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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Wednesday, March 21, 2018
1:45 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 36
URGING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS TO SUPPORT
EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE REDUCTION OF FREE-ROAMING CAT
POPULATIONS USING THE TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE STRATEGY

Senate Concurrent Resolution 36 urges State Departments and private land owners to support reduction of at-large cat populations using the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) strongly opposes this measure.**

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

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

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

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

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

Feral cats as a health risk to wildlife and humans

In addition to preying on native wildlife, cats pose a substantial health risk to humans and wildlife due to being the only known reproductive host of the toxoplasmosis parasite (*Toxoplasmosis gondii*). Toxoplasmosis reproduces in the feline digestive system, and a single cat can excrete 145 billion eggs per year in its feces. Once released into the environment, these eggs can infect other animals, including humans, both on land and in the ocean. Toxoplasmosis parasites create cysts in muscle and organ tissues and can cause inflammation of the heart, liver, and brain. In Hawaii, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration has recorded at least eight endangered Hawaiian monk seal deaths that are attributable to toxoplasmosis infection. Toxoplasmosis can also infect Hawaii's native birds, including the nene and the newly released alala. In humans, toxoplasmosis can impact the immune system and has been known to primarily impact pregnant women and unborn children. During pregnancy, this infection can result in severe damage to the unborn child, miscarriage, stillbirth, or substantial birth defects including enlargement or smallness of the head.

Feral cats as a nuisance problem on public lands

Feral cats in colonies also produce a large amount fecal matter that may be a vector for additional diseases and detracts from the natural beauty of Hawaii's recreation areas. The Department's Division of State Parks estimates approximately 850 feral cats in 33 colonies on State Park property statewide, which are hypothetically "managed" by private individuals conducting TNRM. Assuming each cat excretes an average of 1.5 ounces of feces per day, our State Parks host roughly 28,640 pounds of feces each year. The Division of State Parks has noted that colony "managers" do not clean up feces. Revised Ordinances of Honolulu Section 7-6.3 defines an "owner" of a cat as "any person owning, harboring or keeping, or providing care or sustenance for a cat, whether registered or not, or having custody of a cat, whether temporarily or permanently." The Division of State Parks' Hawaii Administrative Rules Section 13-146-10 states: "Persons responsible for any animal on the premises shall also be responsible for the cleanup and proper disposal of animal droppings, for restoration or restitution for any damages caused by the animal, and, if the animal is loose, for restitution for any costs incurred in trapping

and removing the animal.” Feeders of cats in State Parks appear to be in violation of this section. This issue may also be relevant to County parks and other recreation areas.

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

Scientific studies show TNR to be ineffective and problematic

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

The only reductions in colony population size noted in the 2009 article by Longcore et al. came from colonies where removed cats were adopted into homes at very high rates. This has been achieved in other regions using aggressive adoption campaigns, for at least a subset of feral cats that are adoptable.

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

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

The Department also suggests that TNR may not be humane, as the title of the measure suggests. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) opposes TNR as an inhumane method of feral cat management, as it prolongs the life of cats living on the landscape that are more likely to suffer from disease, injury, and malnourishment. With regard to cost, a 2013 study by

University of Hawaii researchers Cheryl Lohr and Christopher Lepczyk found that TNR was less cost-effective than implementing a program of trapping and euthanasia.

Alternatives to TNR

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

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



SCR36

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

Senate Committee on Agriculture and the Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 21, 2018

1:45 p.m.

Room 224

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

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

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

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

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

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

Refuge attributed the deaths of 237 endangered waterbirds to feral cats alone; in addition, feral cats have also been documented preying on Newell's shearwaters, wedge-tailed shearwaters, the O'ahu elepaio, 'alae 'ula, and Hawaiian petrels, among others. **In one recent case on Kaua'i, a single feral cat has been estimated to have killed 101 endangered birds over a six month period.** In addition to depredation and associated displacement from critical habitat, forensic evidence now suggests that cats may also impact a range of endangered native species through the transmission of fatal diseases, such as cat-borne toxoplasmosis;⁴ dead specimens of critically endangered 'alala and 'Ilioholoikauaua, as well as nai'a, have recently been found to have been infected by this disease.⁵ Not surprisingly, feral cats, including cats that have been trapped, neutered, and released, have now been added to Hawai'i's most impactful invasive species list, and have been recently recognized as one of the top 25 invasive terrestrial species in the Western United States.⁶ **Without proactive and timely controls over our ever-increasing feral cat population – estimated in 2012 to number 300,000 on O'ahu alone – many such culturally significant native species face devastation and even potential extinction in the near future.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁹ *Id.*

for six months or more in soil or warm seawater,¹⁰ toxoplasma oocytes shed by feral cat colonies may pose a substantial health risk for those who swim in, eat from, or otherwise enter our nearshore waters, including Native Hawaiians in particular, as well as all those who consume produce from home gardens, community gardens, and commercial farming operations where feral cats may be present.

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

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

¹⁰ Lindsey, *supra* note 4.

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

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

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

A study of TNR implemented countywide in San Diego showed that feral cat populations had not decreased after 10 years, and a similar result was found after 7 years in Alachua County, Florida, where feral cat populations increased (Foley et al. 2005). Four years of TNR at a colony in London saw the population fluctuate between 19 and 17 with no indication of further decline (Neville 1989). Ten years of TNR in Rome showed a 16–32% decrease in population size across 103 colonies but concluded that TNR was “a waste of time, energy, and money” if abandonment of owned cats could not be stopped (Natoli et al. 2006). Two colonies subject to TNR in Florida were tracked for over a year and population size of both colonies increased owing to the influx of new cats dumped at the highly visible sites (Castillo & Clarke 2003).¹⁴

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

By urging state agencies and landowners to support TNR on their lands, this measure may substantially increase the threats that feral cats pose to our native wildlife and to public health. **Again, TNR strategies have not been shown to successfully reduce cat populations, and have been shown to in some cases increase rates of cat abandonment, including cats that have not been sterilized.**¹⁶ Accordingly, this measure may only exacerbate feral cats’ impacts on our native wildlife and communities, and severely inhibit our ability to address the looming environmental and public health crisis that may be posed by feral cats.

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

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

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

Therefore, OHA respectfully urges the Committee to **HOLD** SCR36. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:43:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Rauzon	Testifying for Pacific Seabird Group	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is requesting that you reject this proposal as Trap/Neuter/Release is not an effective long-term strategy to eliminate cat colonies.

The Pacific Seabird Group (PSG) is an international, non-profit organization that was founded in 1972 to promote knowledge, study, and conservation of Pacific seabirds with a membership drawn from the entire Pacific basin, including Canada, Mexico, Russia, Japan, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the USA. Among PSG's members are biologists who have research interests in Pacific seabirds (including Hawaii), government officials who manage seabird refuges and populations, and individuals who are interested in marine conservation. Over the years, PSG has been a leader in conservation. Collectively, the Group's members have a great deal of knowledge and experience with respect to feral cat management and tropical seabird research in Hawaii and throughout the Pacific Region where they range.

It is patently unfair that specific user groups usurp public spaces for a single purpose, in this case, maintain feral cats. Harbors, parks, and school yards belong to everyone and giving one group of cat advocates direct land management control violates the very principal of open space, especially when that use creates a suite of health problems for people and other animals.

There is no justification for the presence of free ranging feral cats on any of our public lands. Yet a small number of advocates are attempting to rebrand feral cats as "community cats". These predators spell death to our native animals, both seabirds and forest birds. Cat feces on beaches have infected our monk seals with Toxoplasmosis, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins have died of Toxoplasmosis and children are vulnerable to Toxoplasmosis, whose health effects can be debilitating. We do not accept that feral cats are in any way a community responsibility to maintain. They are a public nuisance,

disaster for many Hawaiian endemic and endangered species, and a public health threat.

For example, in 2017 at the harbor in Kihei, Maui, about 100 Wedge-tailed Shearwater chicks were killed by feral cats, based on specific evidence collected by seabird experts. The feral cat colonies at the harbor are supported by people that feed them, and public land managers are ultimately responsible of these bird deaths, which violate the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Ear-tipped cats from cat colonies continue to be found at Hanalei National Wildlife Refuge, Kaua'i, where cat predation results in the death of hundreds of endangered waterbirds every year. And feral cats are caught on camera with regularity in the mountains of Kaua'i killing endangered Newell's Shearwaters and Hawaiian Petrels.

Controlling animals at our public parks is a good step in the right direction to protect us from feral cats. We support legislation and or rules that prohibit the feeding or maintaining of feral cats on any state, county, or federal lands.

This is but one example of the "Tragedy of the Commons", a lesson learned long ago where one public user of open space determines the future for everybody else. Please reject SCR36 and help prevent this tragedy from going any further; indeed if you don't, where will it end?

Mahalo for considering our request.

Mark J. Rauzon

Vice-Chair for Conservation



Shaping the future for birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
Opposing SCR 36
Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment/Water and Land
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 1:45 PM, Room 224**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai‘i, I am writing to express our organization’s **opposition to SCR 36**. We strongly believe that trapping, sterilizing, and then returning (TNR) feral cats is inappropriate public policy to address the overpopulation of cats throughout Hawai‘i.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

American Bird Conservancy and its members appreciate your attention and ask you to please consider the impacts to Hawai'i's people and native wildlife. **We respectfully request that you oppose SCR 36.**

Mahalo for your consideration,



Grant Sizemore, M.S., AWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs
American Bird Conservancy
gsizemore@abcbirds.org



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: March 20, 2018

To: Chairs Sen. Mike Gabbard and Sen. Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Sen. Gil Riviere
and Members of the Committees on Agriculture and Environment,
and Water and Land

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

RE: Testimony in strong support of SCR 36
Wednesday, March 21, 2018, 1:45 p.m., Capitol conference room 224

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Riviere and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for SCR 36, which urges public and private land owners to support trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) as an effective and humane way to reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats.

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

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

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

Please pass SCR 36 and support TNRM as a humane response to cats on the landscape.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 2:58:32 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:



Neighborhood Cats

the feral cat experts!

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss
NYC TNR Director

National Programs Director

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

March 18, 2018

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land

RE: SCR 36 (RESOLUTION SUPPORTING TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE)

Neighborhood Cats, a non-profit specializing in the management of free-roaming cats with branches in New York, New Jersey and Hawaii, **strongly supports SCR 36.**

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

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

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

Mahalo for your consideration,

Bryan Kortis, Esq.
National Programs Director

Research on Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 11:16:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Pls support SCR36

Thank you,

Christin Matsushige, President

HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION

hawaiicatfoundation@yahoo.com



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

To: Honorable Chair Gabbard, Senate Committee on Agriculture members, Honorable Chair Rhoads, Senate Committee on Water and Land members
In Support Of: SCR 36
Date: March 21, 2018 1:45 p.m.
Testimony By: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), the nation's largest animal protection organization, and our members and supporters in Hawaii, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SCR 36, which urges state departments and private landowners to support effective and humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations using the trap-neuter-return-manage strategy. We thank Sen. Gabbard and the other introducers for putting this measure forward.

We understand that managing free-roaming feral and stray cats is a complex issue that concerns many of Hawaii's leaders and the state and local agencies mandated to serve and protect the public. Cat management should be designed to ensure public safety, protect cats, and provide animal control agencies with effective, proactive, humane tools to manage cat populations.

The HSUS supports strategic, non-lethal management of community cats who already exist outdoors through sterilization and vaccination efforts, such as trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM). The goal of TNRM is to humanely reduce, and eventually eliminate, the number of free-roaming cats, as well as the nuisance behaviors and public health concerns associated with them. Our publication, "[Managing Community Cats: A Guide for Municipal Leaders](#)," outlines the efficacy and benefits of non-lethal management for unowned cats. Not only is this approach supported by the public, both [the American Public Health Association](#) and [the American Bar Association](#) encourage communities to adopt TNRM as a management practice to control free-roaming cats.

The best policies are those that encourage use of best practices without creating barriers for citizen participation in resolving a community issue. Caring residents who feed hungry stray cats are thus enabled to take this a step further and participate in trapping and sterilization programs, such as those that already exist in the state. TNRM should be conducted strategically, sustained at a rate necessary to cause a decline in the population, and paired with efforts to keep cats in homes. When implemented effectively, TNRM can decrease costs of free-roaming cat management, decrease public health and safety concerns, reduce predation on wildlife and decrease nuisance complaints. In order to do this, it needs to be easier for committed citizens to practice TNRM and government must not enact roadblocks.

It is important to note that lethal trap-and-remove efforts are ineffective in curbing populations, and will never achieve the desired results for a variety of reasons. Trap-and-euthanize is extremely costly and labor intensive, not to mention unpopular with the vast majority of Hawaii's citizens. It is a haphazard approach that addresses too few cats, often targets household pets, and has little impact on animal welfare, environmental, or public health issues. Countless communities across the country have employed this approach for the last century without resolving the issue. Hawaii should be on the forefront of progressive approaches in its handling of the state's free-roaming cats.

Working alongside humane organizations and compassionate citizens to sterilize and stabilize the state's cat population can achieve the shared goal of fewer unowned cats outdoors. Moreover, supporting residents who openly manage cat colonies promotes the adoption of sanitary feeding practices, identification and intervention of new cats in the colony – who may be lost or abandoned – so that they may be reunited or rehomed, and collaboration with authorities when a

problem arises. By clearing pathways for cats to be sterilized, an overall reduction in the community's outdoor cat population can be realized more quickly.

The Humane Society of the United States requests a favorable report on SCR 36.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 12:40:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jay Penniman	Testifying for Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose this measure. Please do not pass it. Feral cats predate our native wildlife even when they are fed by well meaning cat lovers. Just look at the situation of Kanaha Ponds on Maui. There people maintain a feral cat colony immediately outside of the Wildlife Sanctuary. DOFAW staff must continuously trap cats within the sanctuary to protect the endangered Hawaiian Stilts and HAWAIIAN COOTS that nest there. Still birds are predated by the supposedly well fed feral TNR cats maintained by people because it is in the nature of felines to catch and kill. We in the natural resources community are struggling to reverse the sad fact that Hawaii is considered the extinction capital of the world. TNR programs do not work and continue to create headaches for us, to say nothing of the ridiculous amounts of time and money we are forced to expend. Kill this resolution, PLEASE!!

Trap-neuter-release (TNR) is not an effective solution to the feral cat problem. Scientific research has demonstrated the inability of TNR to permanently reduce feral cat colony populations or the threats that they pose to humans and wildlife. It supports a system that essentially causes cat to be abandoned in an environment where they are vulnerable to harm or death in many forms. They are still vulnerable to diseases such as toxoplasmosis and feline leukemia, collisions with cars, and fighting or competing with other wildlife for resources. This leads to inhuman conditions- feral cats are expected to live half as long as their indoor pet counterparts. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is even against TNR programs due to their inhumaneness. TNR can encourage current cat owners to illegally abandon their cats since there is a supported feral cat population. We need to encourage people to be responsible with their pets and not release them into the wild. Feral cats threaten the health and safety of Maui's citizens. Toxoplasmosis (*Toxoplasma gondii*), a disease caused by a parasitic protozoan depends on cats to complete its life cycle, and is a growing health concern for numerous reasons. Up to 74% of cats will host this parasite in their lifetime and the infectious eggs, spread through cat feces, can infect humans and other wildlife. Infected feces are often found in public areas, and persists in and contaminates our watersheds, sources of water critical to humans and wildlife. In humans, this parasite is linked to a range of health issues including schizophrenia and Alzheimer's and even sudden abortion or fetal development defects for pregnant women and their unborn children (Torrey and Yolken 2003). Toxoplasmosis has already contributed to documented

deaths of our endangered Hawaiian monk seal and Nene (Hawaiian Goose) (Work et al. 2016). Even with TNR enforced throughout the State of Hawaii, overall health and safety of Hawaii's threatened and endangered native wildlife populations continue to decrease due to predation by feral cats. Although some cats are sterilized through TNR, well-fed cats still kill birds and other wildlife, and are known as subsidized predators that kill not for food but likely because it is instinctual. Feral cats have contributed to species extinctions worldwide. Winter (2004) outlines several examples in which the return of native bird species was a direct result of the removal of cats and feeding stations. We cannot let our islands be devoid of native Hawaiian species. They are aumakua, important to the Hawaiian culture and land. TNR is costly, oftentimes more costly than euthanasia and adoption. TNR will remain a long-term cost that is often supported by Maui Citizens which are voluntary, understaffed and do not have the ability to conduct long-term monitoring, resulting in inconsistent population estimates for feral colonies. Lastly, a survey by Lepczyk and Rubinoff (2016) demonstrates that majority of Hawaii's residents, including animal welfare members, are over 85% in support of a reduction in the feral cat populations. Amongst surveyed stakeholders that feed feral cats, 67% want to see a reduction in feral cat numbers. Beyond feral cat population reduction, this survey also found that of several available feral cat management techniques outlined, including lethal options, the public considered TNR as the least acceptable form of management. Overall, TNR fails at removing cats from the landscape, nor is it the most humane option for feral cat management. TNR and the feeding of feral cats leads cats to a life filled with inhuman conditions, poses serious health risks for humans and wildlife, allows cats to decimate Hawaii's native endangered wildlife populations, is costly, and a large percentage of Hawaii's stakeholders do not support the technique or the cat populations it continues to support. It is time that we stand up to the small minority of people who support these wild cat populations. We need to stand up for our aina and protect our native species and the health of our community. Lepczyk, C. and D. Rubinoff. 2016. Ban on feeding feral cats would be good for the cats, residents, Hawaii. Star Advertiser. <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/02/21/editorial/island-voices/ban-onfeeding-feral-cats-would-be-good-for-the-cats-residents-hawaii/> Torrey, E. and R. Yolken. 2003. Toxoplasma gondii and Schizophrenia. Emerging Infectious Diseases 9(11): 1375-1380. Winter 2004. Trap-neuter-release programs: the reality and the impacts. Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association 225(9): 1369-1376 Work, T., Verma, S., Su, C., Medieros, J., Kaiakapu., Kwok, O. and J. Dubey. 2016. Toxoplasma gondii Antibody Prevalence and two new Genotypes of the Parasite in Endangered Hawaiian Geese (Nene: Branta sandvicensis). Journal of Wildlife Diseases 52(2):253-257

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

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

Trap and Kill Methods Can Have the Opposite Effects

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

- Researchers believe that the cat population increased because the cats tend to live in areas where they have resources available and new cats simply move in when the dominant cats are no longer there to protect their territory
- With more resources available, cats can easily reproduce and repopulate
- Cats that were left unsterilized have kittens and those kittens survive better because resources are more easily available to them and those kittens will grow up and have more kittens
- **Culling becomes a cycle that will never end. Cats will continue to move in and have more kittens and will constantly need to be culled. *Culling is not an effective or efficient solution to reduce cat populations.***

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

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

Issues with DLNR's Approach to Kill Cats

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

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

Is DLNR being monitored and held accountable for animal cruelty?

Why do we have such a big problem?

1. The state doesn't enforce sterilization and many people choose not to spay or neuter
2. There are not enough homes for these animals and the public continues breed animals irresponsibly and does not sterilize pets which would stop contributing to the number of unwanted animals
3. The public is uneducated about more affordable options for spay and neuter
4. People are constantly dumping their pets, most of which are not sterilized
5. Property managers are trapping and dumping
6. Colony caregivers are being harrassed and threatened even though they are really doing a public service with their own money

What can we do?

1. Allow managed TNR on state lands
2. Allow TNR and feeding to be done so that the colonies are able to be managed efficiently
3. Provide better programs and networks to support caretakers and trappers that will encourage people to continue doing TNR
4. Make sure the funding for low cost spay and neuter is being used for sterilizations
5. Enforce fines and harsher penalties against animal abandonment
6. Get our state shelter on board with RTF over euthanasia

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

Feeders/Colony Care Givers

- **The “crazy cat lady” feeding stray cats DOES NOT want more cats! This is why most people who care for cat colonies are actively monitoring their cats and doing TNR**
- Responsible caregivers sterilize pregnant cats which means unborn kittens are aborted in the process and are not adding to the population
- They did not create the cat problem, the cats were already there
- Feeding keeps cats from wandering so colonies are more maintainable
- Feeding also helps gain the trust of the cats and enables the caregivers to watch for new cats or kittens so they can maintain the colony through TNR
- Cat colony caregivers have found that there is a huge problem with people dumping cats that are not sterilized and they have actively been helping with the cat population problem by catching dumped cats and sterilizing
- With caregivers being registered and monitored, it would ensure that the cats are being sterilized and not just fed and will provide a support network that will benefit all parties
- With a database, TNR can be run more efficiently and will reduce our cat overpopulation problem, and this will also provide a database that will help to monitor cats statewide and create a way to identify areas where help is needed

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

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

Feeding Bans Won't Help

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

A Few Benefits of TNR

1. Stops reproduction
2. Reduces noise problems such as fighting or mating sounds
3. Reduces odor caused by territorial male cats
4. Proven to reduce cat populations
5. Cheaper than euthanization and sheltering cats

Cats and Monk Seals

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

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

Cats and Protected Birds

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

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

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

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:20:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for Oahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 5:48:42 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 3:36:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I do definitely support SCR36 as TNRM is the humane treatment the cats deserve . Since people created this problem and should work to help humanely to reduce the numbers by TNRM , NOT by killing ...

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:01:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

TNR costs less money than euthanasia and is much more human. Removing cats from habitats to euthanize them does not solve the problem - it invites other predators to take their place, who will then also be unsterilized if we continue to support euthanasia over TNR programs. This Resolution is a logical step in the right direction. Please support it.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:12:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:15:04 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong support of SCR36. As an active person in Oahu's TNR community I know the most humane and effective method for controlling the cat population is through trap, neuter, and return. Allowing the community and rescue organizations to do this everywhere would greatly help the cat overpopulation issue here on Oahu, and may even encourage more to partake in TNR in their communities.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:46:22 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

For the Aloha State Humane Control of cat overpopulation such as Trap Neuter Return Manage is the Best Option. It demonstrates the Aloha Spirit and its Kindness! Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo Nui Loa.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 4:58:19 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:16:40 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel Zinkus	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The humane Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage strategy is the best case for managing the colony cats on Oahu. I personally encourage TNR programs to individuals who feed colonies and through Facebook. Simply "removing" cats does not solve the problem. As long as there is a good source, cats will return to the same area. If the colonies are managed properly, the population will eventually dwindle and become more manageable for all individuals who live here.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:27:27 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natalie Parra	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 5:36:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Countless individuals in Hawaii dedicate their time and money to responsibly caring for free-roaming cats, which benefits the entire community. TNRM programs, if properly managed, really do help. Colonies that are properly cared for tend to be healthier, which should reduce any concerns of cats spreading diseases. I have been managing a colony for several years, and have seen the population stabilize. No new kittens in two years. However, colony caretakers often face hostility from people who do not always understand our goals or how TNRM works. Educating state departments and private land owners on TNRM and encouraging their support would hopefully alleviate some of the obstacles we colony caretakers face on a regular basis, and would allow us to continue performing this community service.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 6:49:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Germaine K Halualani-Hee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:04:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patrice Tanna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:01:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tammy Nichols	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I think TNR is the only way to solve the feral cats problem. With the healthy feral cats, the rats will not be around. The birds are better protected because the cats don't need to hunt for feed. Individuals with no cost to the tax payers are helping with stopping the overpopulation of feral cats. Instead of paying the Humane Society to kill, the money should go to manage the population.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:20:05 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:27:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:54:13 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christy Kohama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Most likely I will not be able to testify in person due to work schedule, but I feel that TNR is an effective and fairly humane method of feline population control. As a responsible cat owner, it infuriates me to see people abandon their pets, assuming they will do fine on their own. TNR colonies are the last hope these animals have, when there's no pet approved housing or nonprofit cat sanctuaries left. They're not pests, and most pet owners consider them family. We should treat them as such - as O'hana.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 7:55:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gillian Boss	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 8:53:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SCR 36. The current feral cat population was caused by insensitive people who feel it is o.k. to throw away their unwanted cats. There are many of us who value life and give our all to take care of these helpless creatures. We should be allowed to continue the TNRM process in order to reduce the feral cat population and perhaps someday eradicate through attrition. It is the humanely thing to do. I strongly support this effort and highly encourage all members of legislative bodies to support this effort as well.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 9:28:37 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support TNR strategy because it reduces shelter admission and operation costs. Also fewer community cats in the shelter and more cage open up for adoptable cats. These program promote soft environment and promote public health by reducing unvaccinated cats.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:14:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:23:49 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Kaita	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

TNR.. or trap and release.. is known to be an effective way to help with reproduction of cats and will help with our over population of cats we have on Oahu. Trapping and killing will work a little bit people are constantly dumping animals all over the island. And if we TNR it will be a humane way to Prevent animals reproducing. Animal lovers will not be upset on how this is handled. There are so many people and groups that are willing to TNR to help with the cat population but they too need the state to support this bill so they can be safe to do this process. People don't understand this is a very effective way to lesson the cat population.. I personally took a TNR class and learned so much pros to do this but we need your guys support and a law to allow us to have rights to do this

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 10:24:06 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
zeli laporga	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I do support this proposal. I believe TNR programs through which feral/community cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped and returned to their outdoor homes--is a success in lowering cat population and stops the breeding cycle.

I believe in TNR and experienced the long term benefits of TNR firsthand.

Please support Trap-Neuter-Return manage strategy

Thankyou

Zeli Kina Laporga

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/14/2018 11:20:16 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SCR36. Feral cat colonies can be managed effectively and humanely with the trap-neuter-return model. Mahalo for supporting this important piece of legislation.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 3:54:19 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lindsey whitcomb	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 9:55:08 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:05:20 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge the passage of SCR36 and strongly support Trap Neuter Release and Manage (TNRM) as the responsible and humane solution to reducing the population of free roaming cats. This bill efficiently joins community stakeholders and supports the common goal of reducing cat populations.

TNRM is effective and as a volunteer cat caretaker who practices TNRM, I have seen the benefits of TNRM in reducing cat populations. I have also heard the criticisms that cat colonies continue to grow. The managed cats are fixed and do not populate, what does in fact happen, is people dump their unfixed cats into managed colonies, which we caretakers then will fix and manage. The free roaming cat problem is human made, the origins and ancestry of every single cat on this island is traceable to the irresponsibility of human actions and the lack of long-term planning.

This bill will allow the humane and responsible reduction in cat populations. Further, it will promote the effectiveness of TNRM efforts by encouraging the collaboration between landowners and cat caretakers to effectively reduce cat populations through TNRM. Part of the difficulties of TNRM is that many cat caretakers are forced in the dead of night to set up and monitor traps in order to fix cats using personal funds because of landowners who do not want the cats but do not support efforts to reduce their populations humanely. This bill will help to address the disconnect and build a bridge between landowners and cat caretakers and further the goal of both groups to reduce cat populations. More importantly, this bill enables those who care to responsibly and more effectively shoulder the burden created by other people whose careless treatment of cats led to this problem.

While TNRM does not reduce the problem overnight, it is the humane long-term solution. Short-term "fixes" such as trapping and killing is not a fix or a solution. Not only is it inhumane but it also promotes the inhumane treatment of animals and decreases the humanity in our community. How can we cry out against cats being thrown off balconies or shot if we allow these cats to be starved or killed? The connection between hurting and torturing animals and hurting people is well established. By taking compassion and responsibility, not only are we helping to care for cats, we are also caring for ourselves and promoting compassion in our community.

Please, I urge you to support and pass SCR36.

Katherine Linster

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:28:47 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT SCR36.

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN CONCLUSIVELY THAT TNRM IS THE MOSTB EFFECTIVE, AND CERTAINLY THE MOST HUMANE WAY OF REDUCING CAT COLONIES. WHY DISENFRANCHISE THE MNAY VOUNTEERS WHO HAVE DEVOTED THEIR LIVES AND THEIR INCOMES TO HELPING THE FERAL CAT POPULATION? INSTEAD, SHOW THEM YOUR SUPPORT AND APPRECIATION BY PASSING THIS rESO.

THANK YOU,

DR. JOEL FISCHER

jfischer@hawaii.edu

735-7582

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:38:09 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/15/2018 11:38:54 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Trap-neuter-return-manage is an effective and humane way to control and ultimately decrease the feral cat population. Killing the cats does not work...it has been tried and has failed. It would be a great help if laws about animal abandonment actually had teeth, since this is the main reason why the population is so large. Abandoned, unfixed pets make tons and tone more animals. Let feeders manage the colonies.

From: [Toledo, Beverly](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: re: feral cats bill
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 1:34:59 PM

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads & Senator Mike Gabbard;

Please consider these cats were peoples pets before they were thrown out to fend for themselves. I urge you to please take into consideration for these helpless cats by neuter-return-manage-strategy method. I believe the animal lovers out there would appreciate your consideration to these methods.

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

[Free-Roaming Cats; Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage \(TNRM\); DLNR](#)

thank you,

Beverly Toledo
btoledo@queens.org

From: [Emi Au](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 11:20:59 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to submit a testimony in support of SCR 36, a resolution supporting trap-neuter-return-manage as a humane and effective way to reduce the number of cats on the landscape. The hope with this measure being passed is that more land owners/managers will chose to work with volunteer cat colony caregivers to manage the population of Free-Roaming cats. These animals exist on the landscape through no fault of their own. They deserve help and compassion.

Thank you,

Emi Au

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



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From: [WTL Testimony](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:37:24 PM

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Tomey [<mailto:kimtomey@aol.com>]
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 4:33 PM
To: WTL Testimony <WTLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36

I support the trap/spay-neuter/manage resolution as the best way to address the problem of overpopulation created by irresponsible pet owners.

Kim Tomey


Kaneohe, HI 96744

From: [Wayne Niide](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#); [WTL Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Stephanie Kendrick"](#); [Rep. Calvin Say](#); [Senator Les Ihara](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 4:55:46 AM

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

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

They deserve help and compassion.

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

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

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

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

Thank you!

Wayne Niide

From: [Fiona Chin](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#); [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 3:07:53 PM

Every cat deserves a loving home; however, the abandonment of pets and the failure of people to spay/neuter pet animals results in many cats being left to survive on the landscape, through no fault of their own. These animals deserve our compassion. Hawaiian Humane hopes these measures will encourage more land owners/managers to work with cat colony caregivers to manage the population of Free-Roaming cats.

I support

From: [Hamid Jahanmir](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Cc: [Sen. Brickwood Galuteria](#); [Rep. Scott Saiki](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:47:19 PM

Please consider my support of SCR 36.

From: [Jennifer Chiwa](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of SCR 36 for Hearing on 3/21/18 at 1:45 pm
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:56:45 AM

Aloha, Members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture & Environment and Water & Land. My name is Jennifer Chiwa.

Please pass SCR 36 which urges state departments and private landowners to support effective and humane reduction of free-roaming cat populations using the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy. This resolution covers all of the benefits of TNRM and would help to have this strategy implemented on a far-reaching basis. This resolution also recognizes and honors the volunteer cat colony managers who give their time and resources to this humane strategy. The TNRM program at the University of Hawaii - Manoa has been highly successful and can serve as a model for other state departments and the private sector. Furthermore, please pass this resolution to help Hawaii maintain its leadership in animal welfare.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

From: [Marsha Otani](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#); [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: "Testimony in support of SCR 36"
Date: Monday, March 19, 2018 2:25:03 PM

To whom it may concern,

I just want to give my testimony that I completely support this program to save feral cats and the neuter program. I have worked with several organizations, including Hi Cat friends. It is our duty as compassionate human beings to save the cats that have been roaming our Island because of irresponsible humans. I have worked with help, in my own neighborhood in Ewa Beach to TNR many many cats with several other people. I take responsibility for the cats that choose to come and be fed by me. Many of them besides being neutered also have shots. When they are taken care of they also have no desire to kill birds. Mine have no interest because they are well fed. These cats have not caused this problem people have. I know the program is working because in the past year I have not seen any babies in our area. If more people would just get involved in NTR there would be less and less of a problem. We need to care for the older cats and let them live out their lives and if any babies are born they should be Trapped and Neutered and have permanent homes found. One of the problems is people come here for a couple of years and their kids want a cute little kitten. Many times they don't get them fixed and worse yet when they move they dump them. Then there are also people that don't want them in "my neighborhood" (like other problems) so they trap them and dump them somewhere else or in a cat colony unneutered. They are not garbage to be discarded. They are living creatures.

With great Aloha, Marsha Otani

From: [Sally Mejia](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in support of SCR 36
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 6:46:35 AM

I support trap-neuter-return-manage as a humane and effective way to reduce the number of cats on the landscape.

Sally Mejia, RA
Locations RE
(808) 866-6504

Please excuse brevity of message, sent from iPhone.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 2:57:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

The sooner we get these cats spayed and neutered the fewer there will be.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 3:03:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jaunette Itsuno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

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

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 4:31:18 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello Committe Chair(s) And Committee Members:

A HUGH YES! This is a progressive action you need to take now. Hawaii markets itself to the world as a compassionate destination and model. You need to prove this by passing this bill now and into law this session. This is the compassionate solution. You should give medals to the heros who do this and they should be your models to emulate, that THIS IS WHAT THE SPIRIT OF HAWAII SHOULD BE. It's being handed to you, take it and support this now. Your actions make the difference between life and death for these feeling creatures and will also reflect on your spirit. Please give compassion to them so that you create compassionate spirit for yourselves and the islands. Thank you.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 7:02:51 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 10:33:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support SCR36

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 8:05:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shari Kochiyama Urda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/18/2018 9:10:36 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 10:01:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 9:56:22 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this very important bill. Studies show trap-neuter-release programs to be the most effective way to manage feral cat populations.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:50:38 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 1:56:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 12:53:32 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SCR36. Trap Neuter Return Manage of feral and free roaming cats is a humane and effective method of reducing the number of cats in Hawaii AND it is funded mainly by animal welfare groups and private citizen dollars AND NOT taxpayer dollars.

Respectfully,

Lisa Thompson

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:56:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SCR 36. I'm a colony manager. With the help of Cat Friends, I spayed and neutered almost 60 cats at one location in our neighborhood. It's been four and a half years since we fixed that entire colony. To date there are only 17 cats remaining in this colony. Although we are uncertain what happened to many of them, we know that several died. Six kittens and one adult were removed and adopted out. Of the 17 remaining, 3 of those are cats that belonged to neighbors in that area. Because the cats were not spayed/neutered and wearing tags or microchipped, we were able to sterilize them and microchip them. TNRM, also known as trap, neuter, return, manage - is the most effective and humane tool to reduce the population of cats in Hawaii. Sincerely, Cindy Keiki

From: [Susan Gall](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#); [WTL Testimony](#); [Sen. Laura Thielen](#)
Subject: In Support of SCR 36,
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:08:27 PM

To whom it may concern,

I support trap-neuter-return-manage as a humane and effective way to reduce the number of cats on the landscape. This is good for the community at large. I know several individuals who have been doing this in different parts of Oahu for years and their efforts have significantly reduce the feral cat population. It benefits the community, without costing the city and county. These volunteers are doing a great service and should be encouraged.

Susan Gall

808.284.1603

Try to be a rainbow for someone else's cloud.
- Maya Anglou

From: [WTL Testimony](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: FW: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 36
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 2:06:16 PM

From: george linnik [mailto:leonid1500@yahoo.com]
Sent: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 1:34 PM
To: WTL Testimony <WTLTestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SCR 36

Show original message

PLEASE PASS SCR 36 AND HB2593.TO PROTECT NEUTERED COLONY CATS.

These are NOT the cats in wild areas with rare species. We can all agree that those cats should be trapped and given to volunteer groups for relocation and neutering.

In urban areas, hundreds of colonies of healthy, beautiful, cats are fed and cared for every day by dedicated citizens. The cats are nerally neutered, ear clipped and micro-chipped.

Colony cats rarely go more than a block from their food source. This keeps them away from birds and out of trouble.

Registering the colonies brings organization and accountability, continuity and support. The worst thing that happens is a daily caretaker dies or moves, leaving the poor cats to starve. SCR 36 and HB2593 will directly help solve these issues and also provide a framework to properly address issues and complaints. the Hawaii Department of Health gave testimony to the Ag. committee of the house on Feb 14th of 2018 that "There are no public health or safety issues with cats". On toxoplamosis, the big scare item, HDOH said "There is no epidemiology on this". Because there have been no reported cases.

Colony cats are fed every day so do not eat bad things and so do not get infected. They are neutered so they do not pass it to kittens.

If they ever where infected,.they pass it only once and then never again . So colony cats do not pose a significant hazard to wildlife.

The colony cats are no where near any rare birds. Pigeons maybe, no rare birds.

Thank you.

George Linnik

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 8:39:45 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:38:43 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha!

I fully support this initiative. A giant step forward in protecting and humanely managing the feral cat population. Go Hawaii and catch up with our sister states! Only good things will happen when this proposal is adopted. It's a win-win for humans and our animal friends.

Mahalo!

Allan Yoza

From: [Susan White](#)
To: [AEN Testimony](#)
Subject: scr 36
Date: Tuesday, March 20, 2018 4:49:59 PM

I fully support trnm as the ONLY humane and compassionate way to cope with the free roaming cat populations. The problem stems from society, irresponsible pet owners who don't spay/neuter their cats and those who continue to illegally DUMP these poor cats! It is not the animals fault. They do not walk, drive or catch the bus to these areas. People put them there. As a colony caregiver myself I have experienced the benefits and positive results from a properly managed colony, 1. No unwanted kittens being born. 2. Population decreases. 3. Cats are healthier. 4. Promotes community awareness, understanding and compassion. Please allow us to continue to care for these cats in an orderly, caring way..and not destroy them.....Susan White.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 10:09:36 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katsu Frausto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Trap-neuter-release (TNR) is not an effective solution to the feral cat problem. Scientific research has demonstrated the inability of TNR to permanently reduce feral cat colony populations or the threats that they pose to humans and wildlife. It supports a system that essentially causes cat to be abandoned in an environment where they are vulnerable to harm or death in many forms. They are still vulnerable to diseases such as toxoplasmosis and feline leukemia, collisions with cars, and fighting or competing with other wildlife for resources. This leads to inhuman conditions- feral cats are expected to live half as long as their indoor pet counterparts. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) is even against TNR programs due to their inhumaneness. TNR can encourage current cat owners to illegally abandon their cats since there is a supported feral cat population. We need to encourage people to be responsible with their pets and not release them into the wild. Feral cats threaten the health and safety of Maui's citizens. Toxoplasmosis (Toxoplasma gondii), a disease caused by a parasitic protozoan depends on cats to complete its life cycle, and is a growing health concern for numerous reasons. Up to 74% of cats will host this parasite in their lifetime and the infectious eggs, spread through cat feces, can infect humans and other wildlife. Infected feces are often found in public areas, and persists in and contaminates our watersheds, sources of water critical to humans and wildlife. In humans, this parasite is linked to a range of health issues including schizophrenia and Alzheimer's and even sudden abortion or fetal development defects for pregnant women and their unborn children (Torrey and Yolken 2003). Toxoplasmosis has already contributed to

documented deaths of our endangered Hawaiian monk seal and Nene (Hawaiian Goose) (Work et al. 2016).

Even with TNR enforced throughout the State of Hawaii, overall health and safety of Hawaii's threatened and endangered native wildlife populations continue to decrease due to predation by feral cats. Although some cats are sterilized through TNR, well-fed cats still kill birds and other wildlife, and are known as subsidized predators that kill not for food but likely because it is instinctual.

Feral cats have contributed to species extinctions worldwide. Winter (2004) outlines several examples in which the return of native bird species was a direct result of the removal of cats and feeding stations.

We cannot let our islands be devoid of native Hawaiian species. They are aumakua, important to the Hawaiian culture and land.

TNR is costly, oftentimes more costly than euthanasia and adoption. TNR will remain a long-term cost

that is often supported by Maui Citizens which are voluntary, understaffed and do not have the ability to conduct long-term monitoring, resulting in inconsistent population estimates for feral colonies.

Lastly, a survey by Lepczyk and Rubinoff (2016) demonstrates that majority of Hawaii's residents,

including animal welfare members, are over 85% in support of a reduction in the feral cat

populations. Amongst surveyed stakeholders that feed feral cats, 67% want to see a reduction in feral

cat numbers. Beyond feral cat population reduction, this survey also found that of several available feral

cat management techniques outlined, including lethal options, the public considered TNR as the least

acceptable form of management.

Overall, TNR fails at removing cats from the landscape, nor is it the most humane option for feral

cat management. TNR and the feeding of feral cats leads cats to a life filled with inhuman conditions,

poses serious health risks for humans and wildlife, allows cats to decimate Hawaii's native endangered

wildlife populations, is costly, and a large percentage of Hawaii's stakeholders do not support the

technique or the cat populations it continues to support.

It is time that we stand up to the small minority of people who support these wild cat

populations. We need to stand up for our aina and protect our native species and the health of our community.

Lepczyk, C. and D. Rubinoff. 2016. Ban on feeding feral cats would be good for the cats, residents,

Hawaii. Star Advertiser. <http://www.staradvertiser.com/2016/02/21/editorial/island-voices/ban-on-feeding-feral-cats-would-be-good-for-the-cats-residents-hawaii/>

Torrey, E. and R. Yolken. 2003. *Toxoplasma gondii* and Schizophrenia. *Emerging Infectious Diseases* 9(11): 1375-1380.

Winter 2004. Trap-neuter-release programs: the reality and the impacts. *Journal of the American*

Veterinary Medical Association 225(9): 1369-1376

Work, T., Verma, S., Su, C., Medieros, J., Kaiakapu., Kwok, O. and J. Dubey. 2016. *Toxoplasma gondii*

Antibody Prevalence and two new Genotypes of the Parasite in Endangered Hawaiian Geese

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/16/2018 10:24:29 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/19/2018 2:23:28 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Warren	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SCR36 is a waste of resources that puts our native fauna at risk and should immediately be voted down. The threat that feral cats pose to wildlife has been repeatedly demonstrated around the world. These are highly efficient predators that have particularly devastating effects on wildlife that have evolved in the absence of mammalian predators such as those in Hawaii. I appreciate that the supporters of this bill want to provide a humane mechanism to manage these animals. But, this approach is based on false information and will have no positive impact on the cat population or the native animals that they prey upon.

I am a proud citizen of Hawaii, an animal lover, and a cat owner and I vehemently opposed to this bill. This bill relies on the false assumption that a Trap-Neuter-and-Release (TNR) program can control feral cat populations. Numerous peer-reviewed studies have shown that TNR fails to reduce feral cat populations and fails to protect wildlife (e.g. Castillo and Clarke 2003, Foley et al. 2005, Lohr et al 2013). At best this method leaves cats on the landscape to continue to kill birds and other wildlife for the remainder of their lives. **A single house cat can kill over 10,000 birds in its lifetime.** Many of our native Hawaiian birds are balancing on the brink of extinction with only a few hundred individuals left in the wild.

Beyond the obvious negative effects on native wildlife, TNR effectively maintains a population of domestic animals that spreads disease. **One of the most concerning disease is *Toxoplasmosis gondii*, a parasitic infection that among other effects can cause spontaneous abortion of human fetuses.** Up to 74% of cats are infected with this parasite. Maintaining these animals, particularly in public areas, is dangerous to human health. This parasite has also caused the deaths of Hawaiian monk seals, Nene, and some whales and dolphins.

TNR also maintains a status quo of cats living in inhumane, unhealthy conditions. Encouraging feeding of cat colonies, as suggested in SCR36, artificially inflates feral cat populations and leads to unhealthy animals. These are domestic animals living off scraps and an occasional pile of kibble dumped in a parking lot to be fought over. **These are not conditions I would ever want for my cats.** Contrary to what is stated in SCR36, maintaining these conditions is what lacks compassion.

SCR36 promotes methods that are damaging to wildlife, unhealthy to people, and cruel to cats. Please do not support this bill. It is our kuleana to protect Hawaii and its treasures, not support a faulty program based on false information.

Castillo, D., and A. L. Clarke. 2003. Trap/neuter/release methods ineffective in controlling domestic cat "colonies" on public lands. *Natural Areas Journal* 23(3):247-253.

Foley, P., J. E. Foley, J. K. Levy, T. Paik. 2005. Analysis of the impact of trap-neuter-return programs on populations of feral cats. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medicine Association* 227(11):1775-1781.

Lohr, C. A., L. J. Cox, and C. A. Lepczyk. 2013. Costs and benefits of trap-neuter-release and euthanasia for removal of urban cats in Oahu, Hawaii. *Conservation Biology* 27(1):64-73.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/17/2018 8:20:29 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a really dreadful idea, supported by very vocal but somewhat uninformed cat lovers. TNRM is a terrible option for Hawaii's unique ecosystems, already under heavy assault by invasive predators. Our native bird species are virtually unable to survive in many areas of O'ahu due to the prevalence of feral cats (plus other predators such as mongoose & rats) on the landscape. From the tropic birds of East O'ahu to the endangered pueo nesting in the grasses of West O'ahu, these unique birds CANNOT SURVIVE the attack of a feral cat! TNRM does not remove a cat's desire to hunt. There is NO WAY to minimize their impact on wildlife. They must be removed and cared for in a controlled and compassionate sanctuary such as the Lana'i Cat Sanctuary (<http://lanaicatsanctuary.org/>) where both cats and birds are valued.

Furthermore, merely offering the most minimal of care for these cats, food only without access to medications and veterinary care is not genuinely compassionate. It is merely cheap. Don't fall for false arguments that cite mainland successes with TNRM and ignore our local scientists who have consistently shown how truly damaging TNRM is for Hawaii. These wonderful cat volunteers need to be redirected into assisting feral cats in a different way, providing a yet MORE HUMANE way of life for these cats.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 1:49:54 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jamie Thomton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am very concerned about the human health risks, as well as the grave threat to wildlife that toxoplasmosis presents. The toxoplasmosis parasite only reproduces in cats, therefore feral cats must be removed from the landscape. Trap neuter release programs have repeatedly been proven to not work. Further, there is overwhelming public support in Hawaii for the removal of feral cats from the landscape as it's harmful to the fragile ecosystems of Hawaii and is not humane for the cats themselves. Please reject this well intentioned but ill informed bill and support future legislation that is supported by our State wildlife management experts within DLNR.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SCR-36

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:24:10 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/21/2018 1:45:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and the Senate Committee on Water and Land,

I have pulled some of the points from my testimony on HB2593 because I feel they are also relevant for SCR36.

I am a Hawai'i resident, born and raised on Oahu, with a degree in Biology and a Masters in Environmental Studies. I am submitting this testimony as an individual.

I do not agree with urging TNRM for the following reasons.

Feral cats have been added to Hawai'i's list of most impactful invasive species.

"Feral cats were among little fire ants, rapid ohia death, pigs and other species on a list of some of the most impactful invasive species in Hawai'i, submitted to the Western Governors' Association by Gov. David Ige." (Source: <http://www.thegardenisland.com/2018/03/18/hawaii-news/feral-cats-make-invasive-species-list/>)

Just because individuals are spayed or neutered doesn't stop them from hunting. Yes, I understand that it's not the fault of cats that they are in this situation. Yet, it is not the fault of fire ants or mongoose either but difficult decisions have to be made to protect our fragile ecosystems, native wildlife, and natural resources. The resolution states that TNRM has not been pursued in areas where endangered or native species are common, citing they control the numbers in urban areas. However urban areas and areas where endangered or native species are common are not mutually exclusive. There are plenty of Manu-o-ku in downtown Honolulu, endangered Ae'ō at the Kona wastewater treatment plant, and a huge cat colony up at the Aiea loop trail where native forest birds once were. Also, colony cats aren't contained and can easily roam and affect wildlife outside of their feeding radius. If any ear-tipped TNRM cats are documented preying a stilt at a marsh, that could be considered a violation of the federal Endangered Species Act. A state with such a huge number of wildlife species under conservation concern shouldn't urge, or even condone, those kinds of actions.

TNRM is not supported by the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources

DLNR has consistently submitted testimony in opposition of the bill that would establish

a TNRM process due to impacts of cats on wildlife and natural resources, toxoplasmosis, and because it would open up the state to potential lawsuits under the Endangered Species Act (like what is currently happening in New York). They are right to do so and shouldn't be urged to do what is contrary to their mission.

Feral cat feeding is not supported at the cabinet-level.

The Hawaii Invasive Species council, which describes itself as cabinet-level direction on invasive species issues, lists feral cats on its invasive species list and in the "What you can do" section it explicitly states "do not feed feral cats". <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/invasive-species-profiles/feral-cats/>

TNRM does not work.

The publications that TNRM advocates use to show that TNRM works are studies that have sample sizes of hundreds to a few thousands of cats (one study by Levy, Isaza, and Scott in the Veterinary Journal that I have seen cited as proof that TNRM works had a sample size of 2,366 cats). This number simply cannot scale to the hundreds of thousands of cats we have in our islands. TNRM cannot possibly do enough to stem the growth of the hundreds of thousands of cats in our islands. TNRM is not the solution to help reduce our growing feral cat epidemic. Unfortunately we're at the point where humane euthanasia is needed.

TNRM is not more humane than euthanasia.

The process of TNRM and humane euthanasia are the same up until the animal is anesthetized. Once the animal is put under, that's when either the euthanasia or surgery happens. With euthanasia, the cat doesn't wake up from the anesthesia. With TNRM, the cat gets the surgery and is put back out in the environment without ongoing pain medication, flea treatments, or follow-up veterinarian visits. I've been trapped in a hotel parking lot because a colony of cats was being fed behind my car. The smell is what hits your first. Then looking at these animals, I could see the poor condition in many of the cats were in. No amount of food thrown at them could make up for the lack of ongoing care. Just because "no kill" methods may make us feel better, it doesn't change the fact that TNRM is inhumane. Euthanasia is acceptable to peacefully end the life of our pets, why is it suddenly unacceptable here? Whether something is humane should be focused on quality of life, not length of life.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer these comments.