400 cats have been Trapped-Neutered-Returned^x (TNR'd) on Kauai,^{xi} and these projects have reduced the island-wide population of neighborhood cats by an estimated 2200,^{xii} or 18%. The estimated population suppression from trapping and killing over four times the cats – the 23,000 – is only 11%.^{xiii}

In addition to reducing cat populations, TNR also reduces predation^{xiv, xv, xvi, xvii} and disease^{xviii, xix} for the cats that remain. The total impact mitigation from the combination of population reduction, less predation and reduced disease is much greater than the 18% through population reduction alone. Analysis shows it's up to 30% island-wide.^{xx}

TNR is significantly less expensive than trap and remove,^{xxi} has proven that it can scale island-wide, and is working better! It should be the preferred method to resolve cat population problems within our towns and neighborhoods.

To fully solve the community cat problem we must address its source. Both sides of the debate agree on this. That means available, inexpensive spay/neuter for all. A low kill rate approach like TNR is needed for those who see lethal removal as unacceptable and who won't cooperate if this is the only supported choice.^{xxii}

References and Notes

- ⁱ Feral Cat Task Force Final Report, from Accord3.0 Website, <http://www.accord3.com/pg79.cfm>, estimate is 15,000 to 20,000 in wild and populated areas combined.
- ⁱⁱ Scott, Kauai's Feral Cats, The Scope of the Problem, 2013. This is source of the Feral Cat Task Force estimate, and it shows that about 75% live in populated areas. Available on request.
- ⁱⁱⁱ From Kauai Humane Society statistics, FOIA information from US Fish and Wildlife, and UIPA information from Hawaii's Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. See Appendix 2.
- ^{iv} Nutter, Evaluation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Management Program for Feral Cat Colonies: Population Dynamics, Home Ranges, and Potentially Zoonotic Diseases, NCSU Comparative Biomedical Science, 2005. The author reports on a sample of over 2000 cats.
- ^v Schmidt et. al., Survival, Fecundity, and Movement of Free-Roaming Cats, *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71(3):915-919; 2007)
- ^{vi} Appendix 1, calculation 1
- ^{vii} KCCP obtained information from State and Federal agencies via information requests. KCCP itself removed certain cats (non-lethally). Records from 19 projects were obtained, but long-term results are not known for 3 of these. See Appendix 2.
- ^{viii} Appendix 1, calculation 2
- ^{ix} Miller et. al., Simulating Free-Roaming Cat Population Management Options in Open Demographic Environments, *PlosOne*, 2014
- ^x TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) captures fertile cats, surgically sterilizes them, returns them to their outdoor home, and then manages the cats to reduce their population over time.
- ^{xi} Estimates from KCCP data (2007 – present) and Kauai Humane information, see Appendix 3
- ^{xii} See Appendix 3.
- ^{xiii} See Appendix 1, Calculation 2.
- ^{xiv} TNR Fact Sheet 2, Predation, http://voxfelina.com/voxfelina/Vox_Felina_Fact_Sheet_Predation_v_1.1.pdf
- ^{xv} Loyd et. al. Quantifying free-roaming domestic cat predation using animal-borne video cameras, 2013
- ^{xvi} Silva-Rodríguez, E.A. and Sieving, K.E., "Influence of Care of Domestic Carnivores on Their Predation on Vertebrates." *Conservation Biology* 2012. 25(4): p. 808-815.
- ^{xvii} From FOIA, US Fish and Wildlife field notes, 20140114 Email Marie McKenzie to Kim Uyehara_Botulism DB.pdf
- ^{xviii} Nutter, Evaluation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Management Program for Feral Cat Colonies: Population Dynamics, Home Ranges, and Potentially Zoonotic Diseases, NCSU Comparative Biomedical Science, 2005
- ^{xix} VanWormer, *Toxoplasma gondii*, Source to Sea: Higher Contribution of Domestic Felids to Terrestrial Parasite Loading Despite Lower Infection Prevalence *EcoHealth*, September 2013
- ^{xx} Appendix 3
- ^{xxi} Zawistowski et. al., Simulating different approaches for managing free-roaming cat populations, ACC&D, 2011
- ^{xxii} On Kauai, animal abandonment rates tripled in some areas after high kill rates for cats at the Kauai Humane Society became highly publicized in mid-2013. Requests for no-kill service from KCCP have tripled since then as well.

Appendix 1: Calculations

Calculation 1: Cat Reproductive Rate

All estimates are from mainland studies, and many feel that birth and survival rates would be higher on Hawaii due to full-year breeding seasons and richer environmental resources.

	Nutter North Carolina	Schmidt et. al. Texas
Birth Rate	4.2 (median)	5.6 (mean)
Kitten Survival	50% (3 months), 25% (6 months) *Est. annual: 17%	50% (3 months, feral) 75% (3 months, semi) Est. Annual: 30%, 20%
Population ratio M/F	33%/67%	Not given
Adult survival M/F	0.40 / 0.60	0.57 / 0.88
Total Birth rate	50% or 0.5	80% to 120% or 0.8 to 1.2
Population growth rate, r	3% or 0.03	60% to 95% or 0.6 to 0.95

*Nutter presents a Kaplan-Meier analysis indicating that after 125 days, kitten death rates approach those of adults. Accordingly, annual death rates are calculated by:

$$6 \text{ month survival} \times \sqrt{\text{adult annual survival}} = \text{kitten annual survival}$$

Nutter's death rate of 47% is very close to the birth rate, so this represents a stable population, as one would find in a "full" biological environment.

Schmidt's data suggests that higher values are possible when food is plentiful. This value is used in analysis below (Calculation 2) for maximal rates when cats are removed from an area.ⁱ These birth rate values greatly exceed the death rate, so that the population growth rate is quite high.

Multiple authors report lower numbers as well, with birth rates as low as 40% of Nutter's. These suggest negative population growth rates (contraction) when populations are too high, i.e. above the environment's carrying capacity.

We believe this analysis is conservative for Hawaii. Lohr postulated birth rates of 0.75 for Hawaii under normal situations.ⁱⁱ This would suggest population growth rates, r, of 0.55, just under Schmidt's lower value. This higher value supports the assertion by many that birth and population growth rates will be higher in Hawaii due to its warm climate.

Calculation 2: Island-wide impact mitigation from Trap and Remove

Details for the population suppression resulting from removal of the 23,000 cats in the last decade are presented below. Some of the trapping was focused, for example, local hotels that trap cats on their property. Most of the trapping was not focused, e.g. residence obtained a trap from KHS, trapped one or two cats on their property, and returned the trap.ⁱⁱⁱ

Known Focused Trapping at 16 locations

The island-wide neighborhood cat mitigation from known focused trap and remove can be determined from the tables in Appendix 2. Some of this trapping was in wildlife areas adjacent to but not within neighborhoods. Nonetheless, all the cats are included. Total cat suppression is estimated as 255 of the original population. This is a 2.1% reduction of the island-wide total of 12,000 neighborhood cats. This trapping was performed on an estimated original population of 480 cats, or 4% of the island-wide total.

Trapping for 22,500 Cats: Casual, Intermittent Focused, and Continuous Focused

The results from Appendix 2 are used as a model. An estimated 20% of the trapping is focused in one area.^{iv}

	Focused, Continuous	Focused, Intermittent	Casual
Percentage of trapping	5%	15%	80%
Population suppression	80%	20%	10%*
Total, Island-wide	4%	3%	8%

*The justification for the 10% value is shown in calculation 3.

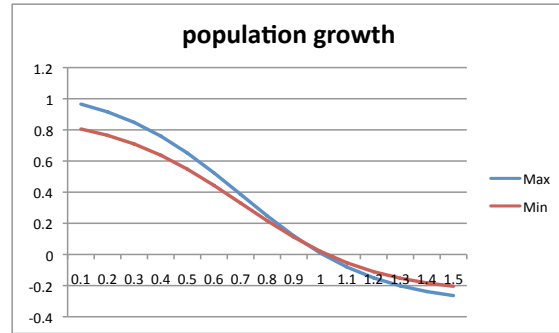
Total population suppression is 15% of cats from the entire population less cats in the known focused trapping or under TNR management. Thus, total cat suppression is:

15% x (100% - 4% - 34%) = 9.3% or 1120 cats

Combined total: 9.3% + 2.1% = 11.4% or 1375 cats

Calculation 3: Casual Trapping Metrics

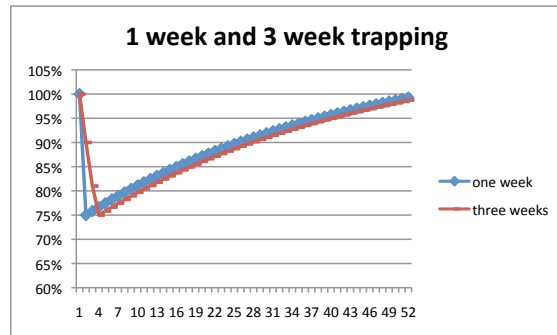
The estimated effect of casual trapping is based on a growth rate analysis. Two logistic growth curves are shown in the graph at the right, based on values from Schimdt et. al., which was referenced in calculation1 above. The values establish a range for maximum values of the logistic function, which occurs for very low population levels. The value at a 100% population level (biological carrying capacity) is very near zero.



The number of animals trapped annually in casual trapping is 80% of 22,500/10 or 1800. This is 25% of the of the total cat population of 7000 that is being casually trapped.v

At a population level of 75%, the growth rate (27% to 31%) exceeds the removal rate. Immigration, while modest, adds more. Simplistically, this means there is a zero population reduction. This is not what actually happens. In a real situation, there is a time lag between cat removal and cat rebound. The length of time between removal and rebound back to a 100% population level determines the average number of cats and thus the degree of cat suppression.

Two examples are shown in the graph. One traps 25% in 1 week. This might correspond to removing one cat from a small neighborhood population. The second traps 5 cats in 3 weeks. This might correspond to removing 5 cats from a condominium area. Each shows a resulting annual average cat population of approximately 90%. Thus, the cat suppression from ongoing casual trapping is approximately 10%. In both cases, the permanent suppression is zero, i.e. the cat population returns to 100% after about one year.



Population rebound within one year is very typical on Kauai, so both examples are realistic.

References

ⁱ Maximum population growth rates, r , are assumed when 80% of cats are removed; for lesser removal percentages, the maximal rate is linearly prorated to lower values.

ⁱⁱ Lohr, C. 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. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01935.x. Epub 2012 Sep 25.

ⁱⁱⁱ KCCP requested data from KHS to determine how much focused trapping versus scattered trapping has been performed in the last 6 years, but KHS declined to provide the information.

^{iv} Apparent continuous trapping is between 5% and 10% based on anecdotal observations in the KHS lobby (random sampling). Here the assumed 20% is quite high and thus conservative.

^v 12,000 - 440 (16 known trapping areas) - 620 (focused trapping) - 4080 (TNR) \approx 7000

Appendix 2: Trap and Remove Activities Analyzed on Kauai

	Location	Date	Event	Outcome	# rem	base #	Source	remain	Comment
1	Salt Pond 1	mid-2012	30 cats removed	cats back by mid-2013	30	40	ACO/KHS	100%	
2	Salt Pond2a	late 2014 - mid 2015	2 TNR colonies removed (17) plus additional 20 (estimated)	cats back by late 2016	37	40	ACO	100%	near complete removal
unk	Salt Pond 2b	late 2014 - mid 2015	total of 70 cats removed by ACO, but some were from park	one time trapping; estimated return rate to wild area is 0.1	50	55	ACO	25%	% remain estimated from immigration rate = 0.1
3	HNWR	2010 - 2015	continuous trapping	cats continuously present but at very low levels	130	90	USFWS	5%	base numbers are projected from immigration rates of .25, .25, .05 and 0.8 growth rate
4	KNWR		intermittent trapping		70	50	USFWS	5%	
5	HNWR		intermittant trapping		15	10	USFWS	10%	
n/a	mahalepu	2013	58 cats removed from wild areas and near GC	unknown **this is mostly a wild area and is excluded	58		DLNR	excluded	
6	Kukuiula	mid-2015	cats removed	all cats returned in ~1 year	12	15	KCCP	100%	cats now in a rescue
7	Larsen's beach	mid-2015	10 colony cats plus unknown other cats	subset of cats back in 4 months **wild area abuts farms and illegal camping areas	20	25	KCCP	70%	based on reports from illegal campers
8	Small boat harbor	late 2015 - early 2016	colony of 25-30 apparently removed	cats gone for several months, but a large populatio is back in 6 months	25	30	KCCP & ACO	100%	virtually no effect
9	Waimea PC	late 2015 - early 2016	~ 10 cats removed from one area, but other cats present on the property	cats continue to be present with no reported bird issues	10	12	KCCP	50%	

	Location	Date	Event	Outcome	# rem	base #	Source	% remain	Comment
10	Coffee fields	10 & 11 2014	trapping near bird colonies	11 cats trapped, but assess that cats are still present	11	15	DLNR	100%	due to non-continuous
11	Kaumakani	Oct 2014 - Jan 2015	trapping near bird colonies	4 cats; OK for several months; but trapping stopped	4	4	DLNR	100%	due to non-continuous
	Private trapping, Albatross	2014	30 cats removed	unknown **excluded; too little is known	30		COK UIPA	excluded	
12	Princeville SC	2012	12-15 cats removed	large number of rats; 5+3 cats brought back	15	15	KCCP	50%	
13	Regency Resort	2016	maintained colony removed	rat invasion; unk number of cats brought in	12	12	KCCP	50%	estimated # cats returned based on volunteer information
14	PMRF base	2013	cats on base removed	rats eating signal cables; allowed TNR on base	30	35	KCCP	50%	
15	PMRF wetlands	2013-2105	cats removed around wetland restoration	ongoing cat removal; no reports of predation problems	50	25	DLNR	10%	DLNR data
16	Lagoons GC	ongoing	cats removed in nesting season	~10 cats removed annually	30	10	DLNR	50%	ongoing with 6 months on, 6 months off

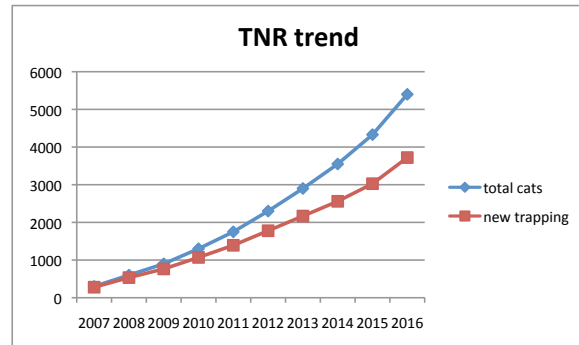
Summary:

reduction in 4 continuous areas	93%
reduction in 5 intermittent areas	31%
reduction in 7 one time areas	29%
total original cat population (est.)	483
cats removed (est.)	255
percentage removed	53%

Appendix 3: TNR Conducted over the Last 10 Years

About 5400 cats were trapped for TNR over the last decade. Data is from KCCP, KHS and members of the community who practice TNR independently. The KHS data is used to estimate TNR spay and neuter done by volunteers not associated with KCCP.

Many of the cats trapped are within areas where 100% of cats have already been spayed or neutered, but new cats have immigrated in. These are designated as re-trapped cats. The re-trapping is necessary to maintain population counts at reduced levels and quantifies the inefficiency caused by cat immigration.



Total cats trapped	5400
New Cat Trapping	4080
TNR population reduction	1165
Cats pulled	1005
Total population reduction	2170
Reduction within TNR areas	60%
Island Population %	18%

Explanations:

- New Cat Trapping is the initial near-100% trapping that occurs when TNR is started in a new area. For example, if trapping was conducted in 50 areas, which altogether contained 600 cats when trapping started, then New Cat Trapping would equal or be very close to 600. However, after the initial trapping, additional trapping would occur in these areas due to immigration of new cats. This might result in total trapping of 750 cats.
- TNR population reduction is the attrition from natural causes or accidents.
- Cats pulled are the adoptable animals that were removed

TNR provides mitigation in addition to the direct population reduction because disease is reduced by 60% to 75% (see sources in main paper). Predation is reduced by 75% to 90% according to various sources (see main paper). Calculating both as a 75% reduction gives the following:

Reduction from 100% in TNR area	60%
Remaining cats in TNR area on average	40%
Mitigation of disease and predation	75%
% disease/predation remaining	10%
% of total neighborhood cats TNR'd	4080/12000 = 34%
Total island-wide mitigation	30%



Neighborhood Cats

the feral cat experts!

February 11, 2017

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

Senate Committee on Water and Land
Hawaii State Legislature

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads and Vice Chair Mike Gabbard,

I am writing to express the support of Neighborhood Cats for SB1262 which would create a cat and wildlife task force.

I am the National Programs Director for Neighborhood Cats and an attorney licensed in the State of New York. I have been involved with free-roaming cat issues since 1999. I regularly consult for The Humane Society of the United States, have assisted in the design and administration of large-scale free-roaming cat management programs throughout the country, have authored many of the leading texts on free-roaming cat management, oversaw over \$20 million in spay/neuter projects during my prior tenure as a program manager for PetSmart Charities, and present regularly at national animal welfare conferences. Recently, I relocated to Maui where Neighborhood Cats has started a local branch.

I am also experienced in addressing cat/wildlife issues. In 2007, I was part of a coalition of agencies in New Jersey which formulated a model ordinance and protocols for addressing situations where cats present a potential risk to rare, threatened or endangered (RTE) species. Agencies included the New Jersey Audubon Society and the New Jersey Endangered and Non-game Species Program. A copy of the document, which I drafted, is attached as part of my testimony.

It is possible to resolve the long-standing conflict between Hawaii's cat and wildlife interests. This can be achieved by all parties focusing on common goals, such as the reduction of the free-roaming cat population, and identifying and protecting specific areas where cats pose an imminent risk of harm to RTE species.

A task force mandated by the Legislature, as set forth in SB1262, would create the forum and urgency necessary to arrive at a pragmatic approach, one that takes both animal welfare and conservation concerns into account. Until those most involved on both sides of this issue sit down together and work this out, resolution will remain elusive and harm to all interests will continue.

Thank you for considering my views,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director

PILOT PROGRAM:

**ORDINANCE & PROTOCOLS
FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF FERAL CAT COLONIES
IN WILDLIFE-SENSITIVE AREAS
IN BURLINGTON COUNTY, NEW JERSEY**

July 2007

**A cooperative effort of the
NEW JERSEY FERAL CAT & WILDLIFE COALITION
Consisting of:**

Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative
Burlington County Health Department
In Defense of Animals
Neighborhood Cats
New Jersey Animal Rights Alliance
New Jersey Audubon Society
The Humane Society of the United States

In consultation with:

New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish & Wildlife,
Endangered & Non-game Species Program

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INTRODUCTION

A reduction in the numbers of feral cats is a common goal of both cat and wildlife advocates, but the growth of Trap-Neuter-Return in the United States has been slowed by the issue of predation.

Although a confrontation seemed inevitable when the New Jersey Audubon Society (NJAS) became aware of the activities of the Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative (BCCI), the outcome was very different. Dr. Gordon Stull, director of BCCI, and Eric Stiles, Vice President for Conservation and Stewardship, NJAS, decided to sit down, express their concerns, educate one another and bring others to the table to dialogue.

One of the group's first tasks was to create a code of conduct and mission statement. During our almost-monthly meetings over a two-year period, many individuals and organizations participated. The signatories to this document were sustained during the difficult phases of our work by our common goal and the trust and respect we had gained for one another.

Our document represents a pilot program that applies specifically to Burlington County, New Jersey. The Protocols as described in this document will be field tested in Burlington County, New Jersey, by the Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative working with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, Division of Fish and Wildlife, Endangered and Nongame Species Program. This Pilot Program, which is expected to be completed in approximately 4 months, will give the Coalition an opportunity to test and evaluate the protocols. At the conclusion of the pilot period, the Coalition will discuss potential revisions as may be appropriate.

Although it is a living document that will be evaluated and revised, we are making it public now. We recognize that each community is unique, and, therefore, suggest that this document serve as a launching point for your discussions. We applaud your collaborative efforts to work for the common good of cats and wildlife in your community.

ORDINANCE

NEW JERSEY ORDINANCE # _____ AN ORDINANCE OF _____ MUNICIPALITY TO PERMIT THE MANAGED CARE OF FERAL CATS

WHEREAS, present goals of Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) programs are to humanely and non-lethally reduce the number of feral cats, reduce feral cat predation and other adverse impact on wildlife, and benefit public health; and

WHEREAS, there are no governmental or privately operated programs in the Municipality of _____ (“Municipality”) to care for feral cats; and

WHEREAS, the population of feral cats has been increasing in the Municipality; and

WHEREAS, communities throughout the United States have found that current non-TNR practices for the control of feral cats have not been effective in reducing their numbers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND COMMITTEE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF _____, COUNTY OF BURLINGTON, STATE OF NEW JERSEY, AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Definitions.

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

Caregiver means any person who provides food, water or shelter to or otherwise cares for a feral cat colony.

Companion cat as used in this ordinance means a cat who is currently socialized to humans.

Eartipping means straight-line cutting of the tip of the left ear of a cat while the cat is anesthetized.

Feral Cat means a cat who currently exists in a wild or untamed state.

Feral Cat Colony means a group of cats that congregates. Although not every cat in a Colony may be feral, any nonferal cats that routinely congregate with a colony shall be deemed to be a part of it.

Nuisance means disturbing the peace by (a) habitually or continually howling, crying or screaming, or (b) the habitual and significant destruction of property against the wishes of the owner of the property.

Suitable shelter means shelter that provides protection from rain, sun, and other elements and is adequate to protect the health of the cat.

TNR means Trap, Neuter and Return.

TNR Program means a program pursuant to which cats are trapped, neutered or spayed, vaccinated against rabies, eartipped and returned to the current location where they congregate in accordance with the Protocols attached hereto and incorporated by reference herein.

Section 2. Feral Cat Colonies.

2.1. Feral Cat Colonies shall be permitted and Caregivers shall be entitled to maintain them in accordance with the terms and conditions of this Ordinance.

2.2. Sponsorship of TNR Program. A single sponsoring organization (“Sponsor”) shall administer the TNR program.

2.3. Sponsor Requirements. It shall be the duty of the Sponsor to:

- a. Conduct a thorough review to determine if the Caregiver(s) has the capability to meet the requirements of Section 2.4;
- b. register Feral Cat Colonies as provided in Section 2.7;
- c. help to resolve any complaints over the conduct of a colony Caregiver or of cats within a colony;
- d. maintain records provided by colony Caregivers on the size and location of the colonies as well as the vaccination and spay/neuter records of cats in the Sponsor’s colonies;
- e. report annually to the Municipality on the following:
 - i. number of colonies in the Municipality;
 - ii. total number of cats in colonies;
 - iii. number of cats and kittens spayed and neutered pursuant to the TNR Program and
 - iv. number of cats and kittens placed in permanent homes;
- f. adhere to the Protocols incorporated by reference herein;

- g. use due consideration to comply with the Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act, N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1, et seq. (“ENSCA”), with respect to species that are covered by the Protocols incorporated by reference herein. Compliance with the incorporated Protocols shall presumptively satisfy the due consideration obligation.

2.4. Feral Cat Caregiver requirements. Caregivers are responsible for the following:

- a. submitting the Feral Cat Colony for registration with the Sponsor;
- b. taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the vaccination of the colony population for rabies and making reasonable efforts to update the vaccinations on cats that can be recaptured;
- c. taking steps that are reasonably likely to result in the spaying/neutering, by a licensed veterinarian, of at least ninety percent (90%) of the colony population. In facilitating the spaying/neutering of cats, Caregivers shall be presumed to have acted in good faith in concluding that cats routinely congregating within the colony are feral;
- d. providing the Sponsor with descriptions of each cat in the colony and copies of documents evidencing that the cats have been vaccinated and spayed/neutered;
- e. providing food, water and, if feasible, suitable shelter for colony cats;
- f. observing the colony cats at least twice per week and keeping a record of any illnesses or unusual behavior noticed in any colony cats;
- g. obtaining proper medical attention to any colony cat who appears to require it;
- h. obtaining the approval of the owner of any property, to which the Caregiver requires access to provide colony care;
- i. in the event that kittens are born to a colony cat, the Caregiver shall take reasonable steps likely to result in the removal of the kittens from the colony after they have been weaned, and the placement of the kittens in homes or foster homes for the purpose of subsequent permanent placement;
- j. Caregivers shall make reasonable efforts to find permanent inside homes for colony cats who exhibit the potential for acclimating to such a placement;

- k. reporting annually in writing to the Sponsor on the status of the colony, including data on the number and gender of all cats in the colony, the number of cats that died or otherwise ceased being a part of the colony during the year; the number of kittens born to colony cats and their disposition and the number of cats and kittens placed in permanent homes as companion cats.

2.5. Colony Cat requirements.

- a. The left ear of a colony cat who has been spayed or neutered and vaccinated shall be eartipped.
- b. An electronic animal identification device (EAID) shall be inserted into the cat by a veterinarian in accordance with professional medical standards. The Sponsor shall be the named contact for purposes of the EAID.

2.6. Disposition of Colony cats.

- a. An Animal Control Officer who has trapped a cat whose left ear has been tipped or who bears some other distinguishing mark indicating that the cat belongs to a Feral Cat Colony may scan the cat for an EAID. If an EAID is found, the Officer may choose to contact the Sponsor or other person responsible for the cat.
- b. Once contacted, the Sponsor shall be responsible for retrieving the cat from the ACO or, if the ACO has delivered the cat to a Shelter, the Sponsor shall retrieve the cat from the Shelter within seven (7) business days of notification or shall advise the Shelter if the Sponsor does not intend to retrieve the cat.

2.7 Registration of Feral Cat Colonies

- a. Sponsor shall register Feral Cat Colonies maintained by approved Caregivers in the manner set forth in this Section.
- b. Upon initial application of an approved Caregiver to register a colony, Sponsor shall comply with Section I, Paragraph A(1) of the Protocols. Following compliance with Section I, Paragraph A(1) of the Protocols, Sponsor may grant provisional registration to the proffered colony, entitling the Caregiver and colony to all benefits and protections set forth in this Ordinance.
- c. Within a reasonable period of time following provisional registration, Sponsor shall follow the required procedures as set forth in the Protocols with respect to the proffered colony. Upon completion, Sponsor may

grant full registration to the colony or shall revoke the provisional registration of the colony.

- d. Feral Cat colonies within the Municipality that are not registered by the Sponsor, either provisionally or fully, are not entitled to any benefits or protections set forth in this Ordinance.

Section 3. Ordinance Enforcement.

3.1. Nothing shall interfere with the Municipality's ability to:

- a. seize/remove a cat from a colony that is creating a nuisance as defined above if the Caregiver and Sponsor have failed to cure the nuisance within sixty (60) days of being advised in writing of its existence.
- b. seize/remove a Feral Cat Colony when the Caregiver regularly fails to comply with the requirements of section 2.4 if Sponsor has failed to correct the situation within sixty (60) days of being given notice in writing delineating the failure with specificity.

3.2. Notwithstanding section 3.1, the Municipality and Animal Control Officers are not subject to any notice requirements or time constraints when acting under the direction of the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to enforce provisions of the ENSCA, except as provided in the Protocols.

3.3. No provisions in this Ordinance are intended to interfere with the ability of ACOs to comply with N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16 or other existing law.

Section 4. Grandfather Clause

4.1. Sections 2.3, 2.4, 2.5 and 2.7 shall not apply to Feral Cat Colonies submitted for registration prior to the adoption of this Ordinance.

PROTOCOLS

Preamble

- A. The members of the New Jersey Feral Cat & Wildlife Coalition, sharing the goals of non-lethally reducing feral cat populations and also protecting wildlife, are pleased to announce a municipal pilot program involving the Burlington County Feral Cat Initiative in order to determine the best ways to reach our stated shared goals. It is our sincere hope that this municipal pilot program will result in a model for protecting wildlife while at the same time effectively and non-lethally reducing feral cat populations, and that this Burlington County, New Jersey municipal model will further demonstrate that such collaborative efforts can and will work to achieve mutually beneficial ends.
- B. These Protocols for the Management of Feral Cat Colonies in Wildlife-Sensitive Areas in Burlington County, New Jersey (“Protocols”) are intended to be neutral on the legal issue of whether the practice of Trap-Neuter-Return (“TNR”) would or would not ever constitute a violation of the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act (N.J.S.A. 23:2A-1, et seq.)
- C. No provisions of the Ordinance to Permit the Managed Care of Feral Cats (“Ordinance”) or Protocols pre-empt federal or New Jersey state law.
- D. No provisions of the Ordinance or Protocols are intended to offer guidance on how to comply with the federal Endangered Species Act or Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

I. Feral Cat Colony Management in Critical Habitat for Endangered, Threatened, Rare and Special Concern Species Covered by the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act

A. Due Consideration – Consultation with Landscape Project’s I-Map

1. As the initial step in exercising due consideration to comply with the New Jersey Endangered and Nongame Species Conservation Act (“ENSCA”), the Sponsor of the TNR program (“Sponsor”) must consult the Landscape Project’s I-Map to determine whether the colony is located within one or more patches of critical habitat for an Endangered, Threatened, Rare or Special Concern species (“ETR”) ranked 2, 3, 4 or 5, or within a quarter mile buffer zone of any such patch. (*See Appendices A [general guidance document on I-Map] and B [specific guidance document on Landscape Project within I-Map].*)

B. Due Consideration – No Critical Habitat Involved

1. If, upon consultation of the Landscape Project’s I-Map, Sponsor determines that the colony proposed for full registration is not located in a patch for any ETR species ranked 2, 3, 4 or 5, or within a quarter mile buffer zone of any such patch, Sponsor may proceed to grant full registration to the colony. Notification or consultation with the Division of Fish & Wildlife Endangered & Non-game Species Program (“DFW ENSP”) is not required.
2. Sponsor shall print out and maintain a copy of the relevant I-Map page(s) to document the finding that the colony is not located in critical habitat for any ETR species.
3. With respect to any colonies which Sponsor finds are not located in critical habitat for any ETR species and which are then granted full registration, Sponsor shall perform the due consideration process described in these Protocols at least once a year. This is to ensure that new information entered into the I-Map about ETR species locations are taken into account.

C. Due Consideration – Critical Habitat Involved; Determining if Cat-vulnerable Species are Present

1. If the colony proposed for full registration is located within a relevant patch or buffer zone, Sponsor must determine whether the critical habitat in question contains a “cat-vulnerable” ETR species. Sponsor does this by consulting a list of the ETR species present in the relevant patch and cross-checking this list against a separate list of cat-vulnerable species compiled and periodically updated by DFW ENSP. DFW ENSP will provide an updated list to Sponsor annually. (*See Appendix C [list of designated cat-vulnerable ETR species] and Appendix D [interim procedure for identifying species of Special Concern in critical habitat].*)

D. Due Consideration – Critical Habitat Involved; No Cat-vulnerable Species are Present

1. If Sponsor determines there are no cat-vulnerable species present in the relevant patch or buffer zone, Sponsor may proceed to grant full registration to the colony. Notification or consultation with DFW ENSP is not required.
2. Sponsor shall print out and maintain the relevant I-Map page(s) and list(s) of ETR species to document that the colony is not located in critical habitat for any cat-vulnerable ETR species.
3. With respect to any colonies which Sponsor finds are not located in critical habitat for a cat-vulnerable ETR species and which are then granted full registration, Sponsor shall repeat the due consideration process described in these Protocols at least once a year. This is to ensure that new information entered into the I-Map about ETR locations are taken into account.

E. Due Consideration – Critical Habitat Involved; Cat-vulnerable Species Present; Non-TNR Option Pursued

1. **Notification required:** If an existing colony proposed for full registration is located in a cat-vulnerable ETR patch or within a quarter mile buffer zone, Sponsor must notify DFW ENSP of the presence of the colony, the link or patch identification number of the relevant patch, and Sponsor’s planned course of action. DFW ENSP shall be contacted at PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0400.
2. **Consultation not required:** Consultation with DFW ENSP (which is to be distinguished from notification) is not required if Sponsor of the TNR Program undertakes any of the following courses of action within a reasonable period of time of learning a colony proposed for full registration is located within a cat-vulnerable ETR patch or buffer zone:
 - a. Relocation of the colony. Sponsor has a duty to ensure the colony will not be relocated within another cat-vulnerable ETR patch or buffer zone.
 - b. Removal of the colony for any other purpose, including adoption, confinement in an off-site sanctuary, placement in an animal shelter, etc.
 - c. On-site confinement of the colony using an approved and properly installed confinement system that proves, in fact, to be effective. If on-site confinement is used, the required notification to DFW ENSP described in section III (E)(1) must include a description of the confinement system utilized. (*See Appendix E [list of approved on-site confinement systems].*)
3. **Disputing I-Map designation:** The I-map creates a “rebuttable” presumption that the patch in question is currently habitat for any listed cat-vulnerable ETR

species. If Sponsor seeks to dispute this presumption, Sponsor bears the burden of presenting adequate evidence to DFW ENSP that the relevant species are no longer present in the patch or the habitat is no longer suitable for that species. If Sponsor presents such evidence, a colony located within the disputed patch shall not be granted full registration until DFW ENSP has adequate time to evaluate the evidence and provide written concurrence that the I-Map's presumption has been rebutted.

F. Due Consideration – Critical Habitat Involved, Cat-vulnerable Species Present; TNR Option Pursued

1. **Consultation required:** If a colony proposed for full registration is located in a cat-vulnerable ETR patch or buffer zone, and Sponsor wants to pursue a TNR project, Sponsor must consult with DFW ENSP prior to granting full registration of the colony. DFW ENSP shall be contacted at PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0400.
2. **Identifying colony location:** In consulting with DFW ENSP, Sponsor will provide the link or identification number of the relevant I-Map patch.
3. **Colony management plan:** In consulting with DFW ENSP, Sponsor will submit a feral cat colony management plan. The plan should be as complete as possible and should detail how Sponsor intends to achieve the dual goals of reduction and eventual elimination of the colony, and of minimizing adverse impact on the relevant ETR species while the colony exists. The plan may include such elements as the number of cats, proximity of the cats to ETR species within the relevant patch or buffer zone, seasonality of the ETR species at risk, anticipated rate of attrition and length of project, efforts to prevent immigration of more cats into the colony, and use of best practices to deter predation (e.g., location of feeding stations, repellants, aversive conditioning, partial confinement).
4. **If colony management plan acceptable:** If the proposed TNR project and feral cat colony management plan is deemed acceptable by DFW ENSP, a letter will be issued stating such and setting forth any conditions. Upon receipt of the letter and compliance with any conditions set forth, Sponsor may grant full registration to the colony.
5. **If colony management plan unacceptable:** If the proposed TNR project is deemed unacceptable by DFW ENSP, Sponsor shall deny full registration to the colony and shall have a reasonable period of time to implement one of the non-TNR options set forth in Section I, Paragraph D(2). What will be considered “reasonable” will depend on such factors as the option chosen, the number of cats, the difficulty of trapping and any other relevant factors. The need to protect the ETR species in question will also be taken into account. If one of the non-TNR options set forth in Section I, Paragraph D(2) is not implemented within a reasonable period of time, Sponsor shall revoke registration of the colony.

6. **Trapping due to imminent danger:** If DFW ENSP considers the feral cat colony management plan unacceptable, deems the relevant ETR species to be in imminent danger and proceeds to trap and remove the cats, notification will be provided to Sponsor of the trapping efforts. The purpose of notification is to give Sponsor an opportunity to make arrangements for a non-lethal disposition. A reasonable attempt to notify Sponsor will be made before trapping begins. If Sponsor is not notified prior to trapping, notification will occur as soon thereafter as possible. Notification must take place after trapping at least within the mandatory holding period for cats in shelters as specified in N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16. Factors indicating imminent danger include, but are not limited to, the season, number of cats, and proximity of the cats to the ETR species in question.
7. **DFW ENSP reserves the right to take actions that are not in conflict with the provisions of these Protocols:** If Sponsor chooses to maintain the colony without confinement in a cat-vulnerable ETR patch or quarter mile buffer zone, DFW ENSP retains all legal options for protecting the ETR species in question, including trapping and removing the cats and arranging for their impoundment in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16, subject to compliance with the provisions of these Protocols.

G. Other Duties by Sponsor of TNR Program

1. Sponsor will provide DFW ENSP and the Office of Animal Welfare with its current contact information and a list of municipalities in which it is administering a TNR program. DFW ENSP shall be contacted at PO Box 400, Trenton, NJ, 08625-0400. Office of Animal Welfare shall be contacted at New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services, Office of Animal Welfare, PO Box 369, Trenton NJ 08625-0369.
2. Sponsor will provide its current contact information to the animal control agency of any Municipality in which it is administering a TNR program.
3. Sponsor will provide relevant data to the New Jersey Feral Cat & Wildlife Coalition for the purpose of evaluating and refining this Municipal Pilot Program. This data shall include, but not be limited to, (a) number of caregivers who opt out of registration under the Ordinance due to the requirements of these Protocols, (b) number of caregivers who opt in, (c) outcomes of evaluations performed and actions taken on colonies under the terms of these Protocols.

H. Other Duties of Division of Fish & Wildlife, Endangered & Nongame Species Program

1. **DFW ENSP discovers feral cat colony:** If DFW ENSP independently discovers a colony of feral cats and believes intervention is required, it will take reasonable steps to determine whether Sponsor is operating in that Municipality. If Sponsor

is active, then DFW ENSP will provide the opportunity for Sponsor to exercise due consideration as set forth in Section I, Paragraphs A through F.

2. **Changed circumstances:** If DFW ENSP determines that new developments or information require a change in the management plan of a fully registered colony, DFW ENSP will provide notification to Sponsor for the purpose of allowing Sponsor to exercise due consideration as set forth in Section I, Paragraphs A through F. An example of changed circumstances would be a sighting of an ETR species in previously unknown habitat.
3. **DFW ENSP trapping:** Whenever DFW ENSP decides to trap and remove feral cats and is aware that Sponsor is operating in that municipality, DFW ENSP will notify Sponsor of the trapping efforts. The purpose of notification is to give Sponsor an opportunity to make arrangements for a non-lethal disposition. A reasonable attempt to notify Sponsor will be made before trapping begins. If Sponsor is not notified prior to trapping, notification will occur as soon thereafter as possible. Notification must take place after trapping at least within the mandatory holding period for cats in shelters as specified in N.J.S.A. 4:19-15.16.

II. Feral Cat Colony Management in Wildlife-related Open Spaces & Parkland

- A. Locations Covered by Part II of Protocols:** Locations covered by Section II of these Protocols include (a) open spaces and parkland for which one of the primary management goals is wildlife-related, as identified on I-Map or otherwise, and (b) a quarter mile buffer zone around (a).
- B. Colonies Located in Wildlife-related Open Spaces and Parkland, Not Including Buffer Zone:** Prior to granting full registration of the colony, Sponsor must secure the permission of the land manager.
- C. Colonies Located in Buffer Zone of Wildlife-related Open Spaces and Parkland:** Prior to full registration of the colony, Sponsor must notify the land manager of the adjacent open space or parkland if a TNR project will be implemented.
1. If the land manager protests the TNR project, whether prior to its inception or while it is ongoing, a consultation aimed at resolving the conflict will be held between Sponsor, land manager and Municipality.
 2. Factors to be considered during the consultation should include:
 - a) Recognition of the value of open land accessible to the public for purposes of recreation and education, and
 - b) Recognition of the value of TNR in managing feral cat colonies.

III. Feral Cat Colony Management in Locations Not Covered by Sections I and II

A. Registration of Colonies by Sponsor: Sponsor may grant full registration to colonies in Section III locations and implement TNR projects without limitation.

B. Complaints about Colonies by Residents or Property Owners – Procedures: Sponsor will institute adequate and timely procedures by which any resident or property owner of a Section III location can file a complaint to the effect that a registered colony is adversely impacting wildlife at that location. Notification of the complaint should be received by both Sponsor and the municipality.

C. Resolution of Complaints – Procedures

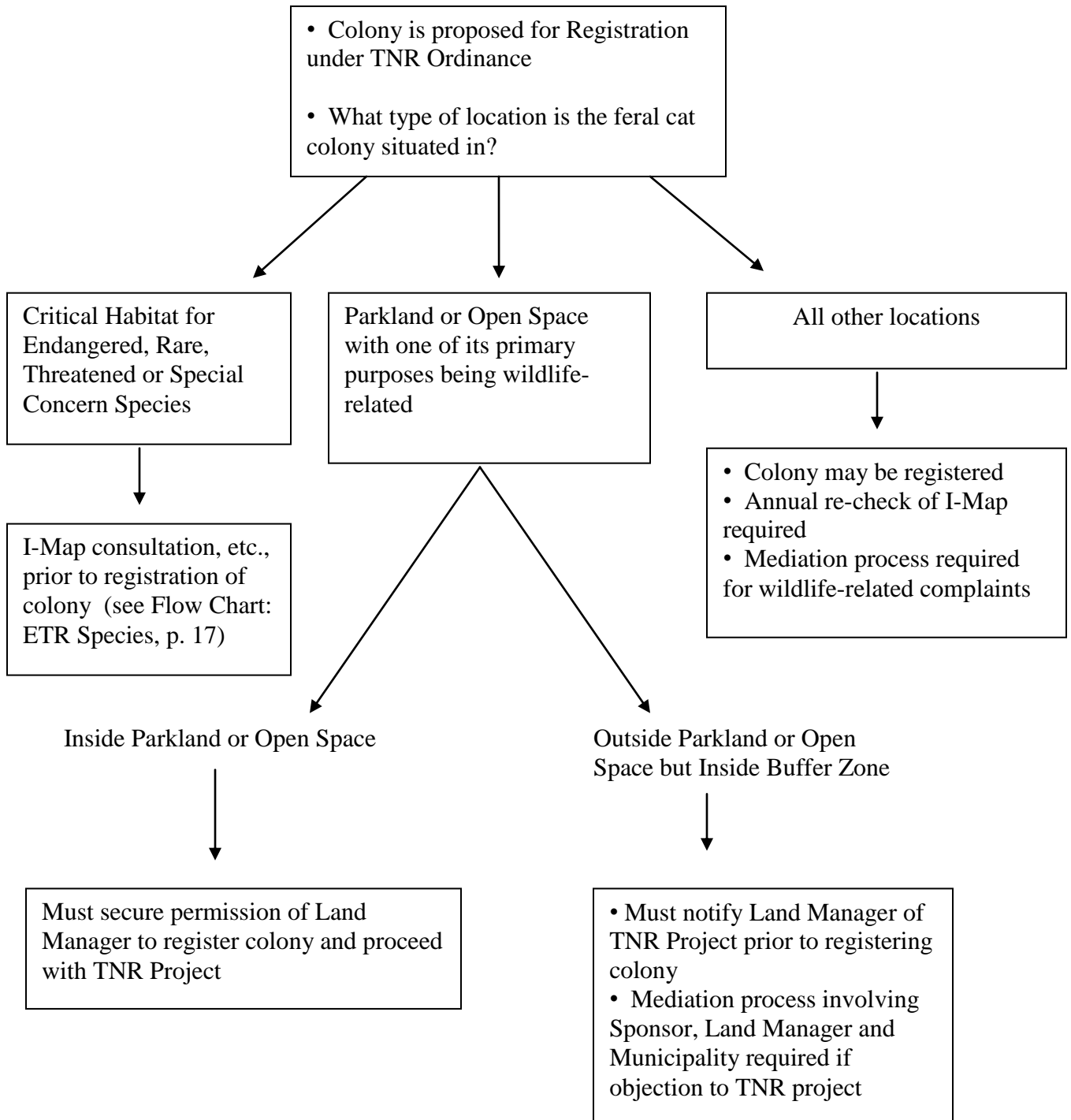
1. In a timely manner, Sponsor will consult with the affected resident or property owner if a good faith complaint is filed in an attempt to resolve the situation. The Municipality will be given the opportunity to participate in the consultation.
2. Factors to be considered during the consultation should include:
 - a) Recognition of the value of wildlife,
 - b) Recognition of the value of TNR in managing feral cat colonies,
 - c) The availability of devices and strategies to minimize wildlife predation by feral cats (*See Appendix F [cat deterrence systems].*)

IV. Exempted Feral Cat Colony Management

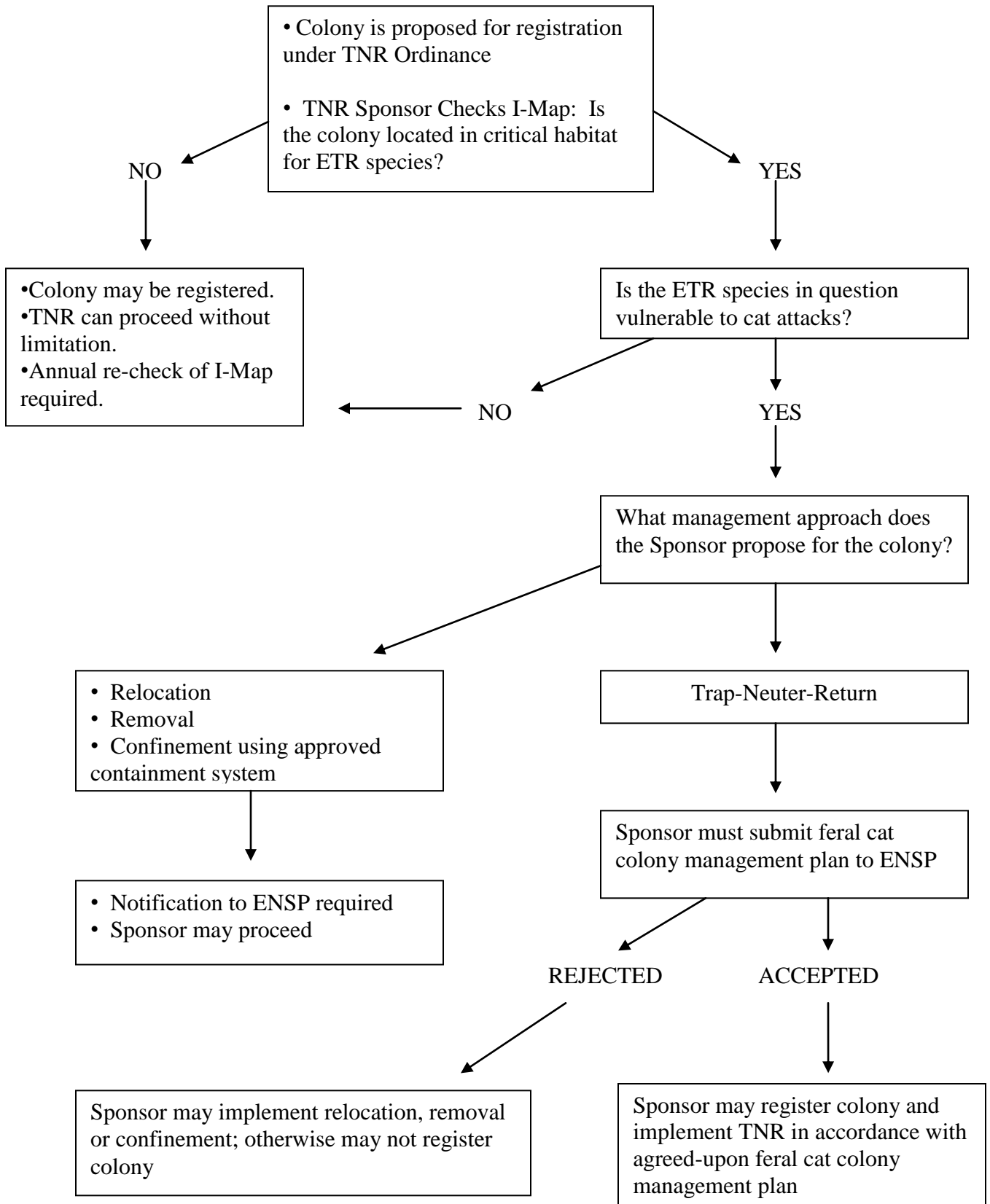
- A. **Sponsor's duty for exempted feral cat colonies:** On an annual basis, with respect to feral cat colonies exempted by 4.1 of the Ordinance, Sponsor shall consult with the Landscape Project using IMAP as described in Section I of these Protocols.

- B. **Exempted colonies located within cat-vulnerable critical habitat:** If it is determined that a colony exempted by 4.1 of the Ordinance is located within critical habitat for a cat-vulnerable ETR species or within a ¼ mile buffer zone, then Sponsor is encouraged to consult with DFW ENSP to determine whether reasonable steps can be taken to reduce adverse impacts to wildlife or mitigate for such. Alternatively, Sponsor may consider using one of the approaches set forth in Section I, Paragraph E(2).

FLOW CHART: TYPE OF LOCATION



FLOW CHART: ETR SPECIES





Ana Kahoopii, Director

PO Box 2714

Kamuela, HI 96743

Dear Honorable Representatives,

Please oppose this bill because it will establish a one-sided task force to decide how to essentially get rid of free-roaming cats to "humanely reduce outdoor cat populations;" HOWEVER, DLNR will administer the task force.

This bill does not provide for any person working on TNRM to be part of the task force. It contains a few "nicely worded" provisions but was obviously drafted by DLNR and powers that just want to ELIMINATE cats. The voting members of the task force are limited to one representative from the list below, but it includes NO ONE from any type of animal welfare organizations who manage TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) colonies and they should also be included in the taskforce listed:

- DLNR, Forestry and Wildlife Division
- NOAA
- US Fish and Wildlife
- Each county humane society that is contracted by a county to provide animal care and control services
- Licensed Veterinarian specializing in large-scale spay-neuter of pets
- A national wildlife protection organization
- A national animal protection organization

Thank you for considering this information and we oppose the Bill as it stands now.

Sincerely,

Ana Kahoopii

Director, Aloha Animal Advocates



To: Hawaii State Senators **GABBARD, ESPERO, GREEN, SHIMABUKURO, Galuteria, Kidani, Riviere, Ruderman, L. Thielen**

Aloha Senators,

Our organization, Aloha Animal Advocates, represents seven non-profit animal welfare organizations on the Big Island. Those organizations include KARES, Rainbow Friends, Hui Pono Holoholona, Pele Lani Agricultural and Holistic Center, Catsnips, AdvoCats. Additionally there are several farms who support this organization including: MM12 Farm and Pele Lani Farm LLC.

We respectfully request that one or more representatives from our coalition be included in the taskforce. The Humane Society is our "animal control pound" and as such, is not considered a representative of animal welfare on this island. We would like equal representation.

Many of our members manage zero growth feral cat colonies due to Trap/Neuter/Return programs with assigned feeders. I personally manage a 222 cat colony on my farm and I have ZERO feline population growth, ZERO RATS, MICE AND MONGOOSE. Additionally I have lots of birds.

Although this is not a scientific study, I can attest that in the past four years, there have been about six non-native birds killed by the cats per year. Mostly they kill to extinction, rats, mice, green geckos and roaches. Yes, even roaches. I only wish they would kill and eat coqui frogs!

I think the taskforce really needs to talk to people who are out in the field doing the work of TNR and managing colonies in order to determine a viable solution. Representative John Mizuno has the right idea. Appropriate funds to expand the already effective TNR programs in existence in order to have ZERO feline population growth throughout the state. This is the humane way. This is the Aloha way.

We are here to help find a solution we can all live with.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Maya Dolena 808 965-1899
Ana Kaho'opi'i 808 887-2022

Robert and Romae Lenci
3-3400 Kuhio Highway #C-207, Lihue, HI 96766
808-431-4516 relenci@outlook.com

Feb 13, 2017

My wife and I are volunteers for The Kauai Community Cat Project. We have two colonies of “abandoned” Cats that we have been caring for – for over 5 years now on Kauai. These Cats are NOT feral Cats, that have been fixed, micro chipped, but abandoned by their owners years ago and left on street corners to fend for themselves. Our main group of community Cats are located on the south perimeter of Wilcox Hospital, next to an open over-grown lot behind them. We consider this group to be “The Wilcox Rat Patrol” as these Cats keep all the Mice and Rats away from the Hospital grounds. (I know, I’ve watched them) Recently the executive staff for Kauai Community Cat Project met with Jen H. Chahanovich, President & Chief Executive Officer of Wilcox Medical Center and we were granted permission to continue to feed and care for the abandoned Cats on their property line. We feed these Cats once a day at dusk (due to the competition with the Chickens for their food) and rarely are they ever seen during the daylight hours.

Our other colony is located at Ahukini/Hanama`ulu Bay parking lot. There are several abandoned Cats that have been living happy lives there for well over 9 years. (I know, I have been feeding them every day for over 5 years now) These Cats are micro chipped, registered to Ahukini by the Kauai Humane Society and fixed. These Cats live in the rocks and never socialize with any of the feral Cats across the parking lot.

I have photos of all of these Cats on a Facebook group site called “Forever Homes” where anyone that would like a beautiful Cat could contact us and we can arrange for adoption. We have had a success rate for this avenue and some of our Cats have been adopted and placed in loving homes.

Ok, let’s get to the heart of matter: On Kauai, The Chickens are at the top of the food chain. These are not normal Chickens. They are fighting Chicken bred for the purpose of killing. I have witnessed a Rooster poke out the eye of a Cat and going after the Cats food. These birds are vicious, and there is nothing to stop them other than a fast moving Chevy. They are breeding out of control and their population is growing to the point where it’s becoming difficult to walk across a parking lot without the invention of wild Chickens running around. I bring up this point due to the fact that the Cats are afraid of the Chickens. The Chickens compete for their food. Never in all my years living on Kauai have I ever seen any Cat ever attack a bird, any bird, either Chicken (big or small) or Sea bird. But what I have seen is the Chickens drive away the Sea birds at Ahukini. The birds cannot land on the rocks because the Chickens (not Cats) will attack them. I have witnessed the Roosters peck away at the Sea birds eggs and eat everything in that nest.

The Trap-Neuter-Release program is working for the population of Cats on Kauai and they play important role to keep the balance of nature so we are not over run by Rats and Mice, which by the way, also eat Sea bird eggs.

To close; I would like to see a serious reduction of feral Chickens on Kauai. A more serious effort to trap-neuter-release feral Cats and micro chip. Eradicating the Cats is

not the answer to this problem, nature always finds a way for a species to survive. This bill although informative, is a waste of tax payers money. Recently, the City of Lihue hired a private contractor to do a study on this exact arena only to discover they spent \$40,000 on a study where the data reported was erroneous and out of date.

S.B. NO 1261 has no merit and will only create a disastrous effect of nature within a short period of time. Strike this Bill. Although we can take precautions to reduce populations, we cannot play God and eradicate a species due to another.

Testimony In Opposition to
SB 1262

I am writing to OPPOSE SB1262 as written.

My name is Martha Girdany, and I am a resident of Kilauea, Kauai. I am the Vice President of Kauai Community Cat Project (KCCP), a non-profit 501c3 dedicated to the welfare of feral/community cats.

I note that there are NO feral/community cat advocates on the proposed task force. Although the current wording indicates that the task force will have a representative from a “national animal protection organization,” I am not at all certain that the selected individual will be a cat advocate. I find it unconscionable that a task force looking into “humanely” reducing outdoor cat populations does not specifically have a designated cat advocate. I request that the language in SB1262 be amended to include specific wording about inclusion of a cat advocate.

KCCP’s extensive research reveals that TNR – trap-neuter-return – is the best and most effective way to reduce homeless cat populations. Indeed, KCCP’s experience on Kauai is that TNR does significantly reduce the population of homeless cats in managed colonies. However, those managed colonies never decline to zero because there is constant dumping and/or abandonment of unwanted cats – the result of a lack of wide-spread spaying and neutering. Furthermore, many studies indicate that cats in managed, TNR’d colonies predate less and are healthier than those in unmanaged colonies. Additional information from publicly available information shows that in the last decade, over 20,000 homeless cats have been trapped and killed by the Kauai Humane Society, DLNR and others. Killing this large number of cats has produced no significant decrease in the overall number of homeless cats. To do that, there must be more widespread spaying and neutering of cats, and TNR is helping to provide that service, and at NO cost to Hawaii or the County of Kauai.

I am also very much opposed to the wording in the bill that states that HRS 92, the Sunshine Law, will NOT apply to this task force. Important issues, such as dealing with homeless cats, deserve to be dealt with in full view of the public. The fact that the current bill wording specifically makes the workings of this task force non-public strongly suggests that there will be discussions going on that members of the public will find objectionable. That is NOT pono. I request that the language excluding the workings of this task force from having to conform to Sunshine Law tenets be amended so that the Sunshine Law WILL be followed.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha J. Girdany
Vice President,
Kauai Community Cat Project

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:31 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: owlit1@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Frances Pueo	Hui Pono Holoholona	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose 1262 because it specifically bias in targeting cats as the only culprit killing our wildlife. There are many other contributing factors that should not be excluded in such a study. We support Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage of cat colonies. History shows round-up-to kill felines doesn't decrease animal overpopulation. In fact, it has an opposite effect. Organized T-N-R-M of feline colonies, and working with caregivers in designated areas, away from threaten bird habitats: decreases unwanted kitten births, animals are healthier and better controlled, and less likely to hunt for birds. Birds flight ability keeps them relatively able to escape danger. Keep in mind that we humans are the greatest habitat destroyers of bird feeding and nesting areas with our housing, shopping malls, poisons, and other pollutions. Additional factors of native bird extinction are increasing warm climate changes, increase diseases of avian malaria, and avian poxvirus. Also, competition from non-native birds and from invasive plant that overtake their usual food sources. Rats have been observed to climb trees to attack baby bird fledging's, are carriers of leptospirosis bacteria and easily can contaminate fresh water....our drinking water! Rats are carriers also of the dreaded Rat Lung Disease that too many of our islanders have been fatally affected with. The damages to food crops as oranges, avocados, bananas, breadfruit and more, is in the millions. Rats easily adapt to poisons, so the best and most effect rat control is the CAT. Remove the cat, the rats return. Respectfully Yours Frannie Pueo 769-1128 P.O. Box 943 Mt. View Hi 96711

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

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:37 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: goldenfeatherjewelry@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Partlow	Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary	Comments Only	No

Comments: I would like to urge the inclusion of more committee members who are sympathetic to the cats. I understand there is a problem with free roaming cats, but any removal efforts need to actually be HUMANE, and the cats should be sterilized and relocated, rather than killed. The Hawaii Island "Humane" Society is an advocate of killing, even though that has not helped the situation here, but caused people to avoid surrendering their pets. Instead they abandon them at transfer stations or out in the "jungle", hoping they will survive on their own. Committee members need to be educated in the science behind diseases and predation attributed to free-roaming cats, some of which is controversial and needs to be looked at objectively. I would like to nominate Dr. Sabina De Giannaco as the committee veterinarian, because she is very well versed in all these issues, and participates in numerous high-volume spay/neuter clinics. And for the representative of a local rescue organization, I suggest Rainbow Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kurtistown on the Big Island. This group is very active in rescue, adoptions, education and sanctuary. I am sympathetic to wildlife as well as cats, I just want the decisions to be balanced and science based, and to involve little to no killing of cats. So, please include committee members who have open minds and will listen to the facts before making decisions. Thank you.

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Opposing SB1262:

"Establishes the cat and wildlife task force to make recommendations regarding the humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations and their impacts on wildlife."

Testimony:

I am writing to oppose SC1262. Our organization, Love A Cat Charity, began **trap, neuter and release operations** at the Ala Wai Clubhouse in 1999 and we fixed 67 cats there between 1999 and 2003. These cats remained and were fed on a daily basis as they lived out their lives there. There are currently (2017) 10 cats still alive there and only one cat has been added to this original population.

This is an excellent example of how TNR works because three sides of this clubhouse are "fenced in" by the Ala Wai Canal and the golf course itself leaving only one road in to the area. So, once the cats were fixed, they remained and were cared for but are now dying out after living out their natural lives.

Sara Armstrong
Love A Cat Charity
P. O Box 11753
Honolulu, HI 96828

808-454-9755

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 2:09 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: shyaura@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Oppose	No

Comments: Individual colony caretakers can be used to save the taxpayers money in the humane control of feral cat population using proven TNRM methods. These people have spent countless hours of their own time and thousands of dollars of their own funds and will continue to do this if you use them as a valuable resource. Please consider working with them so they and all they have given are not wasted resources. They will suffer financial loss as well as emotional distress if you implement a mass cull which has been proven time and again not to be effective. It will cost the taxpayers endless years of money out of their pockets as the job will never be done. The only people who benefit are the cat killers who will have lifetime employment. As well the chemical poison used for this will kill other wildlife as collateral damage, leach into the soil, get in the water table and poison game that drinks from the streams and run into the ocean poisoning fish and corals. Then we will get poisoned if we drink the water, eat the fish and hunted game. Hunting dogs will be poisoned drinking from streams. This is bad. Please consider a better option that is less risky. As a reminder the cats didn't ask to be feral. They are the product of irresponsible owners who abandon and dump. Please punish these humans not the innocent Victims of peoples failure to act humanely.

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Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 5:40 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: mollybbill@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angie Ali	amaniek9	Oppose	No

Comments: We are opposing this measure because of the one-sided task force you are seeking to appoint. Cats have not near any of the impacts we humans have had ! If we need to "eradicate more cats" on top of the massive number killed every year by HIHS please make sure there are others on this "task force" that can guide you in the "humane" direction.

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Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 1:57 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: mrs_howl@excite.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pamela Miedtke-Wolf	Save An Animal	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Please oppose this bill. We need a group to address free roaming cats, yes, but this bill is very misleading, and does not include the right people to resolve any issues.... As it is written now, it is not going to work, and only headed for disaster. Please do not sign it. If there is to be a group to address the "humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations" as the main outcome, it needs to have, as the primary members, people who deal with cats, people who understand cats, people who work constantly already at trying to reduce the numbers of free roaming cats, and not just listed as non voting advisers. The vast majority of the groups listed currently, in this bill, as the voting members, the DLNR, Fish and Wildlife service, NOA, are wildlife / sub groups only, they do not work with cats, they do not now how to deal with cats, and often have their own predetermined agendas. They should be part of the group, but listed as advisers only. If this bill is really about the "humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations" It needs to be rewritten with people who know how to humanely reduce cat populations, in charge! If anyone, including the DLNR, wants to resolve issues with free roaming cats, they should agree, we need people who deal with cats in the majority, and the primary voters. That is the only way an issue such as dealing with pets and free roaming cats will work. As currently written it is stacking the deck against the outcome right from the beginning, and is asking for trouble and is avoiding the real issues. As a side note, that already shows how wrong this bills focus is. Free roaming cats are NOT a cat issue as such. It is more a human issue. Even if you remove ALL cats from an area, shortly there after, you will have a person show up and abandon a pregnant cat, or a box of kittens, and the issue starts over. We need a cat group to focus on free roaming cats, yes, but it needs to be made up of primarily people who know cats, and been working with cats for years... otherwise it's not going to work. Period. Please oppose this bill.

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Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
SB 1262 Relating to Wildlife
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Wednesday, February 15, 2017, 3:00 PM, Room 414**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy (ABC) and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to **provide comments on SB 1262**, which would establish a cat and wildlife task force to make recommendations regarding the reduction of free-roaming cat populations.

Free-roaming cats are among the world’s most harmful invasive species. Cats have contributed to the extinction of 63 species worldwide, including 33 species on islands, and annually kill 2.4 billion birds and 12.3 billion mammals in the United States. The presence of these introduced predators in Hawai‘i is a major threat to numerous native Hawaiian birds, such as endangered Palila, ‘Alae Ke‘oke‘o (Hawaiian Coot), ‘A‘o (Newell’s Shearwater), ‘Ua‘u (Hawaiian Petrel), and others.

The magnitude of the impacts of free-roaming cats to birds in Hawai‘i necessitates a science-based and comprehensive management strategy, and ABC is committed to achieving effective and humane reduction of free-roaming cats.

Nevertheless, I believe that the activities of the task force established by this bill are unlikely to lead to meaningful dialogue and productive results. A similar task force convened for several years only to result in gridlock at the first sign of conflict between free-roaming cats and endangered bird conservation. Rather than expend time and energy on a new iteration of the same effort, I recommend looking to the recommendations of the Kaua‘i Feral Cat Task Force. That group, composed of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds, agreed to “advocate for Kaua‘i to become free of feral, abandoned, and stray cats” by 2025 by enforcing penalties for irresponsible owners, sufficiently funding the Kaua‘i Humane Society, and fully registering and enclosing all cat colonies within five years.

Whether you choose to adopt the Kaua‘i model or to proceed with the task force established in this bill, it is clear that free-roaming cats require effective management. Yet, the current bill fails to include a key stakeholder group: public health. **I encourage an amendment to require participation by the state epidemiologist** should SB 1262 move forward.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Grant Sizemore, M.S., AWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs

Testimony on SB1262, Relating to Wildlife, Committee on Water and Land hearing
February 15, 2017, 3pm, Room 414
Mary James
felinitous@yahoo.com

I oppose SB1262 as drafted.

- Please include as a voting member of the Task Force at least one representative of a nonprofit organization that directly supports the program of Trap, Neuter, Return, and Manage (TNRM).
- Please include in the Task Force the responsibility to work with the Legislature to increase the penalties for abandoning cats or other animals.
- Please include a provision that the Task Force should work with colony caretakers in their efforts to care for abandoned cats until they are no longer of concern.

My name is Mary James and I was in charge of two abandoned and feral cat colonies across Beretania from the Capitol building. They were behind the Department of Health and between the Department of Education and the Governor's Mansion. Those colonies are no longer there. The cats lived out their lives there under my care and the care of others. I was fortunate that only two cats were dumped into the areas while I cared for these colonies. I removed both of these cats as they were pet cats and could not survive in the colony.

The makeup of this Task Force – both voting and nonvoting members - is very one-sided to the detriment of the feral cats and those who care for them. The specifically named members (the first three) have all worked to stop those who practice TNRM. There is also another general “wildlife protection organization” which is unnamed. The veterinarian to be part of the Task Force relates to pets and not feral cats. The last two – humane societies and an animal protection organization - are unnamed and some of those may be against TNRM. It is hard to know the position an organization has until the organization is actually named so the public will not know the actual makeup of the Task Force until it is finalized. No effort was made to provide the Task Force with the thoughts and concerns of people involved with TNRM as a positive benefit for the cats and wildlife.

I find it odd that there is no specific provision for input from cat caretakers in the makeup of the Task Force. The Task Force includes no direct representative of the cat colony caretakers and those who TNRM the colony cats. There are numerous organizations that specifically represent cat caretakers, yet not one of them is represented on the Task Force nor, as far as I know, were any of them involved in establishing the Task Force.

I realize that some of the humane societies may provide some services for cats and their caretakers but this is not their sole responsibility and some may prefer to “remove” the cats rather than allow the colonies to disappear due to natural attrition. There are many nonprofit organizations and individuals in Hawaii that work directly with the colonies who could be part of the Task Force. I also wonder about the members serving on the Task Force without

compensation. Does that mean that the first three listed who work for government agencies will receive no pay for their work? Will they need to meet after work hours or take leave? No colony caretaker is paid and their work or costs and these programs do not cost the government anything – not even mileage.

I also find the wording of the bill to be problematic in not providing the public with what will actually take place. For example, the words “humane removal” should be defined so that the public understands that in most instances this will involve killing the animals in often very disturbing ways such as shooting them in traps. As an aside, I’d like to point out that “humanely” is often used to include “euthanasia.” Killing a feral cat (or any outdoor cat) is rarely “euthanasia.” The Webster’s Dictionary definition of “euthanasia” is “the act or practice of killing or permitting the death of **hopelessly sick or injured** individuals (as persons or domestic animals) in a relatively painless way **for reasons of mercy.**” The Oxford English Dictionary defines it as: “The painless killing of a patient suffering from an incurable and painful disease or in an irreversible coma.” Killing outdoor cats is not euthanasia under most circumstances where it is currently used. Rather, it is used for the benefit of the humans who don’t want the cat to live. They should just call it what it is – killing - and not pretend it as a nice thing to do for the cats. I know some feral cats are in horrendous trouble and terrible physical condition so there are some instances where killing a cat would be euthanasia but most feral cats killed are not in such condition.

A final point that I’d like to make is that bills such as this which treat feral cats as unwanted and unworthy of life promote acts of tremendous cruelty to cats in colonies – as well as to other animals. There are numerous instances of colony cats being shot or poisoned or otherwise tortured, showing no care for life. I would like all animals to be treated with care and respect. In the case of the feral cats, it was not their choice to be abandoned to lead an uncertain life. Every feral cat living in Hawaii, or its ancestor, was brought here by an owner and many of these cats, or their progeny, were abandoned by uncaring persons. We need to stop the lack of compassion and understanding of these cats just because some people hold them in disdain – even those with pet cats at home.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:18 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: ccm808@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christin Matsushige	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments: Dear Legislators: Please oppose this bill unless amended to include on the task force at least one voting member who is a local expert and who is personally and directly active in TNRM (trap, neuter, return, monitor). TNRM is an effective, non-lethal method of managing community cats (stray, abandoned, feral cats). Thank you. Christin Matsushige

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To: WTL Testimony
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 5:02 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: launahele@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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Sent: Friday, February 10, 2017 3:07 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: tiare@hapahi.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/10/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiare Lawrence	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Strong support. The feral cat situation in state parks are out of control and unsanitary for the public. Please support!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:53 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: malamahawaii17@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susanne Spiessberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 11:33 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: alohasharing@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sharing lawrence	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose bill SB1262 as a resident of Maui Co for 20years. This type of authorization to eliminate "other species" or "wildlife" is NOT effective and only results in cruelty to animals or the suffering of animals. TNRM is the only way to end the suffering of innocent animals the humane way and anything else is costly to tax payers and grossly negligent on the part of intelligent human beings. So lets be intelligent!!! And look at the whole picture.....

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 10:07 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Mauiowens@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darleen Owens	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: These are God's creatures, just as you and I are. Nothing would be done humanely no matter what you pretend to do. These cats have a right to live just as deer, sheep, goats, you and me. Go work on drug trafficking or prostitution that smook Souki wants to pass. Take care of some of these bills that need to be taken care of concerning CRIME. Leave these poor cats alone.

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:35 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: amimeowz@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ami Scronce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 7:33 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: tampaltin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Something needs to be done toxoplasmosis is a real bad thing

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To: WTL Testimony
Cc: crr@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carole richelieu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 10:36 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: audy@audykimura.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audy Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I am strongly opposed to SB1262.

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2-12-17

from; Jill Voeks DVM
94-658 Ialeleiaka Pl
Mililani Hi 95678 551-7289

SB1262

This sounds like a death squad for cats. I believe in Trap neuter Release Management (TNRM) of cats, this very important part of the solution has recently been neglected and attacked. I do not want tax money paying to form a group of people to kill cats. I have recently seen a lot of extreme prejudice against the viable 100% humane solution TNRM. This path (that neglects TNRM) is harmful to native species and leads to more rats more poisons in the environment. There are already ample laws allowing removal of non neutered cats. Why have a death squad?

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 6:35 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Navaroh001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Helene P Navaro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: In the current system Caregivers feed spay neuter removal of kittens and sick cats in colonies at their own expense. It is not necessary to spend any government money to form a task force to reduce feral cats. In the current system people can trap unfixed feral cats and take cats to Hawaiian Humane Society to have it euthanized funded by our government already. Hawaiian Humane Society also provides many spay neuter clinics as well as many other non-profit groups. Cats are being sterilized and they should not be killed just because they are cats. We need to appropriate funding for more education about spay neuter and keeping cats indoors; about abandonment of unfixed cats; about Humane Solutions to help the voiceless cats. Spreading unfounded rumors about disease spreading cats is not helping. What will happen when all the cats are gone. we will need appropriation money to deal with the rats. It makes no sense to spend the government money to go after cats when caregivers are spending their own money to help the community cats which cost our government nothing. It makes Dollar sense to support our current system. Please reconsider all Humane Options before deciding. We expect our government officials to be fair and to share the Aloha Spirit. Thank you for your time and kindness. Mahalo nui loa.

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Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 7:48 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemary Karlsson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Animal welfare organizations **MUST** be included in the taskforce. This is a manageable issue and we need people who know more about reducing overpopulation than those who can only conceive of killing as a solution.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 2:20 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: myranda_silva@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/12/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Myranda Silva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I agree with the intention of this bill. However, there needs to be a balance. There is no representative for feral/community cats an expert on Trap Neuter Return Management.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 10:01 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: michellehalcomb@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I am for any task force that focuses on preventing the extinction of wildlife. If feral cat communities are a problem, we should divide solutions. Just as humans eating certain fish to the point of extinction.

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Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 9:49 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: hypnosusan@sbcglobal.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Honorable Representatives, Please oppose this bill because it will establish a one-sided task force to decide how to essentially get rid of free-roaming cats to "humanely reduce outdoor cat populations;" HOWEVER, DLNR will administer the task force. This bill does not provide for any person working on TNRM to be part of the task force. It contains a few "nicely worded" provisions but was obviously drafted by DLNR and powers that just want to ELIMINATE cats. The voting members of the task force are limited to one representative from the list below, but it includes NO ONE from any type of animal welfare organizations who manage TNR (Trap/Neuter/Release) colonies and they should also be included in the taskforce listed: · DLNR, Forestry and Wildlife Division · NOAA · US Fish and Wildlife · Each county humane society that is contracted by a county to provide animal care and control services · Licensed Veterinarian specializing in large-scale spay-neuter of pets · A national wildlife protection organization · A national animal protection organization Thank you for considering this information and oppose the Bill as it stands now.

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Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 11, 2017 2:13 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/11/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support SB1262 as the state needs to do something about our rampant feral cat problem throughout Hawaii. Unfortunately this is a controversial subject so this task force is a politically palatable way to move forward. I like how it includes various stakeholders and experts, so different viewpoints will be considered. Please support SB1262.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 12:13 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: hgov@azelski.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
C. Azelski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Oldwolfes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margie Gillman-Wolfe	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a volunteer with a trap neuter return organization I would like to see more cooperation from the county, state and Fed. to solve the homeless cat situation. Over 150 other countries are finding that TNR works better than killing. HIHS, killed 3939 cats in 2016. Advocats Hawaii spayed and neutered 1194 cats in that time with a small group of people. Managed colony's can be an asset to the community and the mass killing of animals can be a liability to a State professing Aloha.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 1:06 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laurie Pottish	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB1262. There are many organizations throughout the state that are actively sterilizing free roaming cats thus reducing their population over the long term. It is the only proven long term solution. Why not add funding and personnel to programs that are already working? Thank you.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:15 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: joyst1babe@msn.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Inada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose this bill only to the extent of forming a alliance force to come to terms with a humane method of trapping and removing any and all ferals from conservation areas such as Kaena Point. But I in no way,give any support to the eradication of ferals in harbors or other coastal areas just to reduce their population.

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 3:41 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: spikecat1@aol.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Judith Aikawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 5:24 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: douglasperrine@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

February 15, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Room 225

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION OF SB 1262 WITH COMMENTS

Aloha Senators:

As a concerned private citizen, I am strongly opposed to SB 1262 and respectfully ask that SB 1262 not be passed. SB 1262 is an unnecessary expenditure and the formation of the proposed taskforce is at best, wasteful and at worse, the continuation of past efforts by various government agencies to advance their agenda for the inhumane treatment of free-roaming cats.

Comments:

There are existing community stakeholders who the government agencies can work cooperatively with to assist in the protection of native wildlife as well as the humane treatment of free-roaming cats. Further, it would be far more productive and humane for funds to be directed to the Hawaiian Humane Society and other organizations which provide sterilization services under the Trap, Neuter, Release, and Manage Program. Further, there are many other volunteer cat groups and individuals who could also be organized to assist in the efforts to reduce the impact of free-roaming cats on native wildlife by working cooperatively with government agencies to work on steering these colonies away from sensitive areas.

Rather than going down an expensive and what would likely lead to the reincarnation of SB 2450, which under the name of conservation proposed a hierarchy of animals under which free roaming cats would be starved, humane action should be coordinated with the existing community stakeholders, government agencies, and the Hawaiian Humane Society. Please work within existing resources to find compassionate solutions for all of Hawaii's animals.

Respectfully,

Katherine Linster

February 14, 2017

Dear Committee Members:

I am against SB1262. The purpose of exempting this feral cat task force from the Sunshine Law can only be to hide from the public development of policy with which the general public will not agree. These meetings should not be conducted in secret, and it may be illegal to do so.

I have a moderate stance on feral cats in Hawaii. A moderate recognizes that people love cats and will always want to feed and care for cats in their communities. That is why schemes to kill our way out of feral cat populations do not work. Trap, neuter, and release (TNR) has been shown to work more effectively than killing when the cats are around human populations.

A moderate also recognizes that cats are one of the many factors affecting threatened bird populations on our island. The wild areas in which this is true are monitored by assisting agencies that can and do trap and exterminate cats. In areas that are close to human populations, TNR should be used. Not only is it more effective in reducing cat populations, but there are considerable free resources that the State can call on in the form of community cat organizations and their volunteers. Again, killing in these areas will be both unpopular and ultimately ineffective, because humans will continue to care for cats but will need to do so surreptitiously rather than in a structured manner with recorded outcomes.

The task force proposed by SB1262 would not be balanced in its consideration of the realities of feral cat population control. If a task force is created, its meetings should be public and the task force should include at least one member of a community cat organization from the islands and one member of a national community cat organization, like Alley Cat Allies. These organizations can contribute on the ground experience as well as scientific data at both the local and national levels.

Sincerely,

Erika Shaffer
3531 Anini Rd
Kilauea, HI 96754

Thank you for the opportunity to explain why I **oppose** Senate Bill (SB) 1262 relating to wildlife.

The task force representatives listed in the bill do not represent a balanced group of stakeholders. They do not include a voting member from the trap neuter return manage (TNRM) cat community nor a Hawaii licensed veterinarian specializing in mass sterilization of community cats.

Most of the paid government entities listed on the task force have not humanely or effectively decreased the cat population using their current strategies, so why wouldn't a voice from an active local TNRM organization with a proven track record be included in this task force?

I volunteer with Cat Friends supporting trap neuter return manage methodology in humanely decreasing the community cat population and pet cats of lower income families. In eight years, we have sterilized more than 23,000 cats that otherwise would have bred and increased the population exponentially. Our accomplishments have not been paid for using any City, State or Federal funding.

Please consider adding a voting member, such as myself, to this task force should it come to fruition.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Kishimori
808-208-4888

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 7:04 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: dogfishdonna@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna W. Armstrong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hello, I am a frequent traveler to Maui and I am urging you to find another solution to reducing the cat population on the island. There is currently an animal welfare group that is systematically trapping and sterilizing the feral cats of Maui. This method has proven to be successful in keeping the cat population down in dozens of cities around the world. (Please see links below.) Additionally, Lanai has a successful sanctuary that provides safety over 500 healthy, fixed cats. A cat sanctuary can be inexpensive to build and run and would please everyone. Please consider this for Maui. There are certainly alternative, humane ways of managing the cats without killing them. For what it's worth, I will cease visiting Maui for vacations unless a humane alternative is found. I will urge everyone I know to do the same. Thank you, Donna W. Armstrong 323-828-2280 <http://bestfriends.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-success-stories-what-research-tells-us> <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-effectively-stabilizes-and-reduces-feral-cat-populations/> Lanai Cat Sanctuary <http://lanaicatsanctuary.org/about/> Open Daily 10 am to 3 pm PO Box 631577 | 1 Kaupili Road Lanai City, Hawaii 96763 info@LanaiCatSanctuary.org 808.215.9066

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Cc: ej@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ellen jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This is a dangerous and badly written bill.

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Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 9:50 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: sue@kauaibeach.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Scott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: This attempt to avoid the state sunshine statute (HRS 92) is exactly what happened on Kauai when the county attempted to exclude public participation. This has resulted in an ongoing lawsuit. I have no doubt it will be problematic for the state too. It's a specific attempt to skirt the spirit of the law which is about transparency in government and public trust. Why would the public be excluded from hearing the discussions or contributing to developing options to solve the community problems regarding homeless cats? There are groups on each island who devote many hours and a lot of money trying to solve this problem through TNR (trap/neuter/return) efforts. Their experience and results must be considered and weighed in any discussion regarding community cats. TNR is recognized nationally as a humane and effective way to approach the problems caused by community members neglecting to spay/neuter their pets. There are areas on the mainland where this approach has worked so well that they actually have no kittens available for adoption in their humane societies. At the Kauai Feral Cat Task Force, there was discussion about making the entire island a bird sanctuary excluding any free roaming cats. While this seems extreme, excluding cats from highly populated parts of the island where there are no endangered species, nevertheless it was proposed as a serious solution by those who value one species over another. If the state is going to discuss humane solutions I would expect that they would be interested in talking to the only people who have been making a major difference reducing the cat population by spaying hundred and hundreds of cats resulting in thousands of kittens not born to increase the problem.

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Reducing Homeless Cat Populations on Kauai *Compassionate Approaches are Working Better*

Many people see trapping, removing and killing homeless outdoor cats as a necessary, fast and permanent way to reduce the cat populations, but the real experience on Kauai shows otherwise. An estimated 12,000^{i,ii} homeless cats live in Kauai's towns and neighborhoods. Over the last decade, about 23,000 of these "community" cats have been trapped, removed, and killed.ⁱⁱⁱ And yet, their numbers seem relatively unchanged.

The primary reason for this apparent contradiction is the cat's high reproductive rate. Homeless female cats, living outdoors without optimal nutrition, can produce up to 550 kittens per 100 adult females each year.^{iv, v} After cat removal, population growth rates can be as high as 95%.^{vi} Since this greatly exceeds the 20% annual catch rate, no significant population reduction was ever possible.

While most of the cat removal has been geographically scattered and short-term, some has focused within specific areas for longer time periods. This is more likely to achieve the high removal rates necessary to reduce cat populations significantly. To assess how well these focused removal efforts are working on Kauai, KCCP obtained records of 16 such projects.^{vii} These were conducted over the last 6 years, and trapped about 500 cats.

None of these have permanently removed the cats, and three were intentionally stopped due to exploding rat populations. Total population suppression is estimated at 255 cats,^{viii} or 2.1% of the island total. The most successful projects are in four wildlife areas where continuous trapping is employed: within these areas population suppression is over 90%. For the other areas, it was only 30%. The low rate is due to intermittent trapping and subsequent repopulation from high birth rates and immigration.^{ix}

Since cats' high reproductive rate is the primary factor that is confounding efforts to reduce the population, why not target their reproduction? This is what TNR does.

In the last decade, about 5400 cats have been Trapped-Neutered-Returned^x (TNR'd) on Kauai,^{xi} and these projects have reduced the island-wide population of neighborhood cats by an estimated 2200,^{xii} or 18%. The estimated population suppression from trapping and killing over four times the cats – the 23,000 – is only 11%.^{xiii}

In addition to reducing cat populations, TNR also reduces predation^{xiv, xv, xvi, xvii} and disease^{xviii, xix} for the cats that remain. The total impact mitigation from the combination of population reduction, less predation and reduced disease is much greater than the 18% through population reduction alone. Analysis shows it's up to 30% island-wide.^{xx}

TNR is significantly less expensive than trap and remove,^{xxi} has proven that it can scale island-wide, and is working better! It should be the preferred method to resolve cat population problems within our towns and neighborhoods.

To fully solve the community cat problem we must address its source. Both sides of the debate agree on this. That means available, inexpensive spay/neuter for all. A low kill rate approach like TNR is needed for those who see lethal removal as unacceptable and who won't cooperate if this is the only supported choice.^{xxii}

References and Notes

- ⁱ Feral Cat Task Force Final Report, from Accord3.0 Website, <http://www.accord3.com/pg79.cfm>, estimate is 15,000 to 20,000 in wild and populated areas combined.
- ⁱⁱ Scott, Kauai's Feral Cats, The Scope of the Problem, 2013. This is source of the Feral Cat Task Force estimate, and it shows that about 75% live in populated areas. Available on request.
- ⁱⁱⁱ From Kauai Humane Society statistics, FOIA information from US Fish and Wildlife, and UIPA information from Hawaii's Dept. of Land and Natural Resources. See Appendix 2.
- ^{iv} Nutter, Evaluation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Management Program for Feral Cat Colonies: Population Dynamics, Home Ranges, and Potentially Zoonotic Diseases, NCSU Comparative Biomedical Science, 2005. The author reports on a sample of over 2000 cats.
- ^v Schmidt et. al., Survival, Fecundity, and Movement of Free-Roaming Cats, *Journal of Wildlife Management* 71(3):915-919; 2007)
- ^{vi} Appendix 1, calculation 1
- ^{vii} KCCP obtained information from State and Federal agencies via information requests. KCCP itself removed certain cats (non-lethally). Records from 19 projects were obtained, but long-term results are not known for 3 of these. See Appendix 2.
- ^{viii} Appendix 1, calculation 2
- ^{ix} Miller et. al., Simulating Free-Roaming Cat Population Management Options in Open Demographic Environments, *PlosOne*, 2014
- ^x TNR (Trap-Neuter-Return) captures fertile cats, surgically sterilizes them, returns them to their outdoor home, and then manages the cats to reduce their population over time.
- ^{xi} Estimates from KCCP data (2007 – present) and Kauai Humane information, see Appendix 3
- ^{xii} See Appendix 3.
- ^{xiii} See Appendix 1, Calculation 2.
- ^{xiv} TNR Fact Sheet 2, Predation, http://voxfelina.com/voxfelina/Vox_Felina_Fact_Sheet_Predation_v_1.1.pdf
- ^{xv} Loyd et. al. Quantifying free-roaming domestic cat predation using animal-borne video cameras, 2013
- ^{xvi} Silva-Rodríguez, E.A. and Sieving, K.E., "Influence of Care of Domestic Carnivores on Their Predation on Vertebrates." *Conservation Biology* 2012. 25(4): p. 808-815.
- ^{xvii} From FOIA, US Fish and Wildlife field notes, 20140114 Email Marie McKenzie to Kim Uyehara_Botulism DB.pdf
- ^{xviii} Nutter, Evaluation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Management Program for Feral Cat Colonies: Population Dynamics, Home Ranges, and Potentially Zoonotic Diseases, NCSU Comparative Biomedical Science, 2005
- ^{xix} VanWormer, *Toxoplasma gondii*, Source to Sea: Higher Contribution of Domestic Felids to Terrestrial Parasite Loading Despite Lower Infection Prevalence *EcoHealth*, September 2013
- ^{xx} Appendix 3
- ^{xxi} Zawistowski et. al., Simulating different approaches for managing free-roaming cat populations, ACC&D, 2011
- ^{xxii} On Kauai, animal abandonment rates tripled in some areas after high kill rates for cats at the Kauai Humane Society became highly publicized in mid-2013. Requests for no-kill service from KCCP have tripled since then as well.

Appendix 1: Calculations

Calculation 1: Cat Reproductive Rate

All estimates are from mainland studies, and many feel that birth and survival rates would be higher on Hawaii due to full-year breeding seasons and richer environmental resources.

	Nutter North Carolina	Schmidt et. al. Texas
Birth Rate	4.2 (median)	5.6 (mean)
Kitten Survival	50% (3 months), 25% (6 months) *Est. annual: 17%	50% (3 months, feral) 75% (3 months, semi) Est. Annual: 30%, 20%
Population ratio M/F	33%/67%	Not given
Adult survival M/F	0.40 / 0.60	0.57 / 0.88
Total Birth rate	50% or 0.5	80% to 120% or 0.8 to 1.2
Population growth rate, r	3% or 0.03	60% to 95% or 0.6 to 0.95

*Nutter presents a Kaplan-Meier analysis indicating that after 125 days, kitten death rates approach those of adults. Accordingly, annual death rates are calculated by:

$$6 \text{ month survival} \times \sqrt{\text{adult annual survival}} = \text{kitten annual survival}$$

Nutter's death rate of 47% is very close to the birth rate, so this represents a stable population, as one would find in a "full" biological environment.

Schmidt's data suggests that higher values are possible when food is plentiful. This value is used in analysis below (Calculation 2) for maximal rates when cats are removed from an area.ⁱ These birth rate values greatly exceed the death rate, so that the population growth rate is quite high.

Multiple authors report lower numbers as well, with birth rates as low as 40% of Nutter's. These suggest negative population growth rates (contraction) when populations are too high, i.e. above the environment's carrying capacity.

We believe this analysis is conservative for Hawaii. Lohr postulated birth rates of 0.75 for Hawaii under normal situations.ⁱⁱ This would suggest population growth rates, r, of 0.55, just under Schmidt's lower value. This higher value supports the assertion by many that birth and population growth rates will be higher in Hawaii due to its warm climate.

Calculation 2: Island-wide impact mitigation from Trap and Remove

Details for the population suppression resulting from removal of the 23,000 cats in the last decade are presented below. Some of the trapping was focused, for example, local hotels that trap cats on their property. Most of the trapping was not focused, e.g. residence obtained a trap from KHS, trapped one or two cats on their property, and returned the trap.ⁱⁱⁱ

Known Focused Trapping at 16 locations

The island-wide neighborhood cat mitigation from known focused trap and remove can be determined from the tables in Appendix 2. Some of this trapping was in wildlife areas adjacent to but not within neighborhoods. Nonetheless, all the cats are included. Total cat suppression is estimated as 255 of the original population. This is a 2.1% reduction of the island-wide total of 12,000 neighborhood cats. This trapping was performed on an estimated original population of 480 cats, or 4% of the island-wide total.

Trapping for 22,500 Cats: Casual, Intermittent Focused, and Continuous Focused

The results from Appendix 2 are used as a model. An estimated 20% of the trapping is focused in one area.^{iv}

	Focused, Continuous	Focused, Intermittent	Casual
Percentage of trapping	5%	15%	80%
Population suppression	80%	20%	10%*
Total, Island-wide	4%	3%	8%

*The justification for the 10% value is shown in calculation 3.

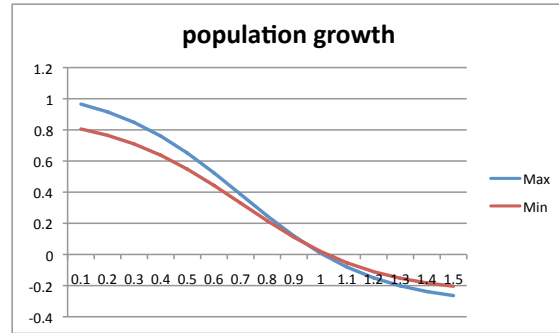
Total population suppression is 15% of cats from the entire population less cats in the known focused trapping or under TNR management. Thus, total cat suppression is:

15% x (100% - 4% - 34%) = 9.3% or 1120 cats

Combined total: 9.3% + 2.1% = 11.4% or 1375 cats

Calculation 3: Casual Trapping Metrics

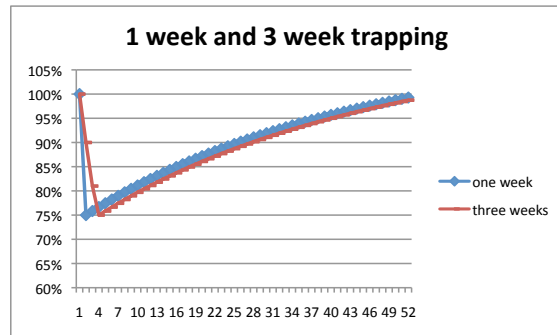
The estimated effect of casual trapping is based on a growth rate analysis. Two logistic growth curves are shown in the graph at the right, based on values from Schimdt et. al., which was referenced in calculation1 above. The values establish a range for maximum values of the logistic function, which occurs for very low population levels. The value at a 100% population level (biological carrying capacity) is very near zero.



The number of animals trapped annually in casual trapping is 80% of 22,500/10 or 1800. This is 25% of the of the total cat population of 7000 that is being casually trapped.v

At a population level of 75%, the growth rate (27% to 31%) exceeds the removal rate. Immigration, while modest, adds more. Simplistically, this means there is a zero population reduction. This is not what actually happens. In a real situation, there is a time lag between cat removal and cat rebound. The length of time between removal and rebound back to a 100% population level determines the average number of cats and thus the degree of cat suppression.

Two examples are shown in the graph. One traps 25% in 1 week. This might correspond to removing one cat from a small neighborhood population. The second traps 5 cats in 3 weeks. This might correspond to removing 5 cats from a condominium area. Each shows a resulting annual average cat population of approximately 90%. Thus, the cat suppression from ongoing casual trapping is approximately 10%. In both cases, the permanent suppression is zero, i.e. the cat population returns to 100% after about one year.



Population rebound within one year is very typical on Kauai, so both examples are realistic.

References

ⁱ Maximum population growth rates, r , are assumed when 80% of cats are removed; for lesser removal percentages, the maximal rate is linearly prorated to lower values.

ⁱⁱ Lohr, C. 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. doi: 10.1111/j.1523-1739.2012.01935.x. Epub 2012 Sep 25.

ⁱⁱⁱ KCCP requested data from KHS to determine how much focused trapping versus scattered trapping has been performed in the last 6 years, but KHS declined to provide the information.

^{iv} Apparent continuous trapping is between 5% and 10% based on anecdotal observations in the KHS lobby (random sampling). Here the assumed 20% is quite high and thus conservative.

^v 12,000 - 440 (16 known trapping areas) - 620 (focused trapping) - 4080 (TNR) \approx 7000

Appendix 2: Trap and Remove Activities Analyzed on Kauai

	Location	Date	Event	Outcome	# rem	base #	Source	remain	Comment
1	Salt Pond 1	mid-2012	30 cats removed	cats back by mid-2013	30	40	ACO/KHS	100%	
2	Salt Pond2a	late 2014 - mid 2015	2 TNR colonies removed (17) plus additional 20 (estimated)	cats back by late 2016	37	40	ACO	100%	near complete removal
unk	Salt Pond 2b	late 2014 - mid 2015	total of 70 cats removed by ACO, but some were from park	one time trapping; estimated return rate to wild area is 0.1	50	55	ACO	25%	% remain estimated from immigration rate = 0.1
3	HNWR	2010 - 2015	continuous trapping	cats continuously present but at very low levels	130	90	USFWS	5%	base numbers are projected from immigration rates of .25, .25, .05 and 0.8 growth rate
4	KNWR		intermittent trapping		70	50	USFWS	5%	
5	HNWR		intermittant trapping		15	10	USFWS	10%	
n/a	mahalepu	2013	58 cats removed from wild areas and near GC	unknown **this is mostly a wild area and is excluded	58		DLNR	excluded	
6	Kukuiula	mid-2015	cats removed	all cats returned in ~1 year	12	15	KCCP	100%	cats now in a rescue
7	Larsen's beach	mid-2015	10 colony cats plus unknown other cats	subset of cats back in 4 months **wild area abuts farms and illegal camping areas	20	25	KCCP	70%	based on reports from illegal campers
8	Small boat harbor	late 2015 - early 2016	colony of 25-30 apparently removed	cats gone for several months, but a large population is back in 6 months	25	30	KCCP & ACO	100%	virtually no effect
9	Waimea PC	late 2015 - early 2016	~ 10 cats removed from one area, but other cats present on the property	cats continue to be present with no reported bird issues	10	12	KCCP	50%	

	Location	Date	Event	Outcome	# rem	base #	Source	% remain	Comment
10	Coffee fields	10 & 11 2014	trapping near bird colonies	11 cats trapped, but assess that cats are still present	11	15	DLNR	100%	due to non-continuous
11	Kaumakani	Oct 2014 - Jan 2015	trapping near bird colonies	4 cats; OK for several months; but trapping stopped	4	4	DLNR	100%	due to non-continuous
	Private trapping, Albatross	2014	30 cats removed	unknown **excluded; too little is known	30		COK UIPA	excluded	
12	Princeville SC	2012	12-15 cats removed	large number of rats; 5+3 cats brought back	15	15	KCCP	50%	
13	Regency Resort	2016	maintained colony removed	rat invasion; unk number of cats brought in	12	12	KCCP	50%	estimated # cats returned based on volunteer information
14	PMRF base	2013	cats on base removed	rats eating signal cables; allowed TNR on base	30	35	KCCP	50%	
15	PMRF wetlands	2013-2105	cats removed around wetland restoration	ongoing cat removal; no reports of predation problems	50	25	DLNR	10%	DLNR data
16	Lagoons GC	ongoing	cats removed in nesting season	~10 cats removed annually	30	10	DLNR	50%	ongoing with 6 months on, 6 months off

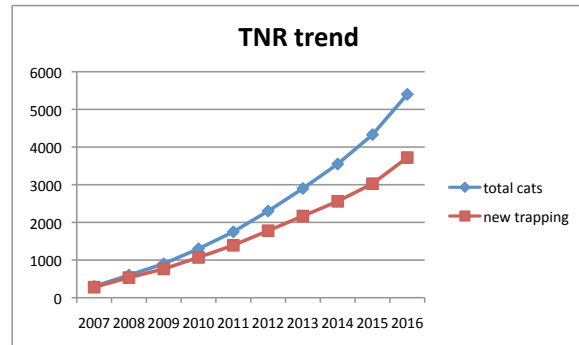
Summary:

reduction in 4 continuous areas	93%
reduction in 5 intermittent areas	31%
reduction in 7 one time areas	29%
total original cat population (est.)	483
cats removed (est.)	255
percentage removed	53%

Appendix 3: TNR Conducted over the Last 10 Years

About 5400 cats were trapped for TNR over the last decade. Data is from KCCP, KHS and members of the community who practice TNR independently. The KHS data is used to estimate TNR spay and neuter done by volunteers not associated with KCCP.

Many of the cats trapped are within areas where 100% of cats have already been spayed or neutered, but new cats have immigrated in. These are designated as re-trapped cats. The re-trapping is necessary to maintain population counts at reduced levels and quantifies the inefficiency caused by cat immigration.



Total cats trapped	5400
New Cat Trapping	4080
TNR population reduction	1165
Cats pulled	1005
Total population reduction	2170
Reduction within TNR areas	60%
Island Population %	18%

Explanations:

- New Cat Trapping is the initial near-100% trapping that occurs when TNR is started in a new area. For example, if trapping was conducted in 50 areas, which altogether contained 600 cats when trapping started, then New Cat Trapping would equal or be very close to 600. However, after the initial trapping, additional trapping would occur in these areas due to immigration of new cats. This might result in total trapping of 750 cats.
- TNR population reduction is the attrition from natural causes or accidents.
- Cats pulled are the adoptable animals that were removed

TNR provides mitigation in addition to the direct population reduction because disease is reduced by 60% to 75% (see sources in main paper). Predation is reduced by 75% to 90% according to various sources (see main paper). Calculating both as a 75% reduction gives the following:

Reduction from 100% in TNR area	60%
Remaining cats in TNR area on average	40%
Mitigation of disease and predation	75%
% disease/predation remaining	10%
% of total neighborhood cats TNR'd	4080/12000 = 34%
Total island-wide mitigation	30%

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 13, 2017 8:01 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: Puamei@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/13/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pua	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: While this sounds like a winner for our native population it is a BIG TIME loser for controlling the rat, mouse, etc. population. Other cities have found this a NO WIN kind of law. DON'T DO IT!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:33 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: lynnehi@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: I support this bill. It is the start to finding a solution. The use of a professional facilitator will allow the group to identify key priorities and humane strategies to address them. Additionally, aHawaii-based cat advocacy group should be included on the task force. Lynne Matusow

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:42 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: kimmedeiros808@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberley Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I believe that to be fair to cat TNR and rescue advocates that have worked for many years to control the cat population through TNR, that there should be representation by those groups also. Killing is not the answer to this. Educating the public to spay and neuter their pets is the answer. If you do not get to the root of the problem...people, then in a few years the cat population will be back to what it originally was except that Hawaii will have a horrible reputation as being an animal killing community, which will adversely affect tourism as there are many animal lovers that would go to a more animal friendly place. Please re-think this task force and how TNR has been proven to work and maybe work with funding the TNR and rescue groups instead of working against them.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:47 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: cmatsushige@cades.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cary Matsushige	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I oppose SB 1262 for two reasons: The cost of carrying out the bill and the lack of an expert or advocate for Trap Neuter Return Manage (TNRM) as a voting member on the task force. The bill calls for "humane reduction of outdoor cat populations" and TNRM is one of the most, if not the most, effective method of humanely reducing outdoor cat populations.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 11:36 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: m_kgoode@outlook.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan goode	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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WTL Testimony

From: Barbara Steinberg <h2ocolorbarbara@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:04 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Subject: Support SB1262

Barbara steinberg-Orlowski
PO box 1764
Kihei HI 96753
808- 269-6845

To Sen Karl Rhoads,

I support SB1262
Cat Task force Senate bill

Mahalos
B
Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhone

WTL Testimony

From: mary & robert <rmkona@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 10:43 AM
To: WTL Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB1262

Please support this bill. This goes toward the shared goal of humanely reducing cat numbers across Hawaii and addressing the problem in a realistic logical manner. This is a huge problem that needs to be addressed and should be done by discussions with key agencies and proposal of joint recommendations to the public and policymakers.

Mahalo for your time, Mary Menacho

WTL Testimony

From: Alexis Jamison <jamisona@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 12, 2017 11:20 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Subject: RE: SB1262

To Whom It May Concern:

As an advocate for Trap Neuter Return (TNR) and for the humane treatment of feral cats, I am concerned about this bill. I support this bill IF and ONLY IF the task force is actually composed of people knowledge and actively working in the feral cat community. This means people who actually do TNR and do not seek to eliminate them with a trap-and-kill approach. Culling is not the answer and is ineffective and detrimental to our ecosystem. This task force should be composed of people with real life knowledge about feral cats, not just people who have read about it. If this task force is not set up with people who actually care about and have knowledge of cats, it will just turn into a task force that is dedicated to the extermination of community cats. While I know that feral cats are a problem, the answer is not to kill them. The government should focus its efforts on humane solutions, TNR, education, enforcing laws regarding animal abandonment, and funding low cost spay/neuter for community and pet cats. The task force should have individuals from Poi Dogs and Popoki, Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii CatFriends, Joey's Feline Friends, people from the community who are actively involved in the cause, and veterinarians who work with feral cat populations. Please do NOT approve this bill unless there is an assurance that cat advocates will be part of this task force and well represented (i.e. not just a single individual in a group of government employees and animal control contractors).

Thank you for your time,

Alexis E. Jamison
808-284-2308

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:20 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: ollo1188@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Murphy	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Feral cat overpopulation is due to people failing to sterilize their cats AND abandoning their cats which the state of Hawaii has allowed to occur.... despite having a fragile ecosystem. Selling and owning unsterilized cats should be ILLEGAL in Hawaii. Unsterilized cats should not be available from pet stores..... or private owners. I believe citizens should only be able to get cats from animal rescue organizations. There are many people in Hawaii who seem to despise cats and actually abuse feral cats..... which is a sad commentary on Hawaii. I do think the issue needs to be addressed in a pro-active way. But I do not support widespread killing of feral cats. If unsterilized cats can no longer be sold or owned in Hawaii and enforcement and penalties for abandonment are increased..... you will see the feral cat population decrease naturally over the next 5 years. It is completely ILLOGICAL to ALLOW unsterilized cats in Hawaii and then spend thousands of tax dollars, and time and energy, to euthanize over 10,000 feral cats a year. And that isn't even putting a dent in the problem! That \$ and time and energy is better spent elsewhere. And I think a Public Service Announcement (PSA) is needed to educate the public about this issue in a responsible way. Not a PSA that encourages people to go out and abuse and kill cats..... but encourages people to think twice about having pets and how they manage their pets once they have them. I think the mongoose presents a more serious threat to wildlife than feral cats. I have personally observed mongoose attacking large adult birds at city and county parks. Can the group also address the mongoose issue as well?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:51 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: hawaiidogmom@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments:

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From: [LISA THOMPSON](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB1262
Date: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 12:48:32 PM

I oppose SB1262. The cat and wildlife task force is heavily weighted with members have made a habit of scapegoating cats and who oppose Trap Neuter Return Manage (TNRM) as a humane method of reducing the outdoor cat population. Under current law, cats “may be destroyed by any means deemed necessary” by DLNR. Yet last year DLNR proposed a state wide feeding ban on all State land. This would have made it unlawful to TNRM cats. This despite a study in Science Advances that climate change is to blame for the decline of native forest birds. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is no fan of TNRM. This despite an announcement in September that mosquitoes are wreaking havoc on the native Hawaiian bird population. NOAA made news claiming that cats were killing endangered Hawaiian monk seals. The reality is eight monk seal deaths over a 15 year period and even more surprising just last month Hawaiian Monk Seal Research biologists say the population of endangered Hawaiian monk seals has grown 3% a year for the past three years. The member who is a representative from a national wildlife protection organization in all likelihood will not be an advocate for TNRM either. The task force should include a local cat advocate, someone who is on the front lines of reducing the feral and stray cat humanely thru TNRM.

Regards
Lisa Thompson

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:36 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: joannemb2004@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joanne Bottomley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: "I strongly oppose SB1262."

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:34 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: dar-c@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darcie Inoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: I strongly oppose to SB1262.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 2:22 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: lcuccia@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

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

Comments: Aloha, While I want to support this bill, I fear to. Why? Because from what I understand, there will be NO cat advocates on the commission, and there really needs to be. Cats have been getting one sided. poorly researched bad press of late, and someone who is knowledgeable of the facts needs to be there to counteract false information. Please amend this to include a cat advocate, and if that is done, I would be happy to support this measure. Mahalo, Lee A. Cuccia - Kailua

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:43 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM*

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 5:08 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: akele33@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gail McElrath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Although I do not have the documents to support my testimony, I am well aware that outdoor living cats do not pose the problems that create havoc on the Island. Many are ferals that have been trapped, neutered and returned, and many are outdoor living pets. I myself, have two indoor-only cats, but a feral cat who was dumped in my area adopted me and is the sweetest cat ever. My neighbors love him. I am trying to make him an indoor cat only, but being a male he likes to roam. I do not want my cat to be subject to this ruling.....guilty without cause, as this bill seems to propose. Just like the homeless people on the streets, we need to find solutions to help the humans and cats who live outside to have a good life and not sentence them to death because people "think" they are a nuisance. Animals are here for a reason, and every single one of them has a purpose in the life chain. Humans need to stop playing judge and jury for their benefit and recognize that animals have rights, just as humans do. Thank you for your time!

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Senate Bill 1262

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to express my support to have a committee formed to try to find a solution to the issue of the feral cat community and its impact on Hawaii's wild life.

I was on a similar forum several years ago representing the Hawaiian Monk Seal Foundation and worked with NOAA, Fish & Wildlife, USHS, UH, and other partners.

Although we have some horrible issues with monk seals perishing from toxoplasmosis, I still hope that there will be a steady hand and head to address this very controversial problem. I'm also an INDOOR cat owner and love felines.

Monk seals are critically endangered and although no one species should rule out another, I do support the idea of cool heads trying to find a solution. I also believe strongly in TNR as it has worked in my community.

I have ideas and solutions that could add weight to all the arguments. I've been trained to spot seals in trouble and have personally seen what toxo can do to several animals that I have been a caregiver for and have loved for many years.

I do not support all out killing of feral cats or fining for caregivers. But, something has to be done and putting this bill into play will be at least one step in the right direction.

Respectfully,

Dana Jones

87-126 Helelua St.

Waianae, HI 96792

808-393-5043

woolwahine@gmail.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 14, 2017 3:11 PM
To: WTL Testimony
Cc: donyacat@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB1262 on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM

SB1262

Submitted on: 2/14/2017

Testimony for WTL on Feb 15, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donya	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Donya Izbicki 231 Kawailani Circle Kihei,Hi,96753 808-298-1207 donyacat@gmail.com I am an advocate in support of TNRM, as the humane method of control of free roaming cats. I moved to Hawaii from Illinois for college at UH in '69. I moved to Maui in 1983. My in depth experience has been stressful but rewarding concerning day to day tasks of successful cat colony management. I am a founding board member of Feline Foundation of Maui. I manage several cat colonies in South Maui. Maui Hill Resort, Maui Coast, Worldmark, MediSpa Maui are some of the places where colonies are welcome and proven successful in reduction of populations. Removing colony cats does not work! There are naïve uninformed people who continue to abandon cats for various reasons such as not spaying/neutering. moving away, and/or lack of housing allowing pets.... Caretakers fight an on going battle to keep colonies from growing by continuous monitoring numbers . Expenses of food and medical are not affordable for most of us. Yet caretakers trying to keep up their community work are often threatened and accused of being crazy cat people....This must stop. WE need support and cooperation from legislators and funding for food and surgeries. New laws need to be designed to make cat abandonment illegal. I cite Alleycat Allies as the specific solution model. www.alleycat.org Please pursue this strategy: TRap-Neuter-Return-Manage. May we all be blessed with this solution as caring humans in Paradise. Maui groups currently participating to assist with this program of reducing cat population by TRNM are: Feral Cats Maui, SPCA, 9th Life Hawaii, Maui Humane Society, and some of us from Feline Foundation of Maui (now closed) I am optimistic about working towards long term cat management by establishing a task force of individuals and groups to discuss and pursue the mission to reduce animal suffering. I recommend that there be fair representation of all concerned. I want to see a local cat group included in task force to express facts of TNRM. I want to be involved!

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To: Senator Karl Rhodes, Chairman
Committee Water and Land

Subject: Support for Senate Bill 1262

Date: February 14, 2017

From: Wayne Niide

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony to SB 1262.

Please accept this as my support for Senate Bill 1262. I request the following Recommendation(s) and Comment for consideration.

Senate Bill 1262:

Recommendation:

- **Section 1 (b)** should include a task force voting member representative who is well versed in the nuances of managing of a **Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage** (TNRM) colony / program. The **TNRM Representative** will provide valued input as TNRM will play a vital role in the successful population management of Free Roaming Cats.

The TNRM voting member will be vetted and selected by the following task force voting members; the counties humane society(s) representatives, the Hawaii licensed veterinarian specializing in large-scale spay-neuter of pets and representative from the selected national animal protection organization.

- **Section 1(d)(1)** “reduce” should be changed to “manage” this will underscore the intent to **manage** vs. **reduce** (implies eradication) Free Roaming Cats.

(1) Identify common goals and objectives to humanely (**reduce**) **manage** outdoor cat populations;

Comment:

- **Section 1(d)(3)** “...community outreach, and public education campaigns;” should be a priority to prevent misinformation to the general public.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my recommendation(s) and comment.

Respectfully,

Wayne Niide