

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, February 4, 2022
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1987
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1987 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by June 30, 2023, and require the Invasive Species Council to develop and implement a program to significantly reduce the feral cat population in the State by December 31, 2025. **The Department offers the following comments.**

While the intent of House Bill 1987 to reduce the environmental and health risks posed by cats is good, the scope of the feral cat problem is enormous.

- A comprehensive survey to determine distribution and abundance of feral cats statewide would be valuable, and would be an important step in framing the scope of the problem.
- Designing a comprehensive statewide survey would be a complex undertaking requiring research into the various methods needed to develop such an estimate. Cats range from the tops of the mountains to the edge of the shoreline, and the methods to count them in various habitats and over the landscape would probably vary by terrain. Determining feral versus free-ranging pet cats and other considerations would require some analysis.
- Developing a management strategy based on the results would be a complex and controversial undertaking. Ability to control cats would vary by jurisdiction and landowner. Recommendations based on the survey would require input from a multi-agency task force or some other form of coordinated working group.
- The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is a coordinating body that could advise or consult on a strategy, but it does not implement programs. Implementing entities would be the federal, state, county, and private agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in being part of the program.

- A comprehensive survey to determine the statewide distribution and abundance of feral cats would be the first step. Following the survey, a strategic plan could be developed based on a threat assessment. The reduction goals and timeline in the bill are ambitious, and perhaps should be established once a survey is conducted.

Costs would include developing and conducting a comprehensive survey; developing a strategic plan for feral cat management plan based on the findings; and implementation of a program based on the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
AGRICULTURE**

**Friday, February 4, 2022
10:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1987
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1987 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by June 30, 2023, and require the Invasive Species Council to develop and implement a program to significantly reduce the feral cat population in the State by December 31, 2025. **The Department offers the following comments.**

While the intent of House Bill 1987 to reduce the environmental and health risks posed by cats is good, the scope of the feral cat problem is enormous.

- A comprehensive survey to determine distribution and abundance of feral cats statewide would be valuable, and would be an important step in framing the scope of the problem.
- Designing a comprehensive statewide survey would be a complex undertaking requiring research into the various methods needed to develop such an estimate. Cats range from the tops of the mountains to the edge of the shoreline, and the methods to count them in various habitats and over the landscape would probably vary by terrain. Determining feral versus free-ranging pet cats and other considerations would require some analysis.
- Developing a management strategy based on the results would be a complex and controversial undertaking. Ability to control cats would vary by jurisdiction and landowner. Recommendations based on the survey would require input from a multi-agency task force or some other form of coordinated working group.
- The Hawai'i Invasive Species Council is a coordinating body that could advise or consult on a strategy, but it does not implement programs. Implementing entities would be the federal, state, county, and private agencies, organizations, and individuals interested in being part of the program.

- A comprehensive survey to determine the statewide distribution and abundance of feral cats would be the first step. Following the survey, a strategic plan could be developed based on a threat assessment. The reduction goals and timeline in the bill are ambitious, and perhaps should be established once a survey is conducted.

Costs would include developing and conducting a comprehensive survey; developing a strategic plan for feral cat management plan based on the findings; and implementation of a program based on the plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1987

February 4, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 325 and Videoconference

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1987 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by June 30, 2023; mandates the Invasive Species Council to develop and implement a program to reduce the feral cat population in the State by December 31, 2025; and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by DLNR for a point-in-time count of feral cats and a program to reduce the feral cat population.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:36:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

There are volumes of research and case documents regarding eradication of specific species and in this case, felines. I could not attach the case of Maquerie Island: Archaic Programs Fail Big and Cost Big.

First, lets get this issue out of the way—native birds extinction. The major killer of native birds is the malaria-carrying mosquito. As birds move into higher elevations, the mosquitos are adapting and following them. The second major cause of native bird decline and extinction is loss of habitat by overdevelopment and pollution. The third cause of decline are the predators, mainly tree rats, mongoose, and feral felines living in those habitats. So if we really want to save the birds, go to the root cause of the issue and eradicate the mosquito and stop killing their habitat.

Second, and most important to MOST of the animal welfare organizations in the State, are the distinctions used to define the targets of any eradication. Feral felines live alone in the forest and mountains. The abandoned, stray, lost felines live close to people in towns and in rural areas, such as farms. These are NOT feral felines even though their behaviors may appear skittish, fractious, or “wild”. These were former pets or litters of former pets who have had to fend for themselves because they were abandoned, lost, or wandered to greener pastures. Most of these felines are managed by colony managers who are dedicated to spay and neuter procedures, keep colony felines healthy, feed them to keep them in specific locations. And they do this at their own cost.

Summary and Lessons from the case studies:

-When a species is eradicated, there are always unintended consequences.

-When felines are eradicated, rodents do not have a natural predator to keep the balance. - Rodents carry all types of diseases, including black plague. For every major eradication of felines in history, there have been devastating consequences as a result.

-Eradication, if by poison or other mass deployment of toxic agents, will certainly kill other species, including the ones we want to protect. Case: Kauai poison drops to kill the rats. See this link for more details and here is an excerpt. [Lehua Island Conservation - Aerial Pesticide Project Document Archive \(lehua-island-hawaii-conservation.org\)](https://www.lehua-island-hawaii-conservation.org/)

Excerpt: “In early September 2017, days after the second of the three aerial drops, [a mass](#)

[die-off of reef fish and many seabirds was videotaped on Lehua's shores](#). One week after [this incident](#), DLNR and USFWS with an official permit by the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, conducted its third poison drop without any prior notice to the public.

“On October 13, 2017, approximately one month following the diphacinone aerial drop, [five pilot whales struggled and died on the nearby shores of Kaua'i in a horrific mass stranding witnessed by hundreds of onlookers](#). Many more stranded pilot whales were led back to deeper waters by the tremendous efforts of local Kaua'i residents, preventing an even more devastating whale death toll.

“Scientists and researchers immediately and formally requested forensic testing under specific lab testing protocols for liver, stomach contents, blood and tissue. Such requests called for the lab testing of any detectable level of diphacinone, including "sub-lethal dose" levels. This data is greatly needed since there is currently no data available on the effect of this anticoagulant rodenticide on cetaceans (whales, dolphins and their close relatives). [USFWS](#) and [NOAA](#) had approved the Lehua poison drop despite [admitting that they had no available information at all about the possible effects of this poison on whales and cetaceans.](#)”

-Fixes that Fail Big: For Australia, when feline eradication was initiated, the rabbits took over. On another island, the rabbits ate the roots of vegetation and when the rains came, there were massive landslides. With the rabbit and feline balance, native species had a chance for survival. When the rabbits or the felines were eradicated, the other specie took over with devastating results.

-The State of Hawaii has the land, water and animals in Trust. We must not be negligent by whipping out solutions without the proper research.

Regards, Sylvia Dolena
Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:49:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Teves Pavlicek	Best Friends Animal Society	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha! We are writing in strong opposition to HB 1987. Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of dogs and cats in America's shelters. A leader in the no-kill movement, Best Friends runs the nation's largest no-kill sanctuary for companion animals, as well as lifesaving programs in collaboration with its nationwide network of members and partners working to Save Them All. Please do not advance HB 1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:32:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Inga Gibson	Pono Advocacy	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

Please oppose HB1987 as drafted. We all agree that free-roaming cats are an issue across the state, however, the proposals in this bill are misguided.

State funding for an objective, science-based cat count would be welcomed, but the eradication/reduction goals and methods are unrealistic and inhumane. For example, the research on the lack of efficacy of the referenced poisonous baits (see below), their risk to pets (1080 based-poison) and the suffering they would cause to both target and non target animals is unacceptable.

Putting forward island-wide reduction percentage goals before conducting a population assessment, without input and buy-in from key stakeholders and the public, is also irresponsible, and sets up any plan of action to fail.

We urge the committee to defer this bill and instead commit to working with, and supporting, those agencies and organizations who are actively working to humanely reduce the free-roaming cat population.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Inga Gibson

<https://terrestrialecosystems.com/cat-baiting-using-eradicat-and-curiosity-is-it-working/>

<https://www.dpaw.wa.gov.au/management/pests-diseases/westernshield/189-managing-the-threats?showall=1>

February 2, 2022

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa LaBrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond,
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss,
NYC TNR Director

**National Programs
Director**

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

Re: HB1987

To the Honorable Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

I am writing on behalf of Neighborhood Cats, a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, to express our **strong opposition** to HB1987 for the reasons explained below. First, allow me to introduce myself and my qualifications. I have been working professionally for over twenty years on the issue of free-roaming cats. Currently I serve as the National Programs Director for Neighborhood Cats, consult on community-wide programs to manage free-roaming cat populations in the United States, Australia, and Indonesia, have authored four books on the topic and frequently present at national conferences. In the past, I have consulted with the Humane Society of the United States and worked as a grants manager for PetSmart Charities. I'm a graduate of Cornell University and the University of California, Berkeley, am admitted to practice law in the State of New York, and presently reside on the island of Maui.

There are many faults with the proposal to count feral cats in Hawaii and then eradicate them, primarily by using poisons developed in Australia. I will attempt to address the major failings as we see them:

1. The proposal ignores the interests and values of important stakeholders

Cat overpopulation and its impact on native species is an issue involving many different interests. However, HB1987 only takes into account the goals and values of that part of Hawaii's conservation community which seeks the elimination of cats on the landscape by any means possible. Ignoring all other stakeholders not only violates the principle that solutions are best arrived at through collaboration, but dooms HB1987's scheme to failure. Stakeholders ignored by the bill include:

- (a) Hawaii's humane societies, animal shelters and nonprofit animal rescue organizations. These agencies, with their many supporters, are on the front line every day when it comes to cat overpopulation. For the past several years, efforts by the animal welfare community in Hawaii to manage feral cats through spay/neuter have intensified and substantial progress has been made, as reflected by dramatic declines in the number of cats entering shelters. Yet the authors of HB1987 casually (and inaccurately) dismiss these programs as ineffective and exclude these stakeholders from having any part in determining future management of feral cats in our state.
- (b) Local governments. The City and County of Honolulu has in recent years invested taxpayer funds in feral cat spay/neuter programs for its residents and is a national leader in this regard. Instead of trying to learn from Honolulu's

experience, HB1987 calls for half of the feral cats on Oahu to be killed by the end of 2025.

- (c) Citizens who care for and about feral cats. Most outdoor cats live in populated areas and have devoted caretakers who feed them daily, attend to their medical needs as best they can, and love them dearly. It is unknown precisely how many Hawaii citizens fit the definition of “caretaker,” but there are likely tens of thousands. Mainland studies have shown in some areas, like Ohio, as many as 20% of adults feed free-roaming cats. The psychological stress these citizens will endure if HB1987 passes will be extreme as will the trauma of finding their beloved cats poisoned to death should that misfortune come to pass.
- (d) Tourists. The possibility exists of Hawaii becoming known as the cat-killing capital of the world. The hospitality industry could be hurt badly. I have seen Hawaiian hotels criticized swiftly and vehemently by their own clientele when cat eradication was proposed on their grounds.

Ignoring all these stakeholders and their legitimate interests means the HB1987 scheme cannot possibly succeed. Data collected as part of the census will be incomplete as caretakers of the cats and animal welfare groups actively oppose the effort by hiding information, sabotaging methods such as camera traps, and not cooperating with field workers. Flawed data will then in turn lead to flawed eradication plans, which will face huge walls of resistance anyway if DLNR and its allies move through the islands trying to kill as many cats as they can.

The Legislature should be leading an effort to bring all stakeholders to the table to find agreed upon approaches based on the shared goal of reducing cat numbers, however difficult that may be. This Committee should not instead shunt aside the interests, expertise, goals and concerns of all but one stakeholder by advancing this bill.

2. The feral cat eradication effort in Australia was a total failure

The preamble to HB1987 speaks positively of the supposed success of Australia in curbing feral cat numbers through the use of various poisons. In fact, the Australian federal government’s campaign to kill two million feral cats has been a scientific travesty. The campaign consisted almost entirely of indiscriminately dropping poison all over the wild landscape with zero accountability. No one knows how many cats – or other animals, including protected species – have been killed, and there is no evidence of the slightest reduction in cat numbers as a result. There is published research out of Tasmania, however, which demonstrates indiscriminate random trapping and killing of feral cats has the potential to increase their numbers. Meanwhile, in urban areas in Australia, the use of spay/neuter to reduce cat populations is growing in practice and popularity, as I see in my own work there.

HB1987 would take the failed Australian campaign a dark step further in Hawaii. The bill would not limit poisoning to wild areas, but to reach its goal of eradication, would include all populated sections as well. The potential for unintended harm is obvious.

3. Cat eradication has never succeeded on an inhabited island or any other population center

The complete elimination of feral cat populations has only been accomplished on remote, uninhabited islands with relatively small numbers of cats. Even then, the campaigns often take many years and vast resources, such as was the case on Marion Island. There, it took 18 years of introducing feline disease, poison bait and shotgun hunting teams to eradicate a few thousand cats. Even a low estimate of the funds required to implement HB1987's anticipated eradication plans for all of Hawaii would be staggering. Those many millions of dollars would still not be enough, I believe, given the stiff resistance eradication attempts would face. Surely there are more productive uses of those resources for protecting native species.

4. HB1987 fails to define what a "feral" cat is

For many years, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council listed "feral cats" as an invasive species on its website. Now, they have finally acknowledged there is no such species and cats are cats. "Feral" is merely a behavioral trait, not a biological one. For example, a kitten may be feral when discovered, then after being socialized, become not feral. The fact that "feral" is a description of behavior makes defining the term highly problematic for determining what cats fall within the scope of HB1987. Is a shy cat who only comes close to his owner feral? Is an unowned street cat who is highly socialized and friendly to passersby feral? By "feral," does the bill refer to any cat who is ever outdoors and free-roaming? If yes, are Hawaii cat owners going to be prohibited from letting their pets outside? In last year's session, the Legislature enacted a microchip law which exempted animals included in "designated population management programs." Are cats in those programs now to be deemed feral and killed?

If "feral" means a cat who subsists exclusively by hunting and has no connection to any human-based food source, then the bill is addressing only a very small percentage of cats in Hawaii. So it seems unlikely HB1987 is seeking to eradicate only the truly wild cats. Defining "feral" in a specific enough manner that it's clear which cats are supposed to be counted and killed may not be achievable, let alone desirable.

5. There is no "one-size-fits-all" solution to cat overpopulation

Cat overpopulation is a complex issue and what works in one location, such as the mountains of Kauai, is not going to be effective in another like downtown Honolulu. Overpopulation in inhabited areas has many causes, including inaccessible or unaffordable spay/neuter services, lack of education on proper cat care, abandonment especially at public locations like parks, and more. These are issues the animal welfare community is daily working on. It is only by digging into the details of a particular community and learning what obstacles they face and how to overcome them that cat numbers can be brought down. Threatening to kill them all isn't going to help.

Thank you for considering our views,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Kortis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Bryan Kortis



February 3, 2022

Hawaii House of Representatives
Committee on Agriculture
Via web form: <https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov>

Re: HB 1987, Relating to Invasive Species

Chairman Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Best Friends Animal Society is a leading national animal welfare organization dedicated to ending the killing of cats and dogs in America's shelters. On behalf of Best Friends and our many supporters throughout the Hawaiian Islands, I urge members of the House Committee on Agriculture to oppose HB 1987.

While it is no doubt true "that there is strong support among Hawaii residents for effective management to reduce the abundance of feral or free-roaming cats in the Hawaiian Islands," the claim that most residents prefer lethal methods for doing so is based on a badly flawed survey [1,2]. Among its most egregious flaws was the sample used. For example, 82.5% of respondents "lived in a rural area or small town" whereas "only 10% of Hawaii's population live in rural areas with fewer than 50,000 residents," and 24% of respondents indicated that they hunted at least once per year, more than 34 times the expected rate (0.7%) based on hunting licenses purchased at the time [3]. These survey results can, therefore, not be used as a measure of public sentiment among Hawaii's residents.

HB 1987 notes that the "proposed methods for mitigating the impacts of feral cats on native wildlife and humans should be humane and supported by peer-reviewed, scientific evidence demonstrating the efficacy of such methods." In fact, numerous peer-reviewed studies have documented the efficacy of trap-neuter-return (TNR) for reducing free-roaming cat populations [4–14]. And TNR is the preferred method for managing free-roaming cats on the campus of the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Howard College, in Durban, South Africa, which is recognized as an "urban conservancy... interspersed with conservation-sensitive natural bush habitat and a nature reserve on the northern border" [13]. Researchers there point out that removal would likely create a "vacuum effect" and "encourage subsequent reinvasion of the area."

"It may be more costly both financially in the long-term and in terms of effects on the indigenous wildlife populations if immigration of new, unsterilized cats were to take up residency on the campus" [15].

Such costs are not hypothetical; research has demonstrated just how costly lethal removal can be. A 2015 study from southern Tasmania, for example, found that “low-level ad hoc culling of feral cats” is not only ineffective at reducing their numbers, but might actually lead to their *increase* due to “influxes of new [adult] individuals after dominant resident cats were removed” [16]. More recently, researchers in New Caledonia found that, despite removing “an estimated 44% of the population,” there were “no meaningful differences in the relative abundance and density of feral cats” just three months later [17].

Even intensive eradication campaigns have sometimes proven ineffective or even backfired. On uninhabited, 112-square-mile Marion Island, for example, a 19-year eradication campaign finally eliminated cats in 1991, with the breeding success of some seabird species increasing as a result [18]. This was short-lived, however, with researchers subsequently reporting population recoveries slower than anticipated or nonexistent, largely due to a rapid increase in the island’s population of mice [19,20]. Scientists now working on Marion Island are observing “sheer carnage” and, as a result, are making plans to eradicate the mice [21]. And on Australia’s Macquarie Island (just 49 square miles in size with no permanent residents) some seabird species began to recover [22] and others began to re-colonize the island following the eradication of cats in 2001 [23]. However, it’s estimated that “at least 4,000 rabbits per year (as well as many mice and rats) initially entered the ecosystem after the last cat kill,” with their rapidly increasing numbers causing “substantial damage at both local and landscape scales” [24].

Researchers have observed that post-removal recoveries typically apply only to islands not also inhabited by rats [25]. Eradication campaigns have resulted in rebounding populations of, and recolonization by, various seabird species on Raoul [26] and San Roque [27] islands, for example, only after both cats *and* rats were removed. Focusing on cats exclusively, on the other hand, without sufficiently considering the impacts associated with other predators (e.g., rats) or prey species (e.g., rabbits), can have disastrous consequences. Indeed, a meta-analysis of the results of 83 “predator removal studies from six continents” found that “removing *all* predator species achieved a significantly larger increase in breeding population [of some bird species] than removing only a subset” [28].

Moreover, even the most successful eradication efforts can’t guarantee the recovery of species of concern. Researchers studying the populations of stitchbird (*Notiomystis cincta*), on Little Barrier Island, for example, warn that the island supports the only self-sustaining population of this small bird (endemic to New Zealand), which is currently “at risk of significant loss due to short-term stochastic events such as storms, moderate-term threats due to invasion of predators or disease and longer-term gradual changes occurring through climate change” [29].

HB 1987 takes none of this into account, ignoring a considerable body of peer-reviewed research on the topic. The effect, should the bill’s provisions be enacted, would likely be disastrous for Hawaii.

HB 1987 refers to Australia's development of "humane, effective, and justifiable methods to cull invasive feral cat populations." In fact, there's no reason to think these methods are humane. Researchers in Australia observed that, following the consumption of para-aminopropiophenone, cats exhibited symptoms for more than seven hours, on average, from "first sign of intoxication" to collapse and, eventually, death; some experienced symptoms for more than 22 hours [30]. It's difficult to see how this might be characterized as "humane." Moreover, although para-aminopropiophenone (the toxin used in Curiosity®) and sodium fluoroacetate (the toxin used in Eradecat® and Hisstory®) are registered as pesticides in some parts of the world, the American Veterinary Medical Association considers pesticides to be unacceptable "for administration as euthanasia agents" [31].

Even the researchers involved with the development and testing of Australia's new toxins have often reported of the many challenges associated with this method. Even after distributing 16,000 Eradecat® baits across Dirk Hartog Island by aircraft, for example, another 1,000 baits needed to be distributed by hand "in the vicinity of cats that were still alive" eight days later [32]. Further complicating efforts was the need for large "'bait-exclusion zones' around camp sites" on the island. In another field trial, "heavy rain and hail fell across the site within 30 hours of bait application and rendered the baits unattractive to cats, limiting the effectiveness of the baiting" [33]. And on Christmas Island, baiting efforts were "complicated by the abundant native crab species that would rapidly consume baits placed on the ground," requiring that "baits were [instead] suspended above the ground from a pre-fabricated device" [34].

Moreover, many of these same researchers have warned of the potential impacts on non-target species. The sodium fluoroacetate (also known as compound 1080) used in both the Eradecat® and Hisstory® baits "is highly toxic to canids as well as feral cats. It is likely that a technique that provides for broad-scale and effective control of feral cats will also have impacts on canid populations given the required bait density and similar sensitivity to the 1080 compound" [35]. Bird species, too, can be affected. Researchers undertaking a field trial in South Australia, for example, observed a 50% decrease in corvid birds following the distribution of baits, though they suggest that other factors may have contributed to the apparent decline [36]. And researchers testing Eradecat® baits at seven Queensland, Australia, sites "determined that 13 non-target species (eight mammals, four birds, and one reptile) were at high risk of individual mortality, with individuals of 11 of those 13 species (seven mammals, four birds) observed consuming enough toxic Eradecat® in a single visit to ingest a lethal dose of 1080." Meanwhile, "feral cats (the target species) consumed only 3.1% of monitored baits, which was only 52% of the 31 baits they encountered" [37]. These results prompted the researchers involved to issue the following warning:

"Our study highlights the importance of performing risk assessments for different bait types, even when the same toxin is used, and of performing site-specific non-target risk assessments of new baits such as Eradecat® to assist developing guidelines for their safe and effective use in different environs" [37].

Clearly, such warnings should be given serious consideration by those hoping to use this toxin in the Hawaiian Islands. But again, HB 1987 takes none of this into account.

While I appreciate the need to protect Hawaii's native plants and animals, the provisions outlined in HB 1987 are misguided, unrealistic, and—if implemented—likely to be disastrous for the wildlife you're trying to protect. I urge you to oppose this bill.

Respectfully,



Peter J. Wolf
Research/Policy Analyst
Best Friends Animal Society
peterw@bestfriends.org

Literature Cited

1. Lohr, C.A.; Lepczyk, C.A. Desires and Management Preferences of Stakeholders Regarding Feral Cats in the Hawaiian Islands. *Conservation Biology* 2014, 28, 392–403, doi:10.1111/cobi.12201.
2. Wolf, P.J. You Can't Get There from Here: A Response to Lohr and Lepczyk. *Vox Felina* 2015.
3. Lohr, C.A. Human Dimensions of Introduced Terrestrial Vertebrates in the Hawaiian Islands. Doctor of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Management (Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology), University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2012.
4. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study. *Animals* 2017, 7, 81.
5. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. A Case Study in Citizen Science: The Effectiveness of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program in a Chicago Neighborhood. *Animals* 2018, 8, 14.
6. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. Back to School: An Updated Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Long-Term Trap-Neuter-Return Program on a University's Free-Roaming Cat Population. *Animals* 2019, 9, 768.
7. Spehar, D.D.; Wolf, P.J. The Impact of Targeted Trap-Neuter-Return Efforts in the San Francisco Bay Area. *Animals* 2020, 10, 2089.

8. Natoli, E.; Maragliano, L.; Cariola, G.; Faini, A.; Bonanni, R.; Cafazzo, S.; Fantini, C. Management of Feral Domestic Cats in the Urban Environment of Rome (Italy). *Prev Vet Med* 2006, *77*, 180–185.
9. Levy, J.K.; Gale, D.W.; Gale, L.A. 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* 2003, *222*, 42–46, doi:10.2460/javma.2003.222.42.
10. Kreisler, R.E.; Cornell, H.N.; Levy, J.K. Decrease in Population and Increase in Welfare of Community Cats in a Twenty-Three Year Trap-Neuter-Return Program in Key Largo, FL: The ORCAT Program. *Front Vet Sci* 2019, *6*.
11. Nutter, F.B. Evaluation of a Trap-Neuter-Return Management Program for Feral Cat Colonies: Population Dynamics, Home Ranges, and Potentially Zoonotic Diseases, North Carolina State University: Raleigh, NC, 2005.
12. Zaunbrecher, K.I.; Smith, R.E. Neutering of Feral Cats as an Alternative to Eradication Programs. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association* 1993, *203*, 449–452.
13. Tennent, J.; Downs, C.T. Abundance and Home Ranges of Feral Cats in an Urban Conservancy Where There Is Supplemental Feeding: A Case Study from South Africa. *African Zoology* 2008, *43*, 218–229, doi:10.3377/1562-7020-43.2.218.
14. Jones, A.L.; Downs, C.T. Managing Feral Cats on a University's Campuses: How Many Are There and Is Sterilization Having an Effect? *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science* 2011, *14*, 304–320.
15. Tennent, J.; Downs, C.T.; Bodasing, M. Management Recommendations for Feral Cat (*Felis catus*) Populations Within an Urban Conservancy in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa. *South African Journal of Wildlife Research* 2009, *39*, 137–142.
16. Lazenby, B.T.; Mooney, N.J.; Dickman, C.R. Effects of Low-Level Culling of Feral Cats in Open Populations: A Case Study from the Forests of Southern Tasmania. *Wildlife Research* 2015, *41*, 407–420.
17. Palmas, P.; Gouyet, R.; Oedin, M.; Millon, A.; Cassan, J.-J.; Kowi, J.; Bonnaud, E.; Vidal, E. Rapid Recolonisation of Feral Cats Following Intensive Culling in a Semi-Isolated Context. *NB* 2020, *63*, 177–200.
18. Cooper, J.; Marais, A.V.N.; Bloomer, J.P.; Bester, M. A Success Story: Breeding of Burrowing Petrels (Procellariidae) before and after the Eradication of Feral Cats *Felis catus* at Subantarctic Marion Island. *Marine Ornithology* 1995, *23*, 33–37.
19. Dilley, B.J.; Schramm, M.; Ryan, P.G. Modest Increases in Densities of Burrow-Nesting Petrels Following the Removal of Cats (*Felis catus*) from Marion Island. *Polar Biology* 2017, *40*, 625–637.
20. Preston, G.R.; Dilley, B.J.; Cooper, J.; Beaumont, J.; Chauke, L.F.; Chown, S.L.; Devanunthan, N.; Dopolo, M.; Fikizolo, L.; Heine, J.; et al. South Africa Works towards Eradicating Introduced House Mice from Sub-Antarctic Marion Island: The Largest Island yet Attempted for Mice. In *Island*

invasives: Scaling up to meet the challenge: Proceedings of the international conference on island invasives; Veitch, C.R., Clout, M.N., Martin, A.R., Russell, J.C., West, C.J., Eds.; IUCN: Gland, Switzerland, 2019; pp. 40–46.

21. Nemo, L. Saving a Remote Island's Birds—by Getting Rid of Its Mice. *National Geographic: Animals* 2018.
22. Schulz, M.; Robinson, S.; Gales, R. Breeding of the Grey Petrel (*Procellaria Cinerea*) on Macquarie Island: Population Size and Nesting Habitat. *Emu - Austral Ornithology* 2005, *105*, 323–329.
23. Brothers, N.; Bone, C. The Response of Burrow-Nesting Petrels and Other Vulnerable Bird Species to Vertebrate Pest Management and Climate Change on Sub-Antarctic Macquarie Island. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania* 2008, *142*, 123–148.
24. Bergstrom, D.M.; Lucieer, A.; Kiefer, K.; Wasley, J.; Belbin, L.; Pedersen, T.K.; Chown, S.L. Indirect Effects of Invasive Species Removal Devastate World Heritage Island. *Journal of Applied Ecology* 2009, *46*, 73–81.
25. Hughes, B.J.; Dickey, R.C.; Reynolds, S.J. Predation Pressures on Sooty Terns by Cats, Rats and Common Mynas on Ascension Island in the South Atlantic. In *Island invasives: Scaling up to meet the challenge: Proceedings of the international conference on island invasives*; Veitch, C.R., Clout, M.N., Martin, A.R., Russell, J.C., West, C.J., Eds.; IUCN: Gland, Switzerland, 2019; pp. 295–301.
26. Jones, H.; Towns, D.; Bodey, T.; Miskelly, C.; Ellis, J.; Rauzon, M.; Kress, S.; Mckown, M. Recovery and Restoration on Seabird Islands. In *Seabird Islands: Ecology, Invasion, and Restoration*; Mulder, C.P.H., Anderson, W.B., Towns, D.R., Bellingham, P.J., Eds.; Oxford University Press USA, 2011; pp. 317–357 ISBN 978-0-19-973569-3.
27. McChesney, G.J.; Tershy, B.R. History and Status of Introduced Mammals and Impacts to Breeding Seabirds on the California Channel and Northwestern Baja California Islands. *Colonial Waterbirds* 1998, *21*, 335–347.
28. Smith, R.K.; Pullin, A.S.; Stewart, G.B.; Sutherland, W.J. Effectiveness of Predator Removal for Enhancing Bird Populations. *Conserv Biol* 2010, *24*, 820–829.
29. Toy, R.; Greene, T.C.; Greene, B.S.; Warren, A.; Griffiths, R. Changes in Density of Hihi (*Notiomystis Cincta*), Tīeke (*Philesturnus Rufusater*) and Tūī (*Prothemadera Novaeseelandiae*) on Little Barrier Island (Te Hauturu-o-Toi), Hauraki Gulf, Auckland, 2005–2013. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 2018, *42*, 149–157.
30. Johnston, M.; Algar, D.; O'Donoghue, M.; Morris, J.; Buckmaster, T.; Quinn, J. Efficacy and Welfare Assessment of an Encapsulated Para-Aminopropiophenone (PAPP) Formulation as a Bait-Delivered Toxicant for Feral Cats (*Felis Catus*). *Wildl. Res.* 2020, *47*, 686–697.

31. AVMA AVMA *Guidelines for the Euthanasia of Animals: 2020 Edition*; American Veterinary Medical Association: Schaumburg, IL, 2020.
32. Johnston, M.; Algar, D.; Onus, M.; Hamilton, N.; Hilmer, S.; Withnell, B.; Koch, K. *A Bait Efficacy Trial for the Management of Feral Cats on Dirk Hartog Island*; Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series; Department of Sustainability and Environment: Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia, 2009; p. 51.
33. Johnston, M. *Field Assessment of the Curiosity® Bait for Management of Feral Cats after Fire at Wilsons Promontory National Park: Black Saturday Victoria 2009 – Natural Values Fire Recovery Program*; Victorian Government Department of Sustainability and Environment: Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia, 2012; p. 48.
34. Johnston, M.; Algar, D.; Hamilton, N.; Lindeman, M. *A Bait Efficacy Trial for the Management of Feral Cats on Christmas Island*; Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series; Department of Sustainability and Environment: Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia, 2010.
35. Algar, D.; O'Donoghue, M.; Quinn, J.; Johnston, M. *Hisstory® Feral Cat Bait*; Australian Government, National Landcare Programme, 2020; p. 33.
36. Johnston, M.; Bould, L.; O'Donoghue, M.; Holdsworth, M.; Marmion, P.; Bilney, R.; Reside, April; Caldwell, D.; Gabarov, R.; Gentles, T. *Field Efficacy of the Curiosity® Bait for Managing Feral Cats at Roxby Downs, South Australia.*; Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series; Department of Environment and Primary Industries: Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia, 2014; p. 45.
37. Fancourt, B.A.; Zirbel, C.; Cremasco, P.; Elsworth, P.; Harry, G.; Gentle, M.N. *Field Assessment of the Risk of Feral Cat Baits to Nontarget Species in Eastern Australia. Integrated Environmental Assessment and Management* 2022, 18, 224–244.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: Feb. 2, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

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

RE: Testimony in opposition to HB 1987: Relating to Invasive Species
Friday, Feb. 4, 2021, 10 a.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members.

The Hawaiian Humane Society opposes House Bill 1987, which requires DLNR to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by 6/30/23, requires the invasive species council to develop and implement a program to effectively reduce the feral cat population in the State by 12/31/25, and appropriates funds.

The Hawaiian Humane Society is conducting the first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawai'i in collaboration with multiple partners, including the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking [DC Cat Count](#). We agree that data is needed to better understand the state's Free-Roaming cat population and we are investing significant resources to acquire that data. We would love to be able to support a state commitment to contribute funding to further that research. However, the eradication strategy put forward by this bill is inhumane, unrealistic and alienating to obvious partners in the effort to humanely reduce the number of Free-Roaming cats.

The effort to use poison to exterminate Free-Roaming cats in Australia is held up as model without any supporting evidence that it has made an appreciable difference in that country's Free-Roaming cat population. Australia's urban areas are increasingly turning to spay/neuter to curb cat overpopulation. That approach is strongly supported by the Hawaiian Humane Society and the rest of the animal welfare community.

While there are some studies that show effective cat population reduction through lethal methods, they are very few, extremely expensive, and are generally in geographically

isolated areas without human settlements, which is a very different context than the main Hawaiian Islands. Lethal management practices also often result in what has been called “the vacuum effect,” wherein extreme recolonization follows the removal of cats from a resource-rich territory.

Increasing funding for and access to spay/neuter, eliminating pet abandonment, increasing access to pet-friendly housing and installing predator-proof fencing to protect sensitive wildlife habitats are some of the steps needed to address the complex issue of cats on the landscape. It is not possible, and certainly not acceptable to a compassionate society, to kill our way out of this problem.

The rhetoric contained in this bill is offensive to the people who are already doing the hard work to collect data on and manage Free-Roaming cats on a large scale, animal welfare groups, TNR advocates and individual volunteers.

The Hawaiian Humane Society advocates for the humane treatment of all animals, including both cats and wildlife. The overarching goal of Hawaiian Humane’s Free Roaming Cat Program is to reduce the number of Free-Roaming cats humanely overtime; for the benefit of cats, wildlife, and humans. This goal is shared by the conservation and animal welfare communities. We urge the committee to reject this inflammatory and misguided piece of legislation and instead to promote collaboration between animal welfare and conservation interests.

We urge you to defer HB1987 and we would welcome the opportunity to work with the bill sponsors on a truly effective approach to this complex issue.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and I am happy to answer any questions.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:59:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tom Holowach	Oahu Cat Sanctuary	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I, Tom Holowach, oppose HB1987 because of the inherent flaws in the proposed process.

1) Although the intent is to manage the population of feral cats, the most obvious step to begin has been leapfrogged in favor of a wholesale poisoning system, similar to control of rats on an isolated island. No serious attempt has been made to control the population using non-lethal means.

2) For ten successful years, an ideal proof-of-concept facility has been operating on the island of Lanai: The Lanai Cat Scatuary, actually working hand-in-hand with the Fish and Wildlife service. The template already exists for extending this kind of feral cat control to other islands.

3) The cruellest irony is that the Legislature plans to do a "Point-In-Time" count of the feral cat population. This is not a bad idea, and the ideal volunteers to participate would be the hundreds of existing feral colony managers who already are aware of the locationbs of many thousands of feral cats, and already control the population through Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage program. You would ask these animal lovers to count their charges, in order that you might KILL THEM? Seriously?

4) If the Legislature and the DLNR is truly serious about controlling feral cats, you should immediately convene hearings and invite the existing agencies, as well as the informal NGO's who currently work at managing feral cats.

5) The DLNR should immediately work to identify surplus land in their vast portfilio of vacant wilderness lands and unused or distressed agricultural properties which could serve as a home for Feral Cat Sanctuaries.

Please take logical steps to show that you actually cat about innocent cats, before you condemn them to death.

Tom Holowach

(808)864-2647 - Holowach@hawaii.edu



Bringing back the birds

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Support of HB 1987 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Agriculture | February 4, 2022**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **support for HB 1987**.

Although domestic cats (*Felis catus*) can make wonderful pets, their presence on the landscape results in catastrophic impacts to native wildlife and presents serious public health risks. **Effectively managing cat populations is critical to fostering a healthy environment for Hawai'i's residents, human and animal alike.**

Cats are among the world's most harmful invasive species and an instinctive predator. Since their introduction to Hawai'i by Europeans, cats have contributed to the extinction of two endemic Hawaiian species, the Lāna'i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and the decline of countless others. Sadly, Hawai'i is already the bird extinction capital of the world, and **the continued presence of cats on the landscape only increases the likelihood of future extinctions**. Research has repeatedly shown that cats are a [major threat to Hawai'i's unique birds](#), such as 'A'o (Newell's Shearwater) and 'U'au (Hawaiian Petrel), two species which have experienced [94% and 78% population declines](#), respectively.

Cats can also carry a large number of infectious parasites and diseases. The large number of unowned cats, especially in public spaces, puts people at risk. For example, following [investigation of cases at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children](#), researchers found that **keiki in Hawai'i had approximately 3.5 times more incidences of disseminated cat scratch disease** as compared to the continental U.S. These human exposures are not only dangerous for individual health but, with a median patient hospital stay of 8.5 days, also a financial burden for families.

Toxoplasmosis, caused by infection with the parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, is another cat-transmitted disease of significant concern. The parasite **can only complete its life cycle in a cat**, and a single cat can excrete up to hundreds of millions of *T. gondii* eggs (called "oocysts") into the environment via its feces. These oocysts remain infectious for months to years and can infect any bird or mammal. Infection in people can cause miscarriages, fetal deformities, blindness, organ failure, and death and has also been linked to neurodegenerative diseases. This parasite is the reason women are told to avoid changing cat litter while pregnant, but **cats roaming the landscape turn the entire environment, including beach parks, gardens, and nature preserves, into one giant, contaminated litterbox.**

Scientific studies in Hawai'i have shown that feral cats contribute to widespread environmental *T. gondii* contamination, and this contamination is dangerous for people and wildlife. For example, researchers found that [three of four feral cat colonies on O'ahu were actively](#)



Bringing back the birds

[excreting *T. gondii* oocysts](#). On Kauaʻi, scientists found the parasite “at nearly every sampled site” but observed [higher coastal contamination at beach parks and harbors](#), which has serious implications for public health because of the increased likelihood of human exposure. Infections in wildlife further underscore the widespread and dangerous consequences of human exposures. *T. gondii* infections have been identified [in Nēnē \(Hawaiian Goose\) from Kauaʻi, Maui, and Molokaʻi](#), and *T. gondii* infections in ʻAlalā (Hawaiian Crow) pose a [significant risk to this species’ conservation](#). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that toxoplasmosis is also a [leading threat to the recovery of endangered Hawaiian monk seals](#). **Removing cats from the landscape is the only protection from continued environmental contamination of *T. gondii*.**

Fortunately, the removal of feral cats from the landscape is feasible and has shown great success for the recovery of at-risk species and reduction of human health risks. As of 2011, scientists had [successfully completed 87 campaigns on 83 islands to remove feral cats](#). On Ascension Island, a large, human-populated island in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, the [removal of feral cats resulted in recolonization by five seabird species](#). Following the removal of feral cats and other predators from Kaʻena Point on Oʻahu, [ʻUʻau Kani \(Wedge-tailed Shearwaters\) and Mōlī \(Laysan Albatross\) successfully raised record numbers of young](#). Feral cat removal has also been shown to [significantly reduce human infection risks from cat-transmitted diseases, like toxoplasmosis](#).

HB 1987 establishes an important first step in quantifying the magnitude of the feral cat crisis in Hawaiʻi and identifying feral cat management goals. While specific management strategies will undoubtedly be determined at a later date, it is clear that the Hawaiʻi Department of Land and Natural Resources is the most appropriate agency for these initiatives, and American Bird Conservancy stands ready to provide assistance.

We ask that you please support HB 1987.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.
Hawaiʻi Program Director



Hawai'i's voice for wildlife
Kō Hawai'i o nā holoholona lōhiu

**Before the Senate Committees on
Agriculture**

**Friday, February 4, 2022
10:00am**

State Capitol, Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1987
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Conservation Council For Hawaii **SUPPORTS HB1987**, providing the Department of Land and Natural Resources the ability to develop realistic strategies to eradicate and control feral cat populations on our islands. This is a much needed action to prevent further extinction of our native animals.

HB1987 will allow Hawaii to align management actions with the best practices already being implemented by nations throughout the Pacific such as Australia and Aotearoa (NZ).

With the recent news of 8 native hawaiian birds being moved from the ESA list to extinction, the deaths of several Hawaiian Monk Seals over the past couple of years due to toxoplasmosis goudii, and understanding the predatory nature of cats regardless of being neutered is detrimental to native seabirds and forest birds, it is imperative that action be taken now.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:53:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danya Weber	Laulima Conservation LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Hawai‘i is home to some of the most precious, unique, and endangered bird species in the world. We have already lost approximately 70% of our native bird species, and we must do all we can to preserve the birds that remain for the sake of future generations and for preservation of biodiversity. Feral cats are one of the leading causes of death for wildlife. We as humans should do all we can to prevent cats from causing extinctions. We are responsible for bringing cats to these remote islands, and we must take on the responsibility of righting our wrongs. Moreover, feral cats pose great risk to human health and marine mammal health. Feral cats carry toxoplasmosis, which can be deadly. For the sake of our wildlife and the sake of humanity, I ask for us all to come together to address these threats posed by feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:45:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosary Immordino	SaveKitty Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

I'm shocked to hear that the beautiful and progressive state of Hawaii, could even entertain a law that would simply count and kill cats. Killing cats is both inhumane and **not** the solution to the feral cat overpopulation problem.

At SaveKitty Foundation and at thousands of other rescue organizations and humane societies across this country, we have come to understand that the most humane *and* **effective** solution is to perform Trap-Neuter-Return, or TNR.

TNR attacks the problem of homeless cats at its roots, preventing the birth of unwanted kittens before they can be brought into shelters to be euthanized. It involves humanely trapping a cat, getting it spayed or neutered, and then returning it back to its colony. TNR is considered by experts in the field, and by us, to be the most humane solution to the stray cat problem.

And don't forget about the rats you'll be inviting in. Some years ago, a housing project in NYC trapped & killed all the cats on their grounds only to regret it when they were quickly overrun with rats.

Please do not pass this barbaric bill!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:48:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Haines	High Plateau Humane Society	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing in opposition to HB1987, the "Count and Kill Cats" bill that you are considering. It has been shown in other experiments of this sort on islands that this method of eradicating cats is costly, cruel and in the long run not effective. As long as there are unneutered cats around, they will continue to reproduce. Your job will be never ending. Also, it was found that rodent populations exploded and they then desimated the bird population. You also run the risk of poisoning other species you are not targeting.

There is a solution that is currently going on in Hawaii. Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) is a method that has proven effective over decades in many countries to sterilize cats, vaccinate them against rabies and other diseases, clip their ear (so it's easy to see which cats have been fixed) and then return them to their colony where they were trapped. Any kittens who are young enough to be socialized and can be adopted are not returned. This method stabilizes the colony, and greatly reduces roaming, mating and other nuisance behaviors. In time, the colony size is reduced due to cat deaths. Great strides have been made as Bryan Kortis and Susan Richmond and their team work diligently to TNR the cats. There is much documentation to support TNR as the only humane and effective way to control feral cat populations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karen Haines

TNR Program Manager

Alturas, California

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:57:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber West	VALOR	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is proof that removing or killing feral cats does not fix the problem. It creates a vacuum effect and more come to the area. Using poison is inhumane and barbaric!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:24:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Martin	SCOTT MARTIN LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a horrible solution to a real problem. Focus should be on trapping and spayng these cats. There a plenty of operating gropus that would happily take up the task if they had financial support from the State government to effectively recruit voluntary personnel and expand operations.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:07:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hob Osterlund	Kauai Albatross Network	Support	No

Comments:

The Kauai Albatross Network very much supports HB 1987. We need a solid handle on the ever-growing population of homeless cats, and to address the issue of cat abandonment. We need to stop believing that strategies like Trap-Neuter-Release make even a tiny dent in our issue. These programs are subsidized by the pet food industry (dead cats don't eat) and they apparently do not believe that there's such a thing as too many cats. Our native wildlife is suffering (as if they don't have enough problems) and our beaches are being turned into kitty litter boxes. We applaud this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:53:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Fritz	Conflictresolution.com	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing innocent animals for any reason is a barbaric practice and violates every principle of Aloha and common sense.

1. It will not alleviate the cat issues. Irresponsible owners who have cats and do not have them neutered [and they are more common than not] will contribute to the problem immediately. Within a short period of time there will be more and more kittens and cats. Then we are back to square one, aren't we?

2. Rather, appoint a commission comprised of taxpayers to immediately address this issue and present logical, humane alternatives. As a taxpayer and lawyer, I hereby volunteer to sit on the commission and participate.

3. My husband and I have 5 indoor-only rescue cats. He feeds the cats at the Kona Transfer Station three [3] nights per week using his own gas, time and monetary funds to do so. He is not the only taxpayer doing so. We know at least ten others who feed and water the cats regularly.

4. Last month, (January), he was able to trap 5 cats and transferred them to a source who has had them neutered, spayed and given appropriate shots. What Hawaii needs is more people willing to assist with the management of the issue, not bent on murdering innocent animals.

5. Japan has a "Bunny Island" where rabbits are allowed to roam free and interact with humans. In Greece, feral cats are not "feral" -- they are called "free" cats. And the Grecian people feed them, some adopt them even if they live outside their homes and shops, and there are bowls of water everywhere. They revere these animals -- not just one on one island -- but on all the Grecian islands. And they don't promote a state standard of "Aloha". Instead, ***they live it.***

6. ***Live and let live*** -- let the cats and the sharks and the dolphins and the whales and all of the fishes and mongoose and hogs and horses and myna birds and mourning doves and goats live, too.

If we don't identify a humane alternative, what does that make us?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:42:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Margaret Anne Tompkins	Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing cats is NOT the answer.

High intensity and targeted TNR programs are used effectively to control feral cat populations. This is humane and inexpensive compared to other methods. It also reduces feline diseases such as FIV and FeLV. Considering the mild climate that Hawaii offers its residents, many owned cats who spend time outdoors may be caught up in the killing sweep.

Hawaii has always been my favorite vacation spot. I've spent extensive periods of time there enjoying all the beauty that Hawaii has to offer. I've twice taken my family on the Pride of America and have spent tens of thousands of dollars on these vacations. If Hawaii passes a "kill the cats" law, I'll never set foot in the state again. Why would I want my vacation dollars and your tax dollars being spent on killing cats? Maybe you can work on the feral chicken population which devastates habitat and consumes food sources that hurt other bird species.

This legislation is just WRONG!!!

Margaret Tompkins, President, Tompkins Foundation for FeLV Advocacy

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:49:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suse Goericke	Neighborhood Animal Rescue Network	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. It is cruel and ineffective. Instead of killing the cats, fund trap-neuter-return efforts to ensure that the feral cat population will remain under control and reduce humanely in the future.

This is not a problem you can solve by killing innocent animals.

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:10:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
leslie farnel	for forgotten felines	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm submitting testimony for Hawaii non profit For Forgotten Felines our volunteers and principles. We adamantly oppose this bill. What is proposed is such an archaic practice it is difficult to believe in this day and age a government would even propose such action. We are outraged and incensed that this has transpired. Please check historical facts where this has been tried before it has failed miserably and wasted the taxpayers money. It is the essence of cruelty. Cat populations these days internationally are managed with humane spay neuter practices which are run by volunteers and dedicated animal welfare organizations and costs the taxpayers nothing. As well these organizations and volunteers have spent thousands of out of pocket dollars caring for these animals over many years. They are invested financially and time wise in their management. Does this bill compensate them for this wasted investment should it be taken from them? Most of these managed areas are not in a place where wildlife is threatened. They are in shopping centers big box store parking lots and other commercial areas where humans have successfully eradicated wildlife and sea life years ago through industrialization, farming practices and pollution. Please check your facts on the reasons why our a'ina has been laid to waste. In addition to carry out this unthinkable cruelty you are punishing innocent victims of man's irresponsible actions. The cats didn't choose to be there. They have been cast off as so much garbage by owners who no longer want them. These people are the ones who should be punished not the animals they throw away. Instead of laws that perpetuate slaughter there should be stricter laws and enforcement on animal dumping and sterilization practices. We vehemently oppose this bill and support humane population control and are willing to work with government to offer education and training on making this happen.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:18:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dana Jones	Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a caring advocate for all lives and species I find this bill reprehensible. I work with TNR programs and have been successful in downsizing the population on our Island of Oahu. Many people give their time, their money, and their hearts to these homeless animals. I have been successful in adopting out over 30 cats in one year for inside homes. Just one person can make a difference. We need to approach landlords and give incentive to allowing pets to potential renters. If one person in 10 was able to bring a cat indoors into a home we would not have this issue.

As a leader and advocate for the **Hawaiian Monk Seal**, and as someone who knows every single seal we have lost here on Oahu, I cannot support my representatives who would support this killing machine of poor animals that actually have people doing their best to mitigate the situation. There are better ways to solve this problem and I've worked diligently with many organizations to make that happen. Me, one little person feeding, fixing, adopting out animals on my own dime. Spend the money helping caregivers of homeless pets, like you do for homeless people. The animals didn't have a choice in the matter. Urge landlords, with incentives, to allow their tenants to adopt pets. We can get homeless animals off the streets. Killing off cats and punishing people for trying to make a difference is the VERY WRONG message for Hawaii's citizens and the world at large. Our organization is working closely with cat organizations and educating the public on mitigating the cat issues and populations here on Oahu.

Mahalo nui loa,

Dana Jones, Executive Director, Hawaiian Monk Seal Preservation Ohana

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:30:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Patton	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Why am I opposed to HB1987?

- It's a **waste of money**
- It **won't work**
- There will be massive **collateral damage**
- It's **barbaric & inhumane**
- Widely available and affordable **spay-neuter** services and **trap-neuter-return** programs are **proven solutions**

First and foremost, this plan to count and kill feral cats is a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars. It has been proven time and again around the world that catch & kill DOES NOT WORK as a long-term solution. The LONG-proven solution is trap-neuter-return (TNR) of sterilized cats -- and Maui was making huge progress using this approach until the covid shutdown, which had a disastrous effect on population growth. We need to be offering the community abundant and constant LOW or NO-COST spay-neuter services as our #1 priority. This would be for pets, community cats, and ferals. The other terrifying flaw with this proposed bill is that many innocent animals, pets, and other wildlife would inevitably be poisoned along the way. There is a proven and humane solution to our problem, and that is massive SPAY-NEUTER services combined with TNR. This is where we need to be spending our hard-earned TAXPAYER dollars. Please vote NO on this barbaric and ill-informed bill.

Sara Patton

160 River Road

Wailuku, HI 96793

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:41:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Whitten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not allow this proposal to go through. There are humane ways to address the abundance of feral cats. Many feral cats have found living homes with the intervention of caring community members. I rescued a feral kitten and he is a wonderful companion. On Maui, there is a group of caring people who rescue any of our homeless kitties. They give these cats medicine and help them to get fixed, and then they send them on a flight to Seattle. Please find a humane solution that does not involve killing homeless cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 8:58:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jackie Boyd	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an Environmental Scientist dealing with problematic cat populations, particularly in Flora & Fauna sensitive locations including Australia- culling has proven to be ineffective in the management of the feral feline species. Cat populations have statistically shown to strengthen post cull, putting endemic species at a higher risk with an overall increase in numbers post eradication implementation. Successful reduction in localized cat communities has proven to be more effective with Trap Neuter Release programs by where feral populations are targeted with the goal to manage existent populations in the form of sterility, not eradication.

Currently some of the most well managed cat populations have consistent TNR programs in place, with financial support of the government and local organizations- not only to manage feline numbers, but to positively impact the decline of native species at risk.

What really needs to be considered is the management of the ecosystem as a whole. Total eradication of a domesticated species is systematically unviable. Removing one area of the ecosystem allows this area to reproduce dramatically (and efficiently) with the same species.

Implementing this type of Bill unfortunately (and as currently demonstrated in Hawaii) will encourage a detrimental and ongoing cycle of species imbalance.

Protecting Hawaii's native Flora and Fauna is ultimately one of the most important attributes when considering management of land and natural resources.

Coming up with an alternate solution such as TNR management would lessen the suffering of all species involved and provide long term population reduction throughout the state of Hawaii.

Having been a part of large culling programs in the past to manipulate domestic species numbers, I write to you with strong knowledge in this field and a very high recommendation **against** the passing of this particular Bill.

Jackie Boyd- *(BS-(Env.)/Env.Restoration & Marine Science)*

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:17:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Peterson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As the former Community Cats Program Manager (2005-2015) for The Humane Society of the United States, the nation's largest animal protection organization, I am vehemently opposed to HB1987. Supporting the eradication of feral cats by categorizing them as an invasive species is unjustifiable. There are more effective and humane strategies to reduce their numbers, such as promoting Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return. Please refer to the International City Management Association's "Managing Community Cats: A Guide for Municipal Leaders" at <https://icma.org/documents/managing-community-cats-guide-municipal-leaders>.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 11:59:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James B Friday	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-chair Perruso, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture,

I am writing to support HB 1987 Relating to Invasive Species. Feral cats are major predators of our native wildlife. Hawaii is already known as the extinction capital of the US. Populations of our native forest and sea birds are declining around the state and many have already gone extinct. My family has a family cat, which we love, but cats belong inside, not in the forest. Please pass this legislation to protect our birds.

Thank you for your support,

J. B. Friday

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:25:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nyla Kaaea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cats on the streets are a result of human irresponsible and we have taken advantage of another life. We as people should not handle our own consequences so inhumanely and there is already humane acts being done to reduce the amount of "feral" cats on the streets.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:16:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jami Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii just seems to continue to slide down a slippery slope of anti-progression. The mere suggestion of this eradication bill is shameful and careless. With so many different effective programs out there such as the TNR programs offered by Maui Humane Society the feral cat numbers would start to decline if only there was funding to increase the amount done. How does the proposed killing plan to only effect feral cats? Not pets? Not native birds? Not our keiki out hiking or playing? What about the costs of the poison? The time and money to lay out the poison? Then the people who have to go around collecting of the dead and decomposed bodies of these poor animals that will lay somewhere and die a painful death?! Not only the horrid sight but think of the smells, taking over and polluting the landscape! This eradication bill is NO solution rather what appears to be the plan of the troubled child that would sit and torture small animals and has now grown up and been given too much power.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:12:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
rebecca waters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am very concerned citizen who opposes this bill. This is an inhumane bill that does nothing more than murder innocent animals, who have had no option other than be born on the streets. Hawaii should be focusing on providing services and resources for stray animals rather than proposing a bill that kills them with use of poison. It's unconscionable to think that human beings are okay with this measure. How would ever explain this to your children? I am saddened by this view of our congress and I ask and beg you to reconsider this bill. The most humane way to decrease the feral cat population is to promote Trap Neuter and Return (TNR) practices. This is proven to reduce the population and is done so humanely.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:25:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lianne Chung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I seriously opposed this option! It is considered animal cruelty! As someone personally helping the TNR of feral cats in my neighborhood made a huge positive impact. There is absolutely no more kittens multiplying because of the initiative of being not only an animal lover but to help the Maui community. People like us care not only for animals we do care about trying to stop the population of unwanted cats. It is not the cats fault that the human beings on these hawaiian islands don't get their cats fixed kn

owingly that they can get it done for free at the Humane Society. They just choose not to do it for some reason and that is how the cat population gets worse. Some people are against spay/neutering because they believe that it is not right just like how people breed dogs and don't fix them and get stuck with unwanted puppies that no one wants and the shelter is also overloaded with dogs as well. My neighbor actually trapped and relocated my pet cat because they thought it was feral because his ear was tipped because I wanted my neighborhood to know he was neutered and without asking me and knowing that I have outside cats doesn't make it right to do that. But yet they get off with only a warning which I felt it was all for nothing. This island of Maui has alot of people that do alot of things to help the community of these feral cats you would be amazed by how many take the initiative and time to trap these cats and fix them so they don't multiply. My neighbor and I have fixed alot of them and for this bill to kill them is not an option!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/1/2022 7:52:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynn krieger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TNR is the only humane way of dealing with animals through no fault of their own are trying to survive on our islands. All of our local humane groups have programs that reduce the cat population and provide the ability for them to live out their lives. They also keep the mouse/rat population down which is more of a benefit. If you kill the cats, the rodents will take over and completely overrun our island. These are not an invasive species - you are heartless if you move forward with this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:17:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Coverdale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The inhumane killing of feral cats is evil and lazy. Anyone supporting the "disposal" of living creatures should be ashamed. Through TNR (Trapping Spay/Neuter and Release) services these felines can help to improve the quality of life for its neighbors, while ensuring that the #'s of cats doesn't continue to grow exponentially. Taking a life is never a substitute for comprehensive policy reform.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:26:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melanie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 is not humane at all. I cannot believe I read that you are encouragaing Using poison on cats - its a painful way to go and if you don't think about that then you're a sad human being with no regard for other beings on Earth. There can be progress made by spaying/neuturing and fostering any cats that are not feral or may be feral and can be rehabbed, and there is already progress being made this way! You're disgusting human beings if this is approved, serously, disgusting, bringing shame to your state for this act.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:30:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jonathan Braus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an out-of-state resident whose spouse desperately wants to go to Hawaii, if this bill is enacted we will never set foot in Hawaii. Be aware that there will be a non-zero impact to tourism, the primary driver of your economy.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:30:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leslie Baker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi

I saw that this bill was being passed and as someone who values all nature, and has worked hard to care for homeless cats it is upsetting.

I can only speak to my own experience having cared for cats outside for many years. I know many people who do this responsibility where they get the cats fixed and proper medical care when needed. Having spent time doing this building shelters and loving these animals as my indoor pets, it feels the same when one goes lost or dies as it does an indoor animal. Imagine all the heartbreak this Bill will cause. They are the same and have personalities and love. If the pandemic showed us anything, it is that we are all connected around the world, and we are connected to nature. Hawaiian tradition speaks beautifully to this. At this time I think we all know that trying to eradicate a species we view as not wanted, feels so wrong. We know better and need to do better. How can you love and care for the animals in your home and then so blindly throw away the ones outside. It doesn't make sense. Please reconsider and allow those that care take care of these animals do so, so they can live their respected life they deserve. Please spare the tragic heartbreak for those that care.

Thank you

Leslie

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:32:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shayne Dutkiewicz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Understanding that it is important to control populations of invasive species, HB1987 goes too far in proposing to kill community cats in order to reach this goal. It is completely unnecessary to use such draconian measures when it comes to cats. Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) programs have proven to be enormously successful in controlling cat populations, and there are any number of dedicated volunteer organizations which would happily preform the work. A much better use of government resources would be to fund these programs. Please keep in mind, cats are essential to the ecosystem. They keep rodent populations in check, which is a benefit to all. If they were to be removed from the environment completely it would only cause a cascading issue. Allow people who love and are dedicated to maintaining healthy, controlled cat communities to do their work. Reject this misguided bill and propose a new, more humane, more environmentally conscious one which funds TNR as a solution to cat overpopulation. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:42:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nadine lalsie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a Cat colony and have been spaying and neutering Cats for over 8 years and it keeps the Cat Population under control and the Cats live a more healthy and happy life. I have been a Member of Neighborhood Cats for 6 years and we do the TNR and we have saved Cats lives.

I have been to Hawaii, Big Island and I have seen the Cats on the Island and the people love them. They were no bother at all. Very friendly and all they need is love and care from everyone which i observed they were getting and I thought Wow!!! If all Countries could treat Animals with love like the way Hawaiians did!! We would have a Beautiful World.

Please don't pass this bill. The TNR program works to keep pipulations down without harming or killing these beautiful animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:45:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sheila Sullivan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Counting and Killing the Cats? A more humane way would be to TNR them.

(Trap, Neuter/Spay, and Return)

How can you even think of encouraging people to kill them and use poison? Not only is that inhumane, but also dangerous for other wildlife - using poison hurts the environment too.

If you TNR the cats, they will eventually die out on their own. Also, TNR stops fighting and spraying and of course breeding.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:49:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Edwin Acevedo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I just wanted to say this bill is inhumane! To kill a small, non-dangerous animal that is just trying to survive is beyond comprehension. I understand cats can overpopulate. Instead of "Counting to Kill", why not "Count to Spay/Neuter"? This is humane and controls the population in the long term. Also, Stiffer penalties are needed for people that neglect and discard their pets as if they were Garbage!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:08:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sui Cheng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I used spay/neuter method around my neighborhood. It's a humane way that has been effectively reducing the number of cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:26:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Margaret Piatak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The introduction of such cruel legislation depicts Hawaii in a very unfavorable light and promote negative campaigns against the state as a place of business or tourism. There are better ways to control a stray cat population. Ways that are not cruel and harmful to the cats or the environment.

Positon is not only cruel, it can have negative effects on wildlife and the environment in general. Eliminating the stray cat population can also cause long term negative effects in the balance of nature they help maintain in the environment.

Spay and neuter is a more effective way to manage the stray cat population. There are very effective Trap, Spay, Neuter programs in many states including New York state and New York city. This program can be done in conjuncton with animal control agencies and animal welfare and rescue groups. Use of these means is not only effective, it also prevents Hawaii from being cast with the image of a cruel and inhumane state.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:35:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Puc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

New legislation has been proposed to allow Hawaii's state wildlife agencies to count all the feral cats in Hawaii - **and then kill them!!** [HB1987](#) calls for a census of cats by 2023 and then a plan by 2025 to completely eradicate all of them on Maui, the Big Island and Kauai, and 50% of them on Oahu. Use of poison is encouraged.

This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:39:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katina Koller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Progress is already being made reducing the number of feral cats the only humane and effective method - spray/neuter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:11:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vicki McIsaac	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Under no circumstances do you deserve the right to take the lives of these feral cats. TNR is available to keep the population down this is a horrible way to let people all of the country know how your government treats living species.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:18:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrew Yeung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Spray and neuter should be used to fix the feral cats instead of killing them!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:24:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melinda Mosiman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Even as a life-long cat owner, I did not realize the prevalence of feral cat communities or the impact of spay/neuter programs in reducing them until recently. After I moved to Maui and learned more on this subject, **I am appalled at the idea of mass murdering cats put forth in this bill.** Using a survey of Hawaii residents who support baiting and killing community animals is flawed. Without proper education and awareness of how Trap-Neuter-Release programs work, how can you expect them to support it? I honestly can't understand how "humane" and "baiting" can be used in the same sentence.

Sometimes lawmakers have to do what's best for their communities, even when that seems to be at odds with what people say they want. Sometimes people just don't know what they want because they don't have the right level of knowledge about the options. "We don't know what we don't know."

TNR is where we can make the most impact, in the most humane way. If this state prioritized and funded TNR efforts so that individual Hawaii residents weren't alone in organizing, funding, and executing on TNR plans, our feral populations would continue to shrink at an even greater rate. We're already making progress with TNR. With the right kind of support from you for TNR and requiring spay/neuter for pets, that can continue and accelerate.

I am very concerned about the likelihood of killing other animals besides the feral cats. How will outdoor pet cats know to avoid these baits that will kill them? How will birds, owls, and other animals know to stay away? What kind of precedent does this set for killing off other domestic animals that are deemed a nuisance?

Instead of attacking and murdering the most visible outcome of the problem, I suggest instead attacking the root causes of the problem.

- Fund spay and neuter programs for both pet and community cats. Fund vets to perform these procedures. Fund the hiring of vet staff.
- Require spay and neuter for all pets.
- Work with landlords to allow a reasonable number of pets in all resident housing.
- Work with airlines to allow easier and more prevalent transportation of animals off-island.

My pet cats are former ferals. They are sweet, loving animals who bring so much joy to my life. The sheer brutality of the approach defined in this bill makes my stomach turn. While I absolutely support the reduction of feral cat colonies, I strongly oppose the methods outlined in this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:24:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elza De Jesus De Jesus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not kill the cats. Cats are God's creatures and we have no rights to take their lives. Please have a heart.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:27:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nichole lowe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Removing/killing a cat population will create something called a vacuum affect. This means you will spend a lot of time, money, and resources to remove an entire population, all for a new group of cats to come in. Killing/removing a cat population does nothing positive for the community, or environment. It is a futile endeavor. Feral cats help keep rodent populations down, and control their own population. The only way to control a population successfully is through TNR. trap, neuter, and release is the way to keep cats, and the community safe.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:31:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Mun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am here to vehemently opposed to the couting of feral cats only to kill them. There is a HUMANE solution please neuter/spay these cats so they will not continue to procreate and the adoptable ones can be done so. These cats are outside through no fault of their own.

Irresponsible/uneducated pet owners who do not fix their cats or did not have the access to free or low cost surgery and let them out to wander or survive on their own their own. Please do not punish these innocent, sentient beings to be killed like vermin.

I love Hawaii, my husband was stationed there and we got engaged and married there as well. I never would have imagined such a bill would be proposed please do not let this be known about Hawaii. Thank you so very much for your consideration

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:36:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Hudson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is disturbing to think that in 2022 killing animals like cats is being considered. Groups are already making progress on reducing the number of cats in Hawaii through TNR, which is a humane way and the only way that makes sense to do so. It is dispicable to think that you would rather have them suffer and die horrible deaths than work to find other solutions such as TNR and rehoming. Please consider treating these animals with some respect and compassion. Do not kill them!!!

Michelle Hudson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:40:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beverly Ondick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think it is unfair to use the cats as scapegoats for decline in wildlife. It states in HB1987 that the number of birds killed in Hawaii is unknown, yet you are planning to eradicate the cats based on information from other states and/ or countries? It states on the hawaii.gov website that the mongoose has severely impacted the wildlife of Hawaii and that they (the mongoose) are the primary predator of birds and small animals which include the eggs of endangered sea turtles and Nene birds. It states that mongoose, not cats, are responsible for killing 8 federally listed endangered Hawaiian birds. Mongooses are also carriers of Leptospirosis, which is a zoonotic disease.

If trapping and killing cats were effective, we wouldn't have an estimated 70 million stray or feral cats in the US.

When Trap, Neuter and Return (TNR) is implemented, it is proven that it is the best way to manage a feral cat population and studies have shown that!

I hope you reconsider the egregious act you are proposing and promote, encourage the humane act of TNR.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:55:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen and Harris Morshenson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My husband and I have been taking care of feral cats in Brooklyn NY for almost 30 years. We have been able to spay and neuter 100 cats in our community and we take care of the cats every day by feeding them and caring for them through the Neighborhood Cats rescue organization in New York.

Please do not shoot and kill the homeless cats in Hawaii; this is very cruel and inhumane. Please do the TNR (trap,neuter,spay,release). The cats are G-ds creatures and we should treat them kindly and humanely. Thank you very much.

G-d bless you all always. Karen and Harris Morshenson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:18:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erika McGinty	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am appalled to learn that the sponsors of HB1987 believe the correct way to reduce the feral cat population is by killing them. This is an antiquated and unsuccessful approach. What works, and research bears this out, are trap-neuter-return (TNR) programs. Cats are spayed or neutered and returned to their turf where they no longer procreate and the generation dies out naturally through attrition. This is humane and effective and is practiced all across the United States and abroad. I have personally witnessed a colony of about 15 cats in a Brooklyn, NY, neighborhood dwindle after a TNR intervention over the past 8 years to just one 16-year-old lady.

There are plenty of organizations and individuals who are certified in TNR and community cat care who do this work every day. It takes planning and skill and access to low-cost vet surgeries. It is satisfying and animal-friendly and mutually beneficial. Neutered cats cause less neighborhood noise and turmoil and still keep away rats.

I urge you to vote against HB1987 because it is a short-sighted, inhumane bill whose objective is actually met by other means.

Below are just a few links to studies on the effectiveness of TNR.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Erika McGinty
Brooklyn, NY 11238

Back to School: An Updated Evaluation of the Effectiveness of a Long-Term Trap-Neuter-Return Program on a University's Free-Roaming Cat Population (2019)

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/9/10/768>

A growing body of evidence indicates that trap-neuter-return (TNR) is not only effective at reducing community cat numbers, but that such reductions are sustainable over extended periods.... These results suggest that with sufficient ongoing management of colony sites,

declines in community cat populations associated with TNR are sustainable over long periods and under varying conditions.

An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study (2017)

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/7/11/81>

TNR program—began in 1992—that resulted in the elimination of hundreds of cats from the Newburyport, Massachusetts, waterfront.

A Case Study in Citizen Science: The Effectiveness of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program in a Chicago Neighborhood (2017)

<https://www.mdpi.com/2076-2615/8/1/14>

Colony populations declined by a mean of 54% from entry and 82% from peak levels. Results from coexistent TNR programs in the Chicago area are consistent with these findings.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:49:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
June Balish	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Although I understand the need to minimize the presence of invasive species, the method proposed is both ineffective and inhumane. Many states and cities have tried controlling feral cat populations by eradication, only to find that the population somehow rebounds even after the systematic yet ineffectual killing. Even attempting this mass killing releases poisons into the environment with dire unforeseen consequences on native populations. It may inadvertently promote other populations, such as those of non-native rodent populations. A surge in these populations creates new and additional problems that immediately become both pressing and impossible to eliminate.

The only method for control of feline populations that has proven consistently effective is trap-neuter-return, which is already being implemented on the island. It is both humane and effective and should be expanded via government support rather than switching to the ineffective and barbaric method of deliberate eradication, which is not supported by any scientific or historic data.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:52:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith Elam	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am totally opposed to this cruel and shameful bill. This bill does not address or remedy the causes of the feral cat population. If you do not address the causes the problem will just continue.

1. There is virtually zero pet friendly accommodation available. People end up abandoning their cats on the streets or surrender them to an already overpopulated shelter. On Maui there is just one shelter. Owners fear damage caused by pet owners. I suggest you come up with a way to motivate owners to rent to pet owners. For example, a county or state funded pet damage insurance program.

2. Lack of immediate and available spay neuter programs. They should be available on demand and should be extremely low cost. It takes two months to get such an appointment at Maui Humane Society.

3. Mandate that veterinary clinics do spay neuter for feral cats at least once a month, which is funded by the state or county.

4. Appropriate funds to the shelters to be able to hire more vets and vet techs at a salary consistent with the HI cost of living.

This bill violates the state animal cruelty statute. You cannot poison cats. They are not rodents. Furthermore they are natural rodent control! Fed cats still kill and even eat rodents. My own pet cats do! And Hawaii has a big rodent problem that will get even worse if you eliminate cats.

Tourists love our feral cat colonies! They get very upset when they are or hear about abuse of these cats. Many tourists and snowbirds help with these colonies both when they are here and financially too. Japan has its own cat island! Do you want to brand Hawaii as a capital of cruelty to cats?

You cannot get an accurate count via a "census". Cats move around. Cruel humans are trapping and dumping cats at colonies that may or may not stick to that colony. So you could be double counting them. I don't even know how many are still in my own colony! They are not always present at feeding time.

Finally, poison is poison. You will end up killing other animals too, including pets. They will all eat the poison. Dogs, chickens, native birds, etc. Is this what you want? What happens if your own pet cat gets poisoned? How would you feel? Sometimes pet cats get loose and end up at a colony

The only effective and humane way to reduce the feral cat population is by increasing TNR programs. **THEY WORK!** Please work to increase and support them. Not pass an ineffective law to cruelly, illegally and immorally kill cats. Australia tried to eliminate their feral cats and ended up with an even worse problem.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:54:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cheryl Couvillion	Community Cat Action League	Oppose	No

Comments:

All-

The only solution to controlling feral cats is to spay and neuter them. Progress is already being made through this humane method by loving, caring citizens. This bill is cruel and barbaric. The cats did not put themselves in this situation. Feral cats originaged because cat owners were irresponsible and did not spay and neuter.

Please vote a big NO on HB1987. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:14:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Van de Kieft	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) as a humane way to control and reduce the feral cat population. Poisoning cats is inhumane and not representative of the good people of Hawaii or this country. Please consider humane methods which we can all be proud of. TNR has been proven to be the best way to manage feral cat populations. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:17:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelli Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Trap neuter release is the only effective and humane way to reduce cat population numbers. I have personally reduced my cat numbers in my managed colonies by 70 percent in the last 5 years using the trap neuter release method. Mosquito borne illness is the main cause of bird death, and we currently have the highest number of monk seals that we have had in decades. The fishing industry harms a larger amount of seals yearly than cats have in three decades. Poisoning any animal is cruel and disgusting, not to mention the number of other animals including birds, owls, seals, potential pets and possibly even people this could harm. Runoff of poison into the ocean and seeping into the land will cause many creatures to die. The visitors to my hotel love our well managed cat colony and I can only imagine the negative impact this bill would have on animal loving visitors to our islands. Until humans can accept and the fact global warming and human irresponsibility are responsible for the demise of our native species and change the way we are living, all of our resources will be gone. Please do not allow this cruel and ineffective bill to advance any further.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:41:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Keller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Who thinks up these barbaric plans? If cultures are to be judged by how they treat their animals, then Maui will have flunked if this Bill 1987 passes, and it will quickly be on the NATIONAL stage. Other areas manage their feral cat populations by trapping, spaying and neutering, and then releasing the animals into their colonies again. Shame on you, legislature, for even considering such an obscene plan. People LOVE their cats, and we expect better of a civil society.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:43:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cynthia Walsh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Spay neuter and release works. These programs need funding and support. Killing these cats will not help problem. It is a people problem. People are killing Monk seals, it is easy to blame cats. Killing them will only cause more problems.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:56:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joshua Pang-Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I completely support HB1987 relating to invasive species and feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands. Feral cat populations are a complete detriment to our native Hawaiian wildlife, especially native birds and monk seals. Many of which are state and federally protected species. Cats predate on nests and young chicks of native water birds, geese, and forest birds and transmit dangerous toxoplasmosis to monk seals. Feral cat populations need to be controlled and people shouldn't be allowed to feed them as if they were pets. Cats belong in homes, not roaming wild

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:10:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
michael willinsky	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am the founder of SaveMauiCats.org. We are an all volunteer nonprofit helping solve the cat overpopulation problem across Hawaii. We are a large group of people who strongly oppose this proposal. In the 15 years we have been helping, by using effective TNRM methods, we have successfully reduced cat populations throughout Maui. Killing or removing stray cats has not and will never work. Populations will always rebound. Hawaii will need a robust and well supported TNRM program which will prove successful. We need a dedicated commitment from the state to actually solve this issue. Please reach out to us anytime for more info. SaveMauiCats.org. Thanks for your help with this. Michael Willinsky

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:11:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fran Bryant	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider capturing, neutering, and releasing feral cats. Many cities in many countries have had success with this. It is so cruel to just kill them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:13:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deirdre Durkis, MD	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear State Legislators,

I am writing both as a concerned citizen and as a trained biologist to voice my opposition to HB 1987

Killing the feral cats, especially by poison, is horribly inhumane. Poison will also kill lost or abandoned pets as well as many other unintended victims - including some of the native species that are endangered. Additionally, the mass killing of cats will cause any remaining feral cats and the new cats introduced into the environment (lost/abandoned pets, stowaways, etc.) to breed more rapidly to replace the population in the empty ecological niche - the vacuum effect. It is not a long term solution.

The better solution is a two pronged approach: TNR and spay/neuter initiatives.

Trap neuter release programs sterilize feral cats, vaccinate them for diseases and release them back into their environment to be managed in colonies. These cats live in their territory and have a steady source of food so have less need to hunt. New cats and kittens that arrive at the feeding stations are trapped and evaluated. If friendly, they are placed up for adoption. Only the truly feral are released back into the colony. The number of cats in the colony declines naturally over time since they do not reproduce.

Public education and the support of programs for free and low cost spay/neuter services will greatly reduce the number of fertile cats present on the islands. Owned cats will be less likely to stray and lost/abandoned cats will not join the breeding population.

Much of the damage to native species that is blamed on feral cats is, in fact, caused by habitat loss, pollution and human encroachment on breeding areas.

Killing the feral cats would be a public relations nightmare for Hawaii - negatively impacting the tourist industry and public attitudes toward the state and its residents. Alternatively, Hawaii's implementation of TNR programs and spay/neuter initiatives would showcase a balanced and humane approach to environmental issues. The positive press would be a boon to both the tourist industry and to business interests.

It is your responsibility, as state legislators, to choose a solution to the feral cat issue that is humane, scientifically sound and viable in the long term. It also has to be acceptable to your constituents. Numerous studies have demonstrated the public's opposition to the killing of feral cats. Long term analysis of existing TNR programs shows not only the lasting effectiveness of this approach in reducing feral cat numbers but a corresponding decrease in government outlays for animal control and nuisance

costs. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani10112089>
://doi:10.3389/fvets.2019.00365

[https](https://doi.org/10.3389/fvets.2019.00365)

I urge you to support spay/neuter initiatives and TNR efforts to control the feral cat population in Hawaii and reject the cruelty inherent in HB1987.

Thank you

Deirdre Durkis, MD

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:16:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Howard Baldwin	Advocats	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do your research on dealing with feral cats. Eradication does not work. Not only will you end up with more cats, but you may also end up with more rodents. Talk to the management of the Waikoloa Hilton hotel, which once eradicated its feral cats, only to have its banquets infested with rats in front of guests. Eradication is cruel and useless. Support TNR and the hundreds of Hawaiian citizens who strive to make it work every day.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:16:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Stryker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987. This proposed bill makes cats a scapegoat in a chronic human-created issue in the destruction of native wildlife. Outdoor cats live in close communion with humans and therefore animals in areas most at risk from the cats are also at severe risk from direct human activities. Stating that the cats are the primary cause for demise of the species despite human-created issues such as habitat destruction, pollution, and global climate change are the issues that need to be addressed. I hold no disagreement that fewer cats living outdoors is a good thing. However, eradication efforts will do nothing but waste taxpayer money in a fight against those who believe in humane methods of population control. Lethal control efforts, especially using poison are inhumane to the cats and will continue to be undermined by the multitudes of people who care about the cats and their well-being. Past island studies of cat eradication show that this takes many years. The solution can be more readily created through trap-neuter-return, which when executed on a large scale, and in conjunction with removal of social animals for indoor/adoptive homes, shows proven reduction in cat populations, and better coexistence with wildlife, due to lowered predation as well as monitoring/management by caregivers. Along with trap-neuter-return efforts, engaging in a state-wide spay/neuter effort will create an incredibly large pool of volunteers who would be able to provide access to private property for setting of traps - an option that would otherwise NOT be available with proposed lethal control. Funding can be received from large national and international nonprofits, multitudes of smaller and local organizations, and individuals who care about the humane treatment of cats, on a scale that may decrease the tax funding required by the state government of Hawaii. We know of positive solutions, and investing in lethal means of destruction creates a divisive and hostile environment for not only the citizens of the state of Hawaii, but also those who visit and create boycotts by those who would otherwise use their tourism dollars to visit this state. I urge you to deny the passage of this bill and seek investment in methods of humane alternative to the killing of cats, such as widespread spay/neuter access for owned cats (indoor and outdoor cats, so that they do not have the chance to contribute to a future outdoor cat population) and Trap-Neuter-Return for unowned outdoor cats. Volun-tourism is a thriving economy for veterinarians, technicians, and those who otherwise want to provide trapping and assistance to help reduce the cat population humanely.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:28:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alan Bernaldo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Members--

i strongly oppose HB1987 re. the "poisoning" of feral cats. Granted feral cats are problematic, however, with the current concerted effort to control the issue such a barbaric measure is not necessary.

The feral cat issue is not the problem. It is a symptom of a problem. The problem is "us"...we humans who supposedly have the intelligence and are given a choice in being responsible for life have been totally irresponsible.

The current World enviroment is hard as is for we humans. Can we not have a touch of humanity to care for life instead of participating and exacerbating our own "poisoned" society?

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:31:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joann Young	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The world has truly gone mad and the once state of aloha is sinking with it. Is it not bad enough with the dogs of Afganistan, the beagles being tortured and the monkeys in the news; the inhumanity is sickening. Now this legislation is truly ridiculous. With the RAT problem on the big island of Hawaii increasing you want to take away a resource to control them. The wiring on vehicles is being chewed the fruit is being eaten by vermin and and you focus on cats. Organizations like Advo-cats and Pet fix are dealing with the problem of feral cats humanely and should be supported by governments local, state and federal. STOP using my tax money on insane projects.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:33:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leanne Sim	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support the bill and would only comment that another bill also be created to require owners of cats to have the same requirements as dog owners (licensing, leashing, kept in owners yard (with catio) or inside the home.)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:34:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael May	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Real Estate Broker I have lived and worked on Hawaii Island for the Past 18-Years. I have never heard of such an outrageous Bill to be heard. The State actually wishes to Kill animals that have been dumped or abandon by their owners.What animals will be next? Dogs ? Birds? Goats?

The State should be putting their money toward clinics and organization that help to control the populations.This whole idea is pretty disgraceful.Im not sure whom ever proposed this what they were thinking!

Nothing like attracting mentally ill people with an excuse to Kill what ever animals they wish.

Im sure if this Bill ever goes anywhere that the negative response and press will be huge as there are more Cat owners in this Country than other animals.

Respectfully

Mike May-PB

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:45:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kami Scott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT pass this bill. There are many volunteers dedicated to reducing feral cat populations, including Hawaii with spay and neutering. Much progress has been made, so indiscriminately killing these beautiful animals is NOT necessary.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:48:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mari Smetan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We're already making progress reducing number of Cats with the ONLY humane and effective method - SPAY/NEUTER.

Cat killers are misguided & emotional. Not only is killing Cats depravedly cruel & unconscionable, murdering Cats does NOT work -- go to ALLEYCAT.ORG for guidance on how to MANAGE free-roaming Cats.

SHAME on Hawaii for the lack of respect and indifference to SUFFERING and KILLING. TNR is an excellent, humane METHOD for managing Cat populations — Cats go to Vets for fixing & medical attention -- then, Cats are prepared for either Adoption, Relocation or Return — in each case, willing Caretakers always exist to properly care for Cats. Again, MURDERING cats is unconscionably abusive & immoral and depravedly barbaric -- I repeat, the killings do NOT work.

Visit ALLEYCAT.ORG for guidance -- if you implement TNR, all Cats live and find good Homes. WE need NOT kill — Let's DO the RIGHT things — let's take the LIFE-AFFIRMING road and our results will be met with success for all parties involved, including the Cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:49:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christin Greenland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii has been aware of the feral cat problem for decades, yet nothing humane has been done to improve the feral cat problem. Statewide spay/neuter programs and education of adults and children about spay/neuter should have been started decades ago. The bill states that they will be killed humanely, but bait and poison is barbaric and absolutely not humane, no one can possibly believe that it is humane to poison cats. I would also like to call attention to the massive rodent problem Australia is experiencing on farms as a result of culling the feral cat population. Rats also kill young birds and destroy their eggs.

Hawaii needs to support TNR (Trap Neuter Return). It does work, although it takes time. Hundreds, if not thousands of Hawaii residents have been volunteering their time to humanely and effectively reduce the cat population for years. I have spent a lot of time and my own money to TNR approximately 90 cats in the past 4 years and the fact that the State would come poison these very same cats is appalling. Will the cats be checked for a microchip before they are poisoned? They certainly should be, or you may be cruelly killing someone's pet.

Hawaii should have started supporting TNR and educating residents about spay neuter years ago. Please consider this as an alternative to this cruel bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:00:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jill Borkowski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We're beyond dismayed to hear about HB1987. We have vacationed in Hawaii (from Ohio) three times in recent years (love the Grand Wailea!), and absolutely WILL NOT return if HB1987 passes. We do not wish to spend tourism dollars in a state with such inhumane, cruel and INEFFECTIVE practices.

My husband is retired from a long career playing Major and Minor League Baseball, and he's now a coach in the Los Angeles Dodgers organization. We've lived all over the country for his baseball career in places where Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs are in place and widely accepted and where, as a result, shelter intakes and deaths are down.

Thousands of cats (and dogs) are killed in shelters every year. Many are friendly stray cats, kittens and feral cats that people find outdoors and take to shelters to help the cats. If we want to end the killing in shelters, we cannot ignore the outdoor cat population. Trap-neuter-return programs are critical to making a city no-kill.

The cats are already in the community, and they're going to be there whether or not we spay/neuter, vaccinate and return them to their outdoor homes. Trap-neuter-return prevents new litters from being born outside and reduces the number of cats and kittens entering shelters.

Spay/neuter means less community cats, and that's something people who like cats and people who do not like cats should be happy about.

Trapping and killing does not solve the problem because new cats will move in and take over the food source and resources. It's inhumane, it's ineffective, and it's a waste of money.

Hawaii is such a beautiful state filled with nature and natural wonder. Just like the birds and wildlife, feral cats are a part of the community. It's unthinkable that such cruel practices would take place and poison the reputation and the environment in such a beautiful state.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:02:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
corey Fenstemacher	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My family has visited Hawaii for over 25 years. We enjoy the cats on our hikes as much as the tropical fish. We live near Hudson, NY, a city that had a terrible feral cat problem. With the work of TNR specialists, rescue groups, veterinarians and building awareness in the local community, the problem was resolved in a very humane way. There is research showing that when destroying community cat populations, the problem will inevitably emerge again. The best and most humane solution is TNR and education. Please do not round up and kill innocent animals. There are better ways to manage this. The research is out there and there are numerous organizations that can help educate. See the DC Cat Study. How we treat animals and nature reflects who we are as humans. Please consider a long term, humane approach that models the movement to show kindness to all. Thank you, Dr. Corey Fenstemacher

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:06:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
audrey semel	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please choose a compassionate approach to feral cat management, not just for the cats but also for the humanity of the people handling the situation. Many people are working hard to find effective and acceptable solutions to these issues;

"Cats, Birds, and Animal Shelters: Seeking Common Ground":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N69MUP0Ye2U>

"A Long-Term Lens: Cumulative Impacts of Free-Roaming Cat Management Strategy and Intensity on Preventable Cat Mortalities":

https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fvets.2019.00238/full?&utm_source=Email_to_authors&utm_medium=Email&utm_content=T1_11.5e1_author&utm_campaign=Email_publication&field=&journalName=Frontiers_in_Veterinary_Science&id=433654

"Effect of high-impact targeted trap-neuter-return and adoption of community cats on cat intake to a shelter":

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S1090023314001841>

Thank you,

Audrey Semel

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:13:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan L Rhymes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider the ramifications of this bill: The rat and mouse population will explode with no natural predators; poison will likely enter the ecosystem and poison pets and native birds; the absurdity of counting elusive cats.

Put the requested funds toward TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release of feral cats). Advocats and the Humane Societies are already doing so and could use your help.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:19:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Richard Vogler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

What is a feral cat? Are these all the cats that live outdoors. How do you know if they are someone's pet.

If all outdoor cats are removed now you have rat and mouse problem. Not a solution.

Our AdvoCATS volunteers have spade and neutered over 23,000 cats in Kona and Ocean View, that's the solution. Control the cat issue.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:21:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Teresa Barth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a former Big Island resident and frequent visitor, I strongly OPPOSE HB 1987. Not only is the proposal cruel and inhumane it is unnecessary. Organizations like Advocates are already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

The State should be providing funding for organizations such as Advocates so they can expand their efforts to reduce the feral cat population. State funding could also support successful models such as the Lanie Cat Sanctuary that was been very successful in humanely reducing the impact of feral cats on the native bird population.

Aloha,

Teresa Barth

Cardiff-by-the-Sea, CA

St. Joseph High School graduate (Hilo)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:22:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Morgenroth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB1987. I am vehemently opposed to this plan to kill these helpless felines. The feral population on Hawaii island has many organizations and volunteers who lovingly give there time to these helpless tossed away cats. A bill should be initiated to go after the individuals discarding these animals not the animals themselves. These organizations have worked tirelessly to provide these cats with the opportunity to live there lives without reproducing. The TNR programs have been successful for these colonies. The volunteers spend their own money to feed and provide medical care. To cruelly give the word that these cats be culled and in such a cruel fashion is barbaric. I see no aloha on these islands towards gods fellow creatures. A bill to help these organizations gain momentum and help adopt out these helpless cats who are victims already to the cruelty of humans as many are discarded like trash should be initiated. I oppose this bill and shame on those who proposed this barbaric plan. If this is a land of aloha then prove it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:24:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeanne Alford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 is an archaic and egregious method to deal with our feral cats.

It's been proven over and over that trap/neuter/release programs control feral populations.

I would ask you to educate yourselves more on feral cat colonies and how they work.

I have personal experience with feral cat colonies on Hawaii Island for over 15 years.

I would ask that funds allocated to this bill be appropriated to the care and control of our feral cats.

There is no reason to kill cats.

The list of the "studies" that say we must kill cats is harsh, coercive, cruel and bungling. In addition, you're kidding yourselves if you think you can count feral cats.

One must hate cats to write or support this bill.

Cats have as much right to be on this planet as you and I and the monk seal. All cats.

They are NOT an invasive species!

Use the already proven methods to control their population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:28:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
susan kissel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why is so many peoples solution to a problem to kill?? Especially an innocent animal?? through research and proven examples that show that the only humane way to control over population is by doing TNRM which the humane Society endorses. I have many stable colonies where I get all the cats fixed to reduce overpopulation and then maintain the colony so that it does not grow and the cats remain healthy through vaccinations. Why would anybody think that just killing off a species is the answer to the problem? It never should be the answer to any problem! I am thoroughly disgusted by this bill and think it should be thrown out especially in Hawaii where we should all practice aloha spirit. Many of my cat colonies have been stable for many years and they have been reduced by the cats not reproducing and then dying off of natural causes. Please please reconsider this bill and consider other Humane Ways of controlling the population by doing TNRM and educating the public & having them spay/neuter their pets! You are never going to be able to kill every single cat and the ones that are left will just keep reproducing & all the innocent animals that have been killed will be for nothing because the problem will just continue! Thank you for throwing out this despicable inhumane and utterly disgusting Bill! if word gets out to the tourists that this is how Hawaii deals with a problem I'm sure it will kill tourism and people will be just as disgusted as I am that you are even considering doing something like this and trust me it will get out and people will be disgusted by it and boycott Hawaii and not come to visit and spend their money because of this disgusting act of gross inhumane practices! Susan Kissel

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:30:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James H Hutzelman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The humane way to,control the feral cat population in a community is to trap, neuter and release (TNR) the animals. Along with avoiding the cruelty of poisoning or otherwise slaughtering these creatures, you will avoid the unintended consequences of poisoning other species and opening up the possibility of rodent population resurgence, remembering that feral cats provide this valuable service. Consider placing state resources into efforts to TNR through county/local government and non-government organizations. This would be thoughtful, effective, humane.government policy.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:33:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider that a civilization is judged by how it treats its animals. Are we really that barbaric that the only way we can see to solve this problem is through mass murder? Where is our humanity and compassion for life? This Bill is inhumane and must not be put into law! Multiple studies have shown that killing feral cats to eradicate their population is not successful. Feral cats keep rat populations down. Elimination of cats will provide an opening for rats to return to areas from which they have been removed. Poison is a cruel and violent measure which will have devastating unintended consequences to other animals as well. If the state of Hawaii would take the money set aside for the this bill to murder cats and invest in TNR (trap-neuter/spays-release) programs the feral cat population would easily be controlled. With TNR cat populations decline naturally over time. Please use compassionate and responsible judgement to deny the passage of this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:34:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Light	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Here we go again. Blaming cats for the unfortunate specie loss in the Hawaiian islands is not wise policy. I put habitat loss and the resulting disease waaay ahead of predation by cats. What about predation by rats? And aiming for all cats is beyond inhumane. I encourage stronger support for the organizations who use trap/neuter/release methods, usually with volunteer help and their own financial support. Also, what is being done about habitat loss?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:37:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tracy Zuziak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Understand the environmental impact and need for managing the feral cat population throughout the island chain, however, TNR efforts are a successful and more humane way to manage the population. Please shift focus on mass culling including using poisons, and introduce and support effective spay/neuter programs instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:40:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trishawna Galigo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is inhumane and cruel.

Many organizations use their own time and money to feed and spay/neuter these animals. I myself have used these services and helped when I could and am proud to help them fight this.

This absolutely sickens me that this bill could even be suggested.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:41:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lyman jakahi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i prefer trap and neuter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:42:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Virginia Kuback	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Understand the environmental impact and need for managing the feral cat population throughout the island chain, however, TNR efforts are a successful and more humane way to manage the population. Please shift focus on mass culling including using poisons, and introduce & support effective spay/neuter programs instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:47:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Audrey Simpson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Understand the environmental impact and need for managing the feral cat population throughout the island chain, however, TNR efforts are a successful and more humane way to manage the population. Please shift focus on mass culling including using poisons, and introduce and support effective spay/neuter programs instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:49:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenny Fu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a member of TNR organization, I believe feral cats can be reduced with more humane methods like Trap-Neuter-Release paired with adoptions. We should not use these inhumane methods such as poison to kill and eliminate any species. We are already working with more humane methods to reduce feral cat numbers. Please do not pass the bill!

Thank you very much!

Jenny Fu

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:49:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol WESSMAN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reconsider a more humane way to deal with the feral cat issue. TNR has been proven to better take care of the overpopulation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:49:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
martha atwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

As a pet owner and animal lover I am appalled at

the intent of HB 1987. The most humane and effective way to limit feral cats is by neutering and spading. This is a universally known fact. Support your local feral cat groups instead of implementing this extreme legislation.

sincerely,

Martha Atwell

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:52:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
molly caldwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing in opposition to HB1987. It is cruel and inhumane to trap and kill cats, even if they are acting upon their natural instincts and killing native species. Cats also protect certain species from getting out of control. Here in Brooklyn they help with mice and rats. Cats are domestic animals. Any feral cat likely comes from a non spayed/neutered domestic cat somewhere in their lineage. Rather than mass killing which is cruel and inhumane and doesn't really solve the issue, a comprehensive spay/neuter TNR effort would make more sense, allowing the cats to live out their natural lives while not being able to reproduce. Neutering also reduces aggression and spraying in males. Additionally, public awareness and funding for responsible pet ownership (including low cost spay neuter and vet care) is essential to fixing the problem for good. The root of the issue is reproduction and once you take away that ability, your problem is solved. A female cat can give birth 3 times in 18 months. Imagine the amount of kittens born yearly to an unsterilized population of cats. If you make trapping and sterilization efforts a priority, you can let the cats live out their natural lives and prevent population surges.

i urge you not to take the easy way out and instead consider the more humane, better long term solution. You don't want to be known as the cat killing state...all the cat people in Brooklyn are outraged by this idea of mass killing.

Please do the right thing.

Sincerely,

Molly Caldwell

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:57:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eve B. Rose	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Humane efforts to control the feral cat population in Hawaii has been making steady headway. *Please do not let Hawaii be known for killing cats.* Instead, help the TNR effort. The funds earmarked for killing can help support capture, spay/neuter, and release efforts. Sterilization will reduce the population more effectively. There is plenty of data out there to prove it. Plus, people dump cats in these colonies. Some cats are lost and people are looking for their pets. Do you really want to kill their pets, even unintentionally? And how many other animals will you mistakenly kill? All the more so, if poison is employed. It is a horrible death for any creature. I wonder if some think that killing the cats is an easy way out? But it is not a way out at all. The way out is through TNR. It is the best way to deal with this challenge. I truly hope you reconsider funding -- or even supporting -- the killing of cats. It would be a horrible deed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:58:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gloria Collins	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Baiting feral cats is a reckless and irresponsible method of controlling the cat population. It is NOT a humane method when you cause the suffering of an animal. Other animals and pets can be affected. Will the state collect the corpses of the dead cats? How? Adovcats and other organizations have worked tirelessly for over 20 years to trap and fix cats. This is humane. The state should advertise and support spaying and neutering pets.

PLEASE do NOT pursue this draconian approach!

Gloria Collins

Surf and Racquet Club, Kailua-Kona, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:05:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Zakaluk	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am a Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) advocate and a feral cat colony caretaker in New York City, with a colony of 20 cats. I have maintained a group of about this size for over 12 years. I feed them twice daily and provide them with outdoor shelters--their quality of life is very good. Firsthand, I've seen that TNR works to keep the feral cat population stable. The spayed/neutered animals remain in their territory and are content to stay nearby. Neighbors appreciate the rodent control they provide. I'm a member of Neighborhood Cats, and stay in touch with TNR progress throughout the city, so I know TNR successfully reduces the general feral cat population. It's the best and most humane method for doing so. Eradicating the cats is a terribly cruel fate for the animals, and only creates opportunity for non-neutered animals to move into the territory.

Respectfully submitted, Carol Zakaluk.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:11:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Connie Bartlett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Sir/Madam-

I read with disbelief that this bill was created and submitted for approval. In a civilized society, we care for all people and animals. Trapping and poisoning feral cats is inhumane, shockingly cruel, and not worthy of the good people of this state. It will also, ultimately, not lead to a permanent reduction of the feral cat population. The ONLY humane and honorable way to manage the feral population is by trap, neuter and release.

What a black eye this state will have if we pass this bill- the sight of dead and dying, suffering cats will affect our reputation as the aloha state. Please, let this bill go no further.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
LINDA J VADIMSKI- NGUYEN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am so ashamed of Hawaii! The feral cats are a direct result of YOUR residents not spaying/neutering their cats and then abandoning them to fend for themselves. The TNR program is the only way to reduce the number of feral cats. The culling - and that is what is proposed - of these cats is inhumane and Hawaii is no better than other nations that resort to eliminating what is not wanted. Hold YOUR residents responsible for this situation. If you think that eliminating all feral cats will solve the problem, then it is only a matter of time before a resident will abandon a pet to start the cycle all over again. Solve the problem by starting with YOUR residents!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:13:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jo Anne Johnson Winer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony in opposition to HB 1987

As a former legislator I am appalled when any law is introduced that inflicts pain and suffering on any living thing.

To support animal cruelty by poisoning animals who will suffer a horrific death is unimaginable.

The misinformation and complete ignorance that is contained in the narrative of this bill shows that the introducers need to do more homework. The DLNR is MIA when it comes to the care and conservation of our natural resources and their lack of vigilance borders on criminal neglect.

Here on Maui wild dogs and chickens are a much greater threat to wildlife than our cat colonies. If the model for TNR is followed the problems will decline as is evidenced by the success in other communities.

What has caused the decline in endangered bird populations is loss of habitat, pesticide use, overdevelopment, avian malaria and the effects of human interaction.

To point to cats and toxoplasmosis as a cause of the problem in avian decline is simply wrong. Ground nesting birds do fall prey at times but there are mongoose, dogs, feral pigs and disease as well as nesting site issues that are also a problem.

I can just see the headlines that our tourism officials will have to overcome “Hawaii poisons kittens.”

Please stop approving all the development in areas which provide our nesting birds both food and refuge and fund the DLNR so that they can actually do their work in conservation and enforcement.

Fund the TNR programs in all counties and the agencies that support humane treatment of animals. There is always a solution to a problem if you are willing to look for it and do the research that will result in success without inflicting pain and suffering.

Jo Anne Johnson Winer

50 PuuAnoano St. #508

Lahaina, HI 96761

808-463-7158

Former Maui County Councilmember

and Retired Maui DOT Director

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:14:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bonnie Fulton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It has been proven world wide that the Trap/Neuter/Return process is the best and most successful method of handling cat overpopulation. The feral cats are not invasive (they are a domestic species) they exist because of the ignorance of residents who don't spay/neuter their pets and allow them to roam free. They should not lose their lives because of mistakes made by Hawaiian residents - educate your community about responsible pet ownership and use TNR to eventually eliminate the problem. If you proceed with this plan and encourage the use of poison you will be introducing a toxin to the environment and killing for more species that you expect.

Provide support or the organizations/individuals that are doing TNR and colony management so they can get things under control faster. If they are allowed to feed the cats then they are far less likely to kill birds. Feral cats typically hunt at night and birds are not active then, so they are not doing as much damage to bird populations as you believe. They are providing a service to communities by providing rodent control.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:20:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miranda Watson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is poorly conceived and more of a threat than a benefit to the island. People's pets are obviously going to get swept up in this, and the poisons can be ingested by native birds and swept into our oceans and drinking water.

A properly funded TNR and animal control department is the proper solution.

Please, have a heart in your solutions.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:20:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Fravel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1987.

For the past 14 years I have volunteered for an organization that practices Trap, Neuter, Vaccinate, and Return of feral cats. Thus far, we have trapped, neutered/spayed, vaccinated, and treated more than 12,000 cats and kittens at a cost of ZERO to taxpayers. TNR makes a huge positive impact in communities by stabilizing and reducing cat populations and helping cats and people coexist. Cats who go through this program will no longer go into heat, reproduce, or be aggressive. The colony size will reduce naturally on its own without having to kill the cats. Killing feral cat colonies only leaves a void where other cats will start moving into. It is not a permanent solution. TNR is a permanent solution; it is also way more cost-effective spending years counting, then killing cats. Another huge benefit is that TNR cats are also vaccinated against rabies and distemper which makes them safe to remain in the community. They are no threat to anyone.

Groups like mine are already making significant progress in reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter. These groups exist in every state and are already doing TNR or willing to do it, given the chance and support of officials like you. I personally know one person on Kauai who has extensive experience in setting up and running very successful TNR programs.

I strongly urge you to **REJECT** HB1987 and look instead to a more humane, less expensive, less time-consuming, and more effective approach to reducing your homeless cat population. A wonderful resource is www.alleycats.org and I urge you to take some time to investigate it before moving ahead with your current barbaric and cruel plan.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:26:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sandy goulart	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

PLEASE! STOP THIS BILL HB1987

This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately!

It is no fault of these innocent beings that they are free roamers. Cats have lived outdoors alongside humans since before the pyramids. Catching and killing is ineffective, outdated and VERY CRUEL. And to make matters worse, with intentions for use of poison?!?! They feel pain and anxiety and suffering, but they also feel love and caring.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only humane, effective approach to care for community cats. Cats are spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (for sterile identification) then returned to their outdoor home and colony.

We are already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

PLEASE! Have a heart....DO NOT PROCEED with this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:41:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robin Wallin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Money for counting would be better used to control the cat population by TNR...that is the way to keep the feral cat population under control. If they are not reproducing then the animals that are fixed merely live out their lives. They have difficult lives! They are only here because of humans abandoning them. They are sentient beings with consciousness and heartbeats. Please do not inhumanely exterminate any animals on Maui, especially cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:41:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Theresa Dieli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the killing of stray cats. The best way to lower the stray cat population is with Trap-Neuter-Return.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:41:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rebecca Sawyer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a small animal veterinarian with training in wildlife population dynamics. I strongly oppose this legislation on practical and ethical grounds. First, several studies indicate that neutering feral/community cats and returning them to their territory is more effective at population control than depopulation methods; the latter leave an environmental vacuum for other cats or species of similar ecologic niche to inhabit. The bill's language states that the legislature finds the opposite to be true. I encourage more research and expert testimony prior to making this bill a law. Second, while it is true that cats predate several species, they are also present on the islands because of prior human action. People brought the cats to the island. It is up to us to find a humane method of restoring the ecosystem to some prior, more desirable, distribution of species. What is not appropriate is poisoning these cats. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:42:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Allison Omdahl	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is incredibly cruel and inhumane. There is absolutely no reason to kill these innocent animals. Instead of resorting to torture (becuase slowly poisoning an animal is just that, a slow, painful death) I suggest partnering with local rescue groups who already do incredible work in helping control the feral cat population. The answer is not to kill, but to spay/neuter. By utilizing TNR (trap, neuter and release) these animals will no longer be able to procreate. The issue is not the animals, but the access to affordable veterinary care. Often times people are forced to abandon their unfixed animals because they can't afford to fix them or even keep them. This resorts to kittens being born on the streets and the never ending cycle continues. I strongly urge you to consider more humane options before you decide to deliberately and cruelly kill animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:47:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Sim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this cruel and inhumane attack on vulnerable animals who are living outdoors through no fault of their own.

Tara Sim,

Pauoa Valley (96813)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:47:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lori Bergmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The state should be funding spaying and neutering for feral cats and for educating the public about the need for spaying and neutering. Hawaii should NOT be funding cruel methods of feral cat genocide, as this bill advocates.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:48:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Ronske	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are better and more humane ways to control the feral cats on the islands. Eradicating every cat is not the solution. And trying to do this by poison is even more dangerous. Funds should be allocated to spay and neuter clinics throughout the islands where this is an issue. Some of these agencies/clinics already do a great job of capturing and spaying and neutering animals. Also there are wonderful networks of volunteers feeding these cats daily. Perhaps you may want to prohibit people from bringing new cats to the islands. Could be when these people leave the islands they leave their cats too. Make a better effort to spay and neuter and let them live.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:59:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurie Teitelbaum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do NOT allow HB1987 as a resident and taxpayer of the Big Island of Hawaii since 2002.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:00:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jo Jeffries	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a previous owner of 12 spayed and neutered cats, I oppose this bill. Poisoning cats just to get rid of them instead of using other humane methods of controlling the feral cat population is a terrible idea. There are many organizations in the state of Hawaii that offer free spay and neuter for feral cats. This is a more humane way to control the feral population. Leaving poison out can affect other animals and children who may come upon it inadvertently.

Please do not move forward on this bill.

Respectfully yours

Jo Ann Jeffries

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:01:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jodi Schoeck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is an unbelievably cruel way to address the feral cat issue. Why doesn't Hawaii instead fund spaying/neutering efforts? It also should try to educate people about the need to spay or neuter their animals, including dogs. Hawaii could subsidize those efforts by providing a tax credit for those who do spay and neuter. Even \$100 could make a big difference.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:03:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Best	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Progress is being made in reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method: spay & neuter. This bill is horrifying.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:04:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joan j Shea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislatures,

As a property owner in the state of Hawaii for the past 10 years, I am sickend and disappointed to see HB1987 introduction and consideration.

Over the past 10 years, I have first hand participated in the catch, spay/neuter, and release of feral cats, as well as their ongoing care and feeding. This method has drastically reduced the number of feral cats on the island by preventing reproduction.

I can tesitify that most people in the State of Hawaii do not oppose the existence of feral cats, myself included. This is a complete fabrication not supported by any sort of measurable proof.

It is horrifying to see that Hawaii would entertain legislation to eradicate feral cats by catching and euthanizing/poisoning them. Shame on you. There are other ways to address this problem, by eliminating the import, trafficking and breeding of cats in the State of Hawaii. Mandatory spay/neutering of all cats in the State of Hawaii and letting the current feral cats live out their natural lives. Are just a couple of other methods for effectively reducing and eventually eliminating the feral cat problem.

I can agree that the extinction of vital species is a problem in Hawaii and agree something must be done, however this method is extemely cruel and unnecessary.

In addition, it is unjust to assume that feral cats are the sole source of declining bird populations. Please also consider the effects of climate change, and decreased habitat.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joan Shea

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:11:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Bambara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a cruel and likely costly boondoggle type bill to supposedly "COUNT" cats (what's that cost and why?! Who's cousin's friend's company gets that costly ridiculous job?) in order to kill them when a comprehensive Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release program has a proven record that can eliminate the feral cat population by stopping the continuing growth, which then ages out/disappears. There's lots of actual proven data the Trap/Spay/Neuter/Release programs do work.

It would be better served to make it criminal to dump your pet (cat or dog) into the wild or at the dump and then actually PURSUE actively prosecuting people caught (and monitored) by cameras in dumping areas along with implementing an EDUCATION program for the population of humans who don't understand this need. Then return to having monthly free spay neuter clinic offerings.

This isn't rocket science and crueling killing isn't the only way, like the calamity created by dropping poison on an island to kill rats, but then actually killing all kinds of other animals.

Thank you to those representing the highest good rather than the most cruel which is not a lasting solution without education and free spay/neuter services for those who have pets, but don't follow through with spay/neutering their animals out of lack of funds or lack of knowledge and then dump the kittens in the wild. Stop the problem rather than just trying to temporarily erase it in such a sickening way.

Please do not pass this bill, but instead create a bill that addresses the on-going issue rather than just kill, kill, kill. There's no Aloha or long term solution in this bill. Please vote no to this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:12:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judy Kocon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident of 40 years and someone who cares deeply about all of God's creation, I am writing to strongly and adamantly oppose HB1987. This brutal and barbaric scheme is not the way to address the homeless cat population (created by humans). Hawaii (including the Big Island) has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of homeless cat through the most effective and humane way of spay/neuter. In my 40 years living here, I know from first hand experience there are many, many, many less homeless cats here than when I first came here. Most of that progress has been in the last 10-20 years because of the spay/neuter programs of the humane society and rescue animal groups. The spay/neuter program is working. What the government needs to do is fund more money towards educating people to spay/neuter all their animals and NOT TO ABANDON AND DUMP THEM. Put that money that seems to be available to eradicate helpless animals towards spay and neuter for all dogs and cats. Then you will truly be doing your public service job in serving everyone and everything in a caring, kind, humane way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:16:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Constance S Chaplin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

These cats are often pets adopted temporarily by visitors to the island. While this is regrettable, exhausting efforts are being made by Hawaii citizens to rescue these animals. Some are flown to Seattle, where I have visited their facility, Spaying and neutering efforts are employed when the cats are trapped by volunteers. Please let them do their work.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:16:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While getting a census is a good thing, the main objective here is to eradicate cats via the use of poison. This is disgusting and inhumane action and I will not support such a measure. We (humans) created this by how we treated the dumping of unfixed cats. Even now with supposed anti-cruelty laws in place, there is little law enforcement can do or will do. You can kill all the cats and as long as people continue to dump unwanted and unfixed pets, the problem will just rebuild. This cannot be done in a heartless and inhumane manner. Besides, other animals and birds may eat the poison as well. This is just unacceptable.

Mahalo,

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:19:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Montoya	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

This is not a humane way to deal with the "invasive" cats. Bating is poison and a slow death.

Who is going to collect the bodies? Who is going to make sure someone's pet dog or cat doesn't eat the bait? What about the rat population? Remember the Black Plague?

Why havent you funded spay and neuter clinics to help pet owners fix their cats, especially low income families?

What about other animals who could eat the poison or small children?

Remember the fiasco with the Mongoose and rats?

Animals should not suffer because of irresponsible owners who abandoned their pets.

THIS IS NOT HUMANE

This is not the Aloha spirit

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:22:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
donna j mills	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I participate/volunteer with Petfix and have worked with AdvoCats on Hawaii Island. We have saved thousands of animals in a most humane way by catch, spay/neuter and release. Please help us continue to care for animals rather than dispose of them. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:26:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judy Price	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the killing of feral cats. These cats do not threaten endangered or other species as much as humans. Habitat destruction, done in the name of tourism, is the greatest danger to the islands and all species on the islands. That fact is undisputed. Pointing at how many animals an individual cat may kill in a day, while ignoring the massive displacement and habitat destruction created by the expanding tourism industry is just a way to put blame on others. And in this case, to blame some of the poorest creatures on the planet, the feral cats. Most feral cats are merely struggling to survive each day. While humans consume far more than is needed to live. Put the blame where it belongs, not on feral cats who are simply an easy target for those who choose not to consider the reality of the situation.

Cats did not put themselves in Hawaii. But now that they are here, they deserve as much humanity and humane treatment as any other creature. Killing cats by baiting with poison is painful and inhumane. Trap neuter return is a program that has proven successful in all parts of the world. It takes time and it takes effort by those who care. If the legislature wants to help the 'cat problem' they should help by funding TNR rather than making it more difficult and then declaring that it is not effective.

The government has made no realistic effort to help control the cat population through providing help and funds to those who are already doing the work to make this happen. Hawaii needs to move in a humane way that has been proven to be effective rather than jumping to the conclusion that ONLY a mass extermination will accomplish the goal.

Hawaii will definitely NOT profit by blindly killing cats. This mindless extermination is not appealing to tourists many of whom do have ethics as well as a humane view of other species. Stories of cats being poisoned and killed simply because they exist will not help the Aloha image.

I would ask that the State of Hawaii reconsider the approach to control of this 'problem' and help support the TNR projects that are taking place now, as well as implementing further TNR projects around the state.

Thank you,

Judy Price

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:29:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Connie Larsen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Connie Larsen and I have been a home owner since 2002 and resident of the Big Island since 1997. I vote in every election and am a tax payer. No kids, just me and the animals I rescue. I have been trapping and spay/neutring cats/dogs since I moved here in 1997. I do not release them once I find them, I find homes for them or if they have a chip I find their owner. Trapping is an option for the county/state as well, but I don't see you proposing that. Just KILL KILL KILL, by poison no less. Unacceptable!!! I will come in and testify, and if this moves forward YOU WILL SEE AND HEAR MORE FROM ME.

A lot of the animals I pick up are chipped and I am able to get them back to their owner. If you poison them, how is that a possibility???

Your proposal is offensive and inhumane. Why don't you work on constructive proposals for helping stray cats and dogs on our Hawaiian Islands. More funding for our Human Society would be a start!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:29:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rebekah Gingrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I implore you to please continue to only use humane methods of animal control. In the case of feral cats, trap-neuter-return has proven to be the only effective way of successfully minimizing the population. It is being used already and it is working. Please do not allow poisoning or any other methods, cruel or otherwise, to be used to terminate the lives of feral cats.

Thank you for your consideration of the natural world.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:29:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helen Swinney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I totally oppose this bill.. it is cruel and has dier consequences.. I have lived in two countires where they came up with this idea to poison an " invasive species " .. what ocured was the loss of life of Owls.. other birds, hedgehogs (which now in the UK and NZ are protected and in major decline. Great progress has and is been made with the various spay and neuter programs.. this is the safest and most humane direction forward as it can be controlled over time.. as well as ensuring that the other invasive species of mice and rats are controlled.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:30:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Layne Novak	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I would like to know HOW the government will be "culling" the cat population. I realize that trap, neuter/spay, and release is not an option. Will the cats be sent to the Humane Society?

If the government is planning on just killing the cats, then I am in opposition of this bill. If they plan on attempting to home the cats and not just kill them, then I am for this bill.

Thanks!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:33:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathy Beal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cats are the result of bad people ; lame pet owners and people who dump cats . People who take care of cat colonies are constantly trapping and "fixing " the cats to help w population. Some of these cats ARE NOT feral and were pets that have been dumped or lost! It's cruel to poison them

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:34:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trezoro Halton	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I urge you to consider humane ways of dealing with your feral cats. Baiting (poisoning) them is inhumane both for the cats and the people who care for them.

Spaying and neutering ends their reproduction and their numbers decline. At the outset, extra funding and effort is required. This soon lessens.

If you find you need to kill some cats, please find a humane way to do it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:35:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Rufino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe this is a cruel way to deal with a difficult situation. These animals did not ask to be abandoned and do not deserve to be killed, especially not as inhumanely as poisoning them. It is my understanding that the numbers have been decreasing through TNR methods and I believe funding should be dedicated to increasing that method of control and people caught abandoning their pets should be fined and those fines should be put towards these efforts. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:36:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeff Heisel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is outrageous and very uninformed. Poisoning always causes great suffering AND damage to other non-targeted species.

It does not deal with the root cause.

What would help is a massive "trap and release" program sterilizing the existing cats.

All island veterinarians should be required to contribute certain number of hours to perform pro bono surgeries to control the cat population.

Incentivising pet-friendly housing rentals would also help, so pet owners are not forced to abandon their pets in order to find a rental.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:37:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kristen cosmi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose any method to kill stray cats. This is a horrible solution. I absolutely support the only humane and effective method of reducing stray cat populations, which is spay/neuter. These are innocent sentient beings and they do not deserve to be poisoned or harmed in any way. Also if the use of poison is utilized, how many other birds, animals and even peoples pets would be adversely effected?? Plenty is the answer. How horriffic to, for examole, have your dog run off by accident at at a park, have it get into poison intended for cats and get sick or die! It is impossible to only have one species effected by doing this kind of thing. Plesase support better spay/neuter programs instead of kill off animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:38:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tami Shotz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the inhumane manner in which the cats will be eradicated. I feel getting a more accurate estimate of community cats is important for the environment, but I do not agree with the eradication measures to reduce the population and feel they are completely and utterly inhumane,

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:16:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanie Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I submit that while counting Hawaii's feral cats, as many as possible are captured for spay or neuter and released to live out their lives without reproducing. Expansion of existing humane programs, or creation of volunteer recruitment programs, rather than investment in count-and-kill, is the moral and ethical direction to go here. The barbaric treatment of these animals through poison and murder is unconscionable.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:40:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lori gascon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is disgraceful. Feral cats on the Hawaiian islands are often spayed/neutered and taken care of by local nonprofits, residents and tourists. Counting and then killing these cats shows a lack of compassion and frankly, a lack of problem solving efforts. I am appalled that the legislature would consider such a cruel "remedy" for the cat population on the islands. As a tourist that loves to visit the islands 1-2 times per year, I will take my tourism dollars elsewhere should this house bill be signed into legislature. A highlight of my family's trips to the islands includes visiting the feral cats (which, by the way, are often more domesticated than not).

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:51:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dana Calistru	Homeless Tails	Oppose	No

Comments:

Ladies and gentlemen,

The proposed bill is utmost barbaric and has no place in a modern, civilized society. The real solution to controlling cat population is TNR - Trap-Neuter-Return. Many cities, states are supporting this measure with excellent results.

As a citizen of this country I am appaled that such a measure can even be discussed. Killing innocent cats ? Posion ? You definitely have NOT researched the effects of distroying a species in an unquestionable manner. I am outraged ! I am shocked ! I am ashamed that such a measure can even be CONTEMPLATED in a civilized society like ours.

I urge you to reject this shameful, barbaric measure and to get in contact with so so so many organizations out there who have tackled this problem in a humane, efficient way.

Thank you,

Dr Dana Calistru

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:08:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Colleen A. Haviland	Malama Popoki	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this archaic, inhumane bill. Work with those of us who are working to decrease the population of cats through proven methods. It costs nothing because we volunteer our time and resources.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:19:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louise Holton	Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am the founder and president of Alley Cat Rescue, Inc., an international nonprofit organization that practices and promotes humane treatment of cats. I have studied and worked with feral cat colonies for almost 40 years in South Africa, the U.K., and now in the U.S., and can personally attest to the effectiveness of population management methods that work in all parts of the world.

I urge you to reconsider your support for HB1987. Although the intent of the bill’s authors is to better protect seabird populations, these policies are misguided and will cost many cats’ lives unnecessarily.

Despite the potential for outdoor cats to prey on grounded birds, the protection they provide for birds’ eggs and chicks from rats must be considered. Island birds are not only eaten by cats, but they are also largely consumed by introduced rats. Rats destroy nests, eating eggs and feeding on fledglings. The removal of cats from islands subsequently results in the rapid increase of rat populations. Mesopredator release has provided management lessons for eradication efforts that target both an invasive apex predator and an invasive mesopredator. For example, after cats were eradicated from Macquarie Island, near Antarctica, the rat population exploded, decimating the ground-nesting bird populations. After cats were eradicated from Macquarie Island, near Antarctica, the rat population exploded, decimating the ground-nesting bird populations*.

It is tragically unjust that feral cats, which exist on the islands because of human actions, will face hardship and death at the hands of those who brought them there. Poisoning animals is *not* humane. There is a better, truly humane way to remove vastly decrease the threat of cat predation.

TNR stands for “trap-neuter-return,” which is the process of trapping, spaying/neutering, vaccinating, and then returning feral cats back to their outdoor homes. TNR is effective because it stops the breeding cycle of outdoor cats. TNR programs also remove kittens and cats who can be socialized from outdoor cat groups and stray cats who have become lost, further reducing group size. Mature and senior cats, who studies have shown hunt less, become the remaining group residents and will discourage new cats from moving into the

area. Additionally, being that these remaining cats are sterilized, the number of cats within each group will fall over time as the cats die naturally.

A wealth of research and links to studies on the efficacy of TNR, particularly in comparison with other methods of outdoor cat population management, is available on our website at www.saveacat.org/cats-and-wildlife.html. I hope that you will take the small amount extra time required to look further into the science behind TNR; if not for compassion for the feral cats of Hawaii, who are as much sentient individuals as the wildlife you want to protect, then for purely practical reasons because TNR truly is the most-tested, best-proven method of controlling and reducing outdoor cat populations.

I would be more than happy to answer any questions you may have on this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at laholton@aol.com, or through my assistant at debbie@saveacat.org.

Sincerely,

Louise Holton

President / Founder

Alley Cat Rescue, Inc.

***Strickland, Eliza. "Attempt to Control Invasive Species Backfires Spectacularly on an Antarctic Island ." Discover Magazine, 12 Jun. 2009, www.discovermagazine.com/planet-earth/attempt-to-control-invasive-species-backfires-spectacularly-on-an-antarctic-island.**

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:23:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Towle	Advocats Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to you to voice my TOTAL opposition to Bill HB1987. This bill is totally reprehensible and cruel to these poor animals that have been dumped on this island by unfeeling, uncaring humans who do not have enough sense to spay and neuter their pets, and then when they leave or just don't want to deal with them, they dump them!

I also want to know why are the cats being targeted, when their are millions of mongoose, and thousands of feral pigs and goats roaming the island causing damage to property. Cats serve a purpose in controlling the population of rats and mice. These other creatures serve absolutely no purpose at all, with possibly the exception of a few feral pigs which are hunted and eaten!

We, who volunteer for Advocats Hawaii, are doing our absolute best to spay and neuter these cats - over 25,000 to date, and maintain the colonies. We feed these animals very well, at our own expense, to keep them from hunting local bird populations.

This brutal, barbaric bill must be stopped immediately! The time and money invested in this bill would be far better put to use in funding no or low cost spay and neuter facilities, and help in finding homes for the kittens that are born!

Yaniv Sharon

Staten Island, NY 10314

(917)593-2437

Re: Bill HB 1987 Relating to Invasive Species

Dear Good People at the Hawaii State Legislature,

It's my understanding that this bill, should it pass, will grant funds to make a count of the feral cats of Hawaii and then to proceed with their eradication. I understand that this is to protect the native birds, reptiles and other animals that feral cats tend to hunt for food. Please don't do this. There is a better way.

In 2013, my dog Max (who I loved dearly) passed away and shortly after I saw a few stray and feral cats coming to my back porch. I took pity on them and fed them some canned tuna I had. They must have loved it and told their friends because the next day more cats came. Okay, so I went out to get some cat food and had enough for all to eat. They seemed happy and I felt good, but before long they started having litters of kittens. "Uh oh!" I thought to myself. I needed to keep the population under control.

I did a bit of online research and was introduced to a local organization here in NY called Neighborhood Cats. They have a location in Hawaii. 1215 S Kihei Rd, Ste O PMB 435, Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 755-9393 (Hawaii). They taught me TNR (TRAP, NEUTER/SPAY, RETURN). Basically, you trap the cats in these cage type traps. Then take them to vets or the HAWAII SPCA (here in NY the ASPCA offers free Spay and Neuter services to people who are TNR certified with organizations such as Neighborhood Cats. Getting certified is as simple as taking a one hour class.) The vets or Hawaii SPCA can perform the Spaying/Neutering service and afterwards you take the fixed cats to a location where they can heal from one night for neutered males to three or four nights for spayed females as spaying is more invasive than neutering. Once healed you release them to where you trapped them so they'll be familiar with their surroundings. From there they continue their lives, no longer able to reproduce and because they're fixed they lose their sense of aggression.

If I may suggest, please use those funds and rather than eradicate the feral cats, invest in NO KILL shelters, food and rehabilitation for the feral cats. That way they

won't need to hunt and the native animals of HAWAII will be safe. I know very well it may seem that feral cats can't be rehabilitated, but I have been taking care of a colony of feral cats here in my backyard in Staten Island, NY since 2014. They've gotten to know me. They know I won't harm them and they look forward to the food and fresh water I give them daily. I have taken a few of them into my home and they are no longer feral, but my pets. Bushy, Sunrise, and Brave were all feral cats that I have taken in and given them love. I would take them all in if I could, but I don't have the room. So I provide them with winter shelters in the backyard which keep them warm during these cold months. I imagine the weather in HAWAII is beautiful all year long so that's not really an issue there.

Again from the bottom of my heart, please don't kill these feral cats. TNR works and will keep the population under control. Please contact the Hawaii location of Neighborhood cats (1215 S Kihei Rd, Ste O PMB 435, Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 755-9393) and the Hawaii SPCA. I'm sure they will be more than happy to help with control of the feral cat population. This will work with time and patience. I'm sure with the same funding and timeline that HB 1987 is proposing, you will get better and more humane results with TNR.

I've never been to Hawaii and very much hope to make it there one day. Aloha and be well.

Sincerely,

Yaniv Sharon

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:23:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adam Thomas Townley-Wren	Good Cat Network, a Hawaii 5013c	Oppose	No

Comments:

We at Good Cat Network, with over 2000 members strong on Maui, stand in opposition as written to HB 1987. It is our stated goal to reduce and ultimately eliminate the feral cat population in the state of Hawaii but to do so Humanely and in a way that will actually work. The census MUST be done. That is without doubt but the suppositions and assumptions and blame laid upon the feral cats is based on very little real science. Mosquitoes are the major threat to native birds and human waste from regular sewage spills carries orders of magnitude more toxoplasmosis into the environment. Feral cats are simply a convenient excuse. What is needed here is a MASSIVE effort to spay feral cats, creation of "safe zones" away from sensitive wildlife areas (possibly sanctuaries), and education. Our organization has a four step plan to greatly reduce the feral cat population with state and county help. We are your army. We stand ready to assist but we need your help! Bills are introduced regularly to criminalize feeding of feral cats, those only serve to make bandits and outlaws of the very people trying to help. We are actually all on the same side, the bird folks, seal folks, and cat folk. We are all animal lovers and lovers of the environment. There is a middle ground to be found.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:06:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Zhizi Xiong	ROAR Rescue Of Animal Rights	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

I have a small animal rescue, ROAR Rescue Of Animal Rights, based in Kalihi. My work is very involved in helping to manage our neighborhood’s feral cats which contributes to the feral cat crisis here on Oahu. I’d like to oppose this bill because of the language used in the purpose section describing the unfavorable qualities of feral cats. I do, however, support legislative efforts to conduct humane & safe studies and to appropriate funds for feral cat management.

The legislature views cats as having “no intrinsic value”. The legislature also finds that feral cats destroy Hawaii’s native wildlife populations, especially native birds. The legislature finds feral cats are responsible for the spread of diseases such as Toxoplasma gondii. The legislature finds the Trap N Neuter strategy is not recommended by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. The bill refers to a 2013 University of Hawaii survey in which responses indicated residents want to remove cats from areas and the majority preferred the technique of “live capture and lethal injections” to manage feral cats. It seems, the research the legislature utilizes to drive the purpose of the bill is not in favor of feral cats. The narrative sheds a very negative light on feral cats. The legislature seems to view cats as a problem, a nuisance and something to get rid of. I’d like to oppose that narrative and introduce to the legislature reasons why feral cats should be looked upon favorably.

Many of the feral cats are adoptable. There are many animal shelters & rescues who rescues feral cats to adopt to people. I personally have adopted 3 feral cats and one of them is certified by a professional psychologist to be my Emotional Support Animal. The feral ESA kitten is approved medically to provide a support service. The kitten provides lot of comfort, happiness, joy & companionship. The US Department of Justice writes that emotional support animals “provide comfort just by being with a person”. ESAs have special protections under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). There are

many people who have adopted feral cats that then have become their ESA animals. For these reasons stated above, it can be concluded that feral cats have enormous intrinsic value.

The bill implements a feral cat management plan to be carried out by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. And so, I'd like to bring to attention the thriving cat community that already exists which governs, regulates & manages the Oahu feral cat population. The many feral cat colony caregivers & managers contribute positively to the lives of feral cats and feral cat colonies. These feral cat colonies exist in parking lots, churches, banks, car dealership lots, at parks, etc. The purpose is not to raise cats as pets in parking lots, but to safely & humanely manage the existing feral cat population. Many of these feral cat colony caregivers & managers pay out of pocket for the feral cat's meals, medical expenses & supplies. They coordinate with established & well known animal rescue organizations, vet clinics, emergency hospitals & shelters from the different cities in Oahu to provide quality care to the feral cat population. It would be in the interest of the legislature to work with the Humane Society to coordinate a management plan for Oahu's feral cat population. Many of the people from the cat community work with the Humane Society.

The cat colony feeders & managers are very active and their thriving community is very large and comprised of regular citizens, kapunas, disabled, vet techs, veterinarians, military families and other animal service providers. The cat community responsibly Trap N Neuters their cats. If you were to drive by a colony, you'll notice almost every cat will have a ear notch. Many of these caregivers & managers manage feral cats on state & city property. It would be in the fiscal interest of the legislature to appropriate funds to aid the current efforts of feral cat management.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:59:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
DARLENE RAYHILL	GOOD CAT NETWORK	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Darlene and I am a co-founder of the non profit organization called Good Cat Network.

We are currently collaborating with native bird non-profits and other native wildlife organizations to come up with a plan to mitigate the feral cat crisis on the islands.

I oppose this bill. I feel like it is poorly researched and will only get huge pushback from the community.

It speaks extensively about toxoplasmosis in the water, but does not address that toxo also exists in human feces and there are known sewage leaks, such as the area near Kanaha on Maui.

Collaboration is the only way to make positive change. There are many, better humane solutions and we are making headway. This bill could be way better and if it were, it could be supported by everyone.

Mahalo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:03:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elaine Anderson	KARES Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposition to Bill HB1987 is provided by the Kohala Animal Reloation and Education Service (KARES) because we believe the eradication of the feral cat population by the means proposed in the bill is inhumane. Our nonprofit group and many othe animal welfare groups have worked hard to reduce and control the cat population with spay/neuter and we have been successful. Our work has been reviewed and supported fiancially by several Mainland corporations and private foundations. In the last 10 years we have raised more than \$500,000 for this work. We have been SUCCESSFUL in reducing the number of cats. The wholesale killing of cats, or any other island animal, is not within the cultural experience of this island. Hawaii is not a country like China or other third world groups that anniliate whatever they do not like.

If this Bill is approved it will be a blight on the Hawaii Islands and future travelers will be appalled that action of eradication of all cats is the new spirit of the islands. Our opposition is voiced.

Elaine Anderson, VP of KARES on bealf of our Board of Directors and Volunteers.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:41:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Rather than expending funds to eradicate please funnel the funds to catch and release programs that netter/spay ferrel cats. This is so much more humane.

Remember we are also an invasive species and fortunately do not have some higher power deciding to poison us.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:07:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Ravlich	The Community Cat Coalition (NZ)	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am very much opposed to the cruel killing of community (feral) cats in Hawaii.

I stayed at the Hilton hotel some years ago and was very impressed that the humane caring of a desexed healthy cat colony was living near the hotel. A lady by the name of Jeanette at the hotel cared for the cats with a great welfare group. I am on the committee of a group in New Zealand who care for many colonies around Auckland (our largest city) and we too(NZ) are an Island nation. If the cats are desexed and cared for daily, they are not a problem to anyone, other than cat haters. Over many years by natural attrition the cats die out and the colonies slowly diminish until no cats left. I have trapped, desexed and fed cats for about 32 years and seen many colonies disappear. A well fed colony does not pose a threat to native wildlife, though humans cutting trees down and building multiple houses do. I was very impressed with the set up of the rescue groups in Hawaii and it would really be a sad mark on that State to slaughter and cruelly poison well cared for cats. I ask you, please reconsider this dreadful, inhumane action as it will get known around the world as we are just one group of thousands and word spreads fast about cruelty such as this. The cats are cared for and deserve to live out their lives with their caring volunteers kindly looking after them. Non cat people need to focus on the habitat the birds and other small animals are losing due to humans decimating their domain.

PLEASE RECONSIDER THIS DREADFUL CRUEL ACTION. I will follow the outcome with much interest, also will spread to other caring animal welfare groups. Cats keep rat numbers down and earn their stay. We work with councils in New Zealand and desexing of cats is the real solution and making sure cared for daily, therefore the state should be assisting with desexing dollars to help reduce cat numbers in the long term.

thank you for your time and your consideration, as I have worked in cat welfare for more than 30 years and know what works and what doesn't. Killing all the cats causes a vacuum effect and always more cats will come and begin another colony. Managed colonies work well.



February 2, 2022

Attention: House of Representatives, State of Hawai'i

Submitted By: Kauai Humane Society

Reference: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1987: Relating to Invasive Species

Kauai Humane Society acknowledges that free-roaming cats have the potential to dispatch members of native wildlife populations, however the threat that they pose is being aggrandized and misconstrued. Conservation efforts should be invoked and improved upon to resolve the real threats that affect endemic wildlife instead of continuously exaggerating the role that cats play and using them as scapegoats.

Hawai'i's wildlife has been in peril since the arrival of man. Seventy-one species and subspecies of forest birds went extinct with the arrival of Polynesians 800 to 1400 years ago as a result of hunting, habitat degradation, and invasive species (rats, pigs, and dogs).¹ Another 24 species went extinct when the Europeans arrived in the 1700s due to further habitat loss and invasive species (mongooses, black rats, mosquitoes, and cats).¹ Each species that was referenced in H.B. 1987 has been or is facing multiple vulnerabilities resulting in the decline of their population, but none of the species referenced are essentially declining due to feral cat predation.

- The Lāna'i Hookbill's extinction was a result of the extinction of "snails through human intervention," which was a possible primary food source and in "large part to destruction of forest habitat by agricultural development".²
- The Hawaiian rail was affected by all introduced invasive species, especially the mongoose, but also rats, dogs, and cats.³

¹ Greenspan, Jesse. "Why Hawaii is the epicenter of the avian extinction crisis." *BirdWatching*, 3 Dec. 2021, <https://www.birdwatchingdaily.com/news/conservation/hawaii-epicenter-avian-extinction-crisis/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

² Bishop Museum. "Lana'i Hookbill." *Bishop Museum*, 11 Aug. 2001, <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/angered/hookbill.html>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.; Deaton, J., & G. Hammerson. "Lana'i Hookbill." *NatureServe*, 10 Jan. 2022, https://explorer.natureserve.org/Taxon/ELEMENT_GLOBAL.2.101342/Dysmorodrepanis_munroi. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

³ Bishop Museum. "Hawaiian Rail." *Bishop Museum*, 1 Mar. 1997, <http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/angered/hawaiirail.html>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.



- The `Alalā (Hawaiian Crow) population has been in jeopardy due to habitat loss, habitat alteration, predation, human interaction, and diseases.⁴ A reintroduction took place in 2016, which failed due to predation by the `Io (Hawaiian Hawk).⁵
- The Palila currently resides in 5% of its historic range. Sheep (domestic and mouflon) have destroyed its habitat while making it susceptible to mosquito diseases. Mongooses and cats are capable of eating nestlings.⁶
- The 'A'o (Newell's Shearwater) face multiple threats as their breeding sites have been severely impacted by hurricanes, pigs, goats, and invasive plants.⁷ Artificial lights cause young birds to become exhausted and grounded where they are susceptible to starvation, dehydration, car collisions, mongooses, dogs, and cats.⁷ However, collisions with power lines are a significant cause of mortality for Newell's. From the 1980s and 1990s around 700 Newell's were killed due to collisions each year and from 2012 to 2020, it was estimated more than 6,000 collisions took place.⁸ During 2007-2014, 50% of Newell's fledglings ingested plastic impacting their survival along with dangers from the commercial fishery.⁹
- The Laysan duck has the smallest range of any duck species. Populations were decimated by rats 800 years ago and now struggle on Laysan Island as rabbits devastate the vegetation.¹⁰
- The Puaiohi (Small Kaua'i Thrush) is threatened by rats that predate their young and eggs while pigs, goats, and invasive plants degrade their habitat and mosquitoes spread disease.¹¹

⁴ "Restoring the Extinct in the Wild `Alalā (Hawaiian Crow)." *Reverse the Red*, 2021, <https://www.reversethered.org/stories/hawaiian-crow>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

⁵ Rogers, K. S. "The Hawaiian Crow is Once Again Extinct in the Wild." *Audubon*, 16 Oct. 2020, <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-hawaiian-crow-once-again-extinct-wild>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

⁶ "Palila." *American Bird Conservancy*, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/palila/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

⁷ "Newell's Shearwater." *American Bird Conservancy*, 11 July 2014, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/newells-shearwater/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

⁸ "Species factsheet: *Puffinus newelli*". *BirdLife International*, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/newells-shearwater-puffinus-newelli/text>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.; Travers, M. S., S. Driskill, A. Stemen, T. Geelhoed, D. Golden, S. Koike, A. A. Shipley, H. Moon, T. Anderson, M. Bache, and A. F. Raine. 2021. "Post-collision impacts, crippling bias, and environmental bias in a study of Newell's Shearwater and Hawaiian Petrel powerline collisions". *Avian Conservation and Ecology* 16(1):15. <https://doi.org/10.5751/ACE-01841-160115>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

⁹ "Species factsheet: *Puffinus newelli*". *BirdLife International*, <http://datazone.birdlife.org/species/factsheet/newells-shearwater-puffinus-newelli/text>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁰ "Endangered Laysan Ducks Have a New Home." *Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument*, 30 July 2020, https://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/news/laysan_duck_translocation.html. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹¹ "Puaiohi." *American Bird Conservancy*, 1 May 2015, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/puaiohi/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.



- The `Akikiki (Kaua`i's creeper) has been pushed to the brink due to mosquito diseases, avian malaria and avian pox. Their habitat has been overrun by invasive plants while pigs, goats, and sheep destroy their habitat. Rats and cats are capable of predation.¹²
- The `Akohekohe (Crested Honeycreeper) is found on 5% of its original range due to habitat destruction, pigs, goats, and sheep. It is susceptible to mosquito diseases and may be preyed on by rats, mongooses, Barn Owls, and cats.¹³
- The Nēnē (Hawaiian goose) remains were examined between 1992 and 2013; the leading cause of death was emaciation from starvation followed by trauma from vehicular strikes than predation by mongooses and dogs and diseases. Habitat loss and alteration and hunting have also contributed to their decline.¹⁴ In October of 2021, during a two-week interval, three nēnēs were fatally struck by vehicles within the boundaries of Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park, an area that offers protection to the geese.¹⁵
- The Hawaiian monk seal's leading cause of death from 1992-2019 was human-caused (57%), only 14% was from toxoplasmosis.¹⁶ In a 2019 study, lay nets were one of the primary causes of death.¹⁷ Since 2001, 15 seals were confirmed to have died from toxoplasmosis. Since 2009, 15 seals were killed intentionally by humans and in 2021, three were killed by humans on Molokai.¹⁸

Acknowledging the actual causes of decline for these species demonstrates that the animal contributing "to widespread ecological disruptions that threaten native wildlife, particularly in island jurisdictions"

¹² "Akikiki." *American Bird Conservancy*, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/akikiki/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹³ "Akohekohe." *American Bird Conservancy*, 15 May 2015, <https://abcbirds.org/bird/akohekohe/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁴ Johns, Robert. "New Study Identifies Sources of Mortality For iconic Hawaiian Goose." *American Bird Conservancy*, 23 July 2015, <https://abcbirds.org/article/new-study-identifies-sources-of-mortality-for-iconic-hawaiian-goose/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁵ Ferracane, Jessica. "Recent nēnē deaths caused by speeding and feeding in Hawai`i Volcanoes National Park." *National Park Service*, 21 October 2021, https://www.nps.gov/havo/learn/news/20211021_nr-nene-deaths.htm. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁶ Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center. "New Study Reveals Most Impactful Threats to Main Hawaiian Islands Monk Seals." *NOAA Fisheries*, 1 June 2021, <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/new-study-reveals-most-impactful-threats-main-hawaiian-islands-monk-seals>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁷ Subiono, R. & S. McCullough. "NOAA: Fishing Net Entanglement Likely Caused Death of Hawaiian Monk Seal 'Mele'." *Hawaii Public Radio*, 26 July 2021, <https://www.hawaiipublicradio.org/the-conversation/2021-07-26/noaa-fishing-net-entanglement-likely-caused-death-of-hawaiian-monk-seal-mele>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

¹⁸ Honore, Marcel. "Endangered Monk Seal Dies of Gunshot Wound to The Head, Authorities Say." *Civil Beat*, 21 Dec. 2021, <https://www.civilbeat.org/2021/12/endangered-monk-seal-died-of-gunshot-wound-to-the-head-authorities-say/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.



(HB 1987) is humans. In 2015, cats did not even make Hawai'i's top ten list of invasive species.¹⁹ Yet in 2014, a proposal was made, almost identical to HB 1987, aiming to eradicate cats by 2025 on the island of Kaua'i.²⁰ Ungulates cause more damage than cats to the survival of endemic wildlife. Pigs wallow creating habitat for mosquitoes, spreading deadly diseases, the most dire is avian malaria (killing "95% of the 'I'iwi it infects").²¹

Cats prefer to prey on mammals as opposed to birds.²² Rats pose a large risk to native birds putting their eggs and chicks at risk. The Polynesian rat will take advantage of ground nests, while the black rat will climb trees to take advantage of arboreal nests. Without cats contributing to the predation of rodents in the island ecosystem the risk to birds actually increases and native bird populations decrease. This has been observed on Stewart Island in New Zealand and Amsterdam Island.²³

HB 1987 states that "87% of Hawaii residents agreed that feral cat abundance should be decreased." As an animal shelter, we also agree that the feral cat population should be decreased and is growing because of the number of unaltered (i.e., not spayed or neutered) cats that are free-roaming. Kaua'i is an example of an island that has been trying to alter as many cats as possible, but because of the constant vilification and condemnation of cats, people that care for cats are fearful about reaching out for spay/neuter assistance or sharing their location. This makes successful, targeted trap-neuter-release ("TNR"), although proven effective to be futile. If the concerns of toxoplasmosis were authentic (infecting humans primarily through ingesting undercooked meat), funding would be going toward spay/neuter clinics as the spread of toxoplasmosis is taking place in kittens.²⁴ Kittens would not be able to spread toxoplasmosis if cats were spayed and neutered.

¹⁹ "Hawaii's Top Ten Invasive Species Highlighted During Annual Week." *Hawaii Invasive Species Council*, 4 Mar. 2015. Press Release. <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/news/hawaiis-top-ten-invasive-species-highlighted-during-annual-week/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022

²⁰ "Kauai mulls how to reduce feral cat population." *Star Advertiser*, 4 July 2014, <https://www.staradvertiser.com/2014/07/04/breaking-news/kauai-mulls-how-to-reduce-feral-cat-population/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

²¹ McGlashen, Andy. "The 'I'iwi, a Besieged Hawaiian Forest Bird, Is Not Listed as Threatened." *Audubon*, 20 Sept. 2017, <https://www.audubon.org/news/the-iiwi-besieged-hawaiian-forest-bird-now-listed-threatened>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

²² Nogales, M. & F. M. Medina. 1996. "A review of the diet of feral domestic cats (*Felis silvestris f. catus*) on the Canary Island, with new data from the laurel forest of La Gomera." *Zeitschrift für Säugetierkunde* 61: 1-6, <http://hdl.handle.net/10261/22914>; Nogales, M., J. L. Rodriguez, G. Delgado, V. Quilis', & O. Trujillo. 1992. "The Diet of Feral Cats (*Felis catus*) on Alegranza Island (North of Lanzarote, Canary Islands)." *Folia Zoologica* 41(3): 209-212, <https://digital.csic.es/bitstream/10261/23480/3/FoliaZoologica-Nogales-1992.pdf>

²³ Courchamp, F., M. Langlais, & G. Sugihara. 2001. "Cats protecting birds: Modelling the mesopredator release effect." *Journal of Animal Ecology* 68(2): 282-292, <https://doi.org/10.1046/j.1365-2656.1999.00285.x>

²⁴ "Toxoplasmosis: General FAQs." *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, 3 Sept. 2020, https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/gen_info/faqs.html. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.; "Toxoplasmosis in Cats." *Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine*, June 2018, <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/departments-centers-and-institutes/cornell-feline-health-center/health-information/feline-health-topics/toxoplasmosis-cats>.



Another supposition stated in HB 1987 is that residents find a “lack of intrinsic value of feral cats.” Despite cats having a minimal effect on wildlife in comparison to many other species and habitat destruction, the disproportionate attention cats receive is unprecedented and they are frequently inaccurately portrayed as the slayer of all Hawaiian wildlife. Cats have value and if instead of negatively portraying them they were positively portrayed their value would go up resulting in fewer free-roaming cats. Animals, pets, and breeds that have higher value are better cared for, kept indoors, and receive more medical attention than those that are not. If the language around cats was revised, cats would find themselves inside homes, spayed/neutered, and not spreading disease. The unfortunate language commonly used toward cats in Hawai`i is one of the greatest hurdles toward decreasing the cat population.

HB 1987 makes mention of baiting as the most effective method of decreasing cat populations, demonstrated by Australian researchers. Australia uses 1080 in their baits, a poison that was banned in the United States in 1972 by President Nixon.²⁵ This poison has regularly been brought back into use for predator control until the compound that does not pose a risk to non-target species causes the death of non-target species, such as birds and pets.²⁶ Use of such a poison could be exceedingly dangerous for the Hawaiian Crow, Hawaiian Hawk, Hawaiian Owl, Barn Owl, pigs, and dogs that are being used for hunting.

With regard to Kaua`i ecosystems, culling has never been an effective method of decreasing the cat population. Culling has been taking place on Kaua`i for years and we still find ourselves in the same situation having the same discussion. Tasmania found that feral cats increased at cull-sites and that to be successful with a cull is to instead take a multi-faceted approach toward decreasing the cat population.²⁷

Kaua`i Humane Society supports the decision to conduct a count of feral cats by June 30, 2023 as numbers often being cited are speculation and unverifiable. We believe they significantly overstate the actual number of feral cats.

Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.; “Cats & Toxoplasmosis Information.” *Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association*, 28 Dec. 2016, <https://hawaiivetmed.org/cats-toxoplasmosis-information/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

²⁵ “Frequently Asked Questions Tackling Feral Cats And Their Impacts.” *Australian Government Department of the Environment and Energy*, <https://www.awe.gov.au/sites/default/files/documents/factsheet-tackling-feral-cats-and-their-impacts-faqs.pdf>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

²⁶ Reeves, Jay. “Maker of Lethal Chemical Fights a Ban.” *The Washington Post*, 19 Dec. 2004, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/politics/2004/12/19/maker-of-lethal-chemical-fights-a-ban/f4103ea0-4390-4c34-8929-2ef667f570a2/>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.; “Help Us Ban Compound 1080” *Predator Defense*, May 2019, <https://www.predatordefense.org/1080.htm>. Accessed 1 Feb. 2022.

²⁷ Lazenby, B. T, N. J. Mooney, & C. R. Dickman. 2014. “Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: A case study from the forests of southern Tasmania.” *Wildlife Research* 41(5): 407-420, <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR14030>.



Kaua`i Humane Society does not support the language used in HB 1987 nor the suggestion of baiting and culling to decrease the cat population. We support the use of spay/neuter, humane trapping methods that provide the opportunity for a positive outcome, and the creation of predator-free safe havens.

We also find the elimination of cats on the island of Kaua`i by December 31, 2025, to be absolutely ludicrous and unrealistic. Future discussions and program development must include animal welfare agencies/shelters that demonstrate their ethical responsibilities toward the consideration of cats as well as biodiversity, and it is clearly demonstrated that the well-being of both is not being considered.

Respectfully,

Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:00:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leonard Kahl	Ala Mai Farmstead, LLC	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I live in Waialua on Oahu and am deeply concerned about the irreversible harm and devastation caused by feral cats in my community and across Hawaii nei, as identified by scientific research, whose results or covered in the preamble of HB1987.

Not only do I fully support the steps and conservation measures proposed in HB1987, I implore our leaders to take a stronger stance against the enablers and promoters of feral cat populations, such as through stronger penalties and higher fines.

Because many of the species being harmed, decimated, and pushed to extinction through feral cat predation or disease are federally protected, I would expect federal authorities to hold the state of Hawaii accountable under the Endangered Species Act, as appropriate. I can only hope such preventable accountability does not come at the expense of the Hawaii taxpayer.

Finally, it is worth noting that so much of Hawaii's culture and environment has been lost to invasive species, and in this rare circumstance where solutions exist to protect Hawaii's natural resources and cultural treasures, we actually have a path forward and a solution within sight.

Mahalo nui,

Leonard Kahl

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:41:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gary Longtin	AdvoCATS	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose bill HB1987:

As a volunteer with Advocats Hawaii County, we have cared for feral cats for 10 years. We feed feral colonies daily and TRAP, SPAY/NEUTER and RETURN to limit population growth. One colony has shrunk from 20+ cats to 7 in that timeframe. Our group has spay/neutered over 25,000 cats in 20+ years. This is a compassionate method of containing the population.

I would suggest this type of program could be carried out by county personel to care for this problem in a more humane way, at a reasonable cost. Euthanasia/poisoning is a drastic and barbaric step that diminishes us all. Are we the superior race?

Respectfully, Gary Longtin

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:14:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maureen Longtin	AdvoCATS	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am opposed to the new legislation proposed for the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Invasive Species council known as HB1987. This is not humane treatment of animals!

It is a shameful bill!

AdvoCATS has spayed /neutered over 23,244 cats on Hawaii Island. Trap-Neuter-Return is the humane answer to this tragedy of feline overpopulation on the Hawaiian islands. It is the humane way to deal with the problem.

Respectfully,

Maureen Longtin

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:17:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Tambornino	Catopia Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Death by rodenticide is extremely painful and cruel.

“What are the clinical signs of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning?”

Initially, cats do not show signs of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning. After ingesting this type of bait, it takes 1-2 days for vitamin K1 and clotting factors in the body to be used up. Next, it takes 3-7 days before signs of poisoning occur due to blood loss. Bleeding is not always obvious as it often occurs inside the abdomen, chest, lungs, joints, and gastrointestinal tract. In some cases, bleeding may be visible from the mouth, nose, or even ears.

Signs of internal bleeding may include weakness, depression, increased respiratory rate, difficulty breathing, coughing (which may produce blood), pale gums, lack of appetite, enlarged abdomen, vomiting, bloody or dark tarry stools, swelling or pain in the joints and bruising. If bleeding occurs within the brain or spinal cord, cats may have neurologic signs. If bleeding is not recognized and treated, death may occur.”

<https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/rodenticide-warfarin-poisoning-in-cats>

If we are to be stewards of this Earth, of the islands, then we should do so responsibly. And part of our responsibility is to be humane in the way in which we handle animals who share the same home.

As a cofounder for a nonprofit dedicated to animal rescue, I have seen first hand how cruel a death by rat poison is. The animal suffers horribly. It is an extremely inhuman way to die.

Not only does the poison slowly and painfully kill cats, but it also kills other animals who come into contact with it.

Please stop DLNR from introducing this poison into our environment and cruelly killing every animal that comes into contact with it.

The way in which we treat animals says a lot about our character. As a public official, it is your duty to be a person of good character. Thank you for your time and compassion.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:11:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Armstrong	Love A Cat Charity	Oppose	No

Comments:

My husband and I have been trapping cats to spay/neuter for about 30 years in Hawaii. (When possible we take cats/kittens out of feral colonies and adopt them to indoor homes). A good example of how TNR works to humanely and seriously lower numbers of homeless cats is our work fixing the cats around and near the Ala Wai Golf Course. We fixed just under 70 cats there starting around 1998 and within a few years approximately 10 of those cats were still alive (all fixed). We have fixed over 300 in a colony near us in Pearl City and there are now 120 remaining. The longevity of an outdoor cat, according to the internet, is 2-5 years. So we fix, they live a few years without reproducing and then die a natural death. This problem was created over time by people and overtime we will solve it humanely. Perhaps a good use of government resources would be to help/encourage the wonderful spay/neuter program at the Humane Society. Another possibility would be to have a stricter policy with the military about spaying/neutering cats BEFORE they come in to Hawaii. Please do not pass this horrific bill which will cause such suffering with cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:42:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jennifer ito	JENNIFER ITO MD LLC	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am appalled that such a barbaric and cruel bill would even be proposed. We do not live in a third world country. We have the means to humanely reduce these feral populations through education, TNR programs and support of local community members willing to take on the responsibilities of managing these feral cats. Multiple attempts at "catch and kill" to reduce feral populations have been largely unsuccessful. It's a one time fix, but with overwhelming problem of irresponsible pet owners, lack of spay/neuter resources, illegal dumping of cats-- this problem will be never ending.

Catch and kill will reduce the number of cats temporarily – that's common sense. But, catch and kill is hugely resource intensive. This is unsustainable in the long run as *illegal dumping of cats* and *cats wandering into the area* is a problem that will continue. Thus, necessitating more catching and killing on and on and on forever and ever.

TNR brings human beings together. . The humans involved in this effort included the hundreds of volunteers, plus all the colony caretakers, plus many concerned citizens doing one-off TNR.

“Trap-neuter-release,” or TNR as the approach is called, has been hailed by the no-kill movement, which opposes routine euthanasia by animal shelters. And it has been adopted by animal control departments in more than 400 cities and counties. No one wants to resort to mass killing. And well-run trap-neuter-release programs may be an important part of dealing with our national cat problem. But increased and organized efforts to educate humans about their responsibilities to their animals are also crucial. So is more rigorous enforcement of existing spay/neuter laws and far more access to affordable services.

Supporting our local kill shelters, and TNR volunteers is also crucial to alleviating this widespread problem.

I am vehemently opposed to this bill, and feel this inhumane and cruel treatment of animals sets a sickening example to our islands, our children and our legacy.

Jennifer Ito MD

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:21:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dawn Garlinghouse	Abaykitties	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dawn Garlinghouse and I am the Director of Abaykitties on The Big Island. Myself and my small group of volunteers provide fresh food and water to multiple colonies of community cats in our area. I trap and transport them to our local spay/neuter clinic and also provide medical care for them for the rest of their lives. I could go on and on about how precious these living, loving souls are to us and to the thousands of visitors who come to see them year after year. You only have to scroll through our Facebook and Instagram pages to see how loved these cats are world wide. These are not what you think of when you think "feral". These cats crave human attention, pets and even curling up in your lap if given the chance. They all have names and very distinct personalities. Yes, I have homed some but the reality is with a population of 200k people, many of whom rent or live at or near the poverty level there aren't enough homes for the volume of homeless animals. I ship them to mainland rescues when possible, I have 3 flying out this month.

These cats aren't here because they want to be. They're abandoned as kittens, teens and adults. More so than ever before because of the devastation to our economy by covid. And for this they deserve to be murdered ? That's what you're proposing, murder !!

If you want to spend \$\$ on the cat overpopulation issue, spend it on a sanctuary, spend it on spay/neuter clinics. Fine owners who don't spay/neuter their pets. Don't spend our taxpayer \$\$ on murdering unwanted animals.

I'd like to know how much toxoplasmosis are the ever multiplying mongoose putting into our eco system? How about our cesspools, septic and sewers that are leeching into our waterways, how much toxoplasmosis is in that waste ? Humans are the biggest destroyers of native animals and plants. Are we going to cull stupid humans too

A long time mainland visitor to The Big Island wrote this beautiful essay about our "feral" cats. I couldn't say it any better.

https://fourbillionyears.org/feral_cats/

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:57:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pierre SCHMIDT	physician general practise	Comments	No

Comments:

Advo-CatsHawaii will do it! no killing of loveley cats!!!! tourists won t come anymore in a country who kill cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:41:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Georgie Fong	Oreo's Aloha Farm Sanctuary	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposed HB 1987, bill classifying feral cats as INVASIVE SPECIES., We HUMANS here on Hawaii are an evasive species also. So that fits the slogan,,,"Pot calling the Kettle Black". I strongly against humans making up LAWS to PREMEDIATE MASS KILLING ANOTHER ANIMAL!! and the cats have NO knowledge and cannot fight back to protect their own lives against the Conspiracy.!!! This action is the most EVIL, RUTHLESS, VICIOUS, BARBARIC thing humans can do. I strongly suggest you come up with other compassionate means to CARE for our FERAL cat population with OUR TAX DOLLAR and I vehemently disapproved of you using my tax dollars to kill cats or any other living creature that share this piece of Earth here called Hawaii.

mahalo for allowing me to comment.

Dr. Georgie Fong, MS, ND

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:32:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kim Murphy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The eradication strategy championed by HB1987 is bill is inhumane, unrealistic and alienating to the only people who are actually doing anything to count or manage Free-Roaming cats on a large scale, animal welfare groups and TNR volunteers. And it is a waste of my tax payer dollars. The state should instead require sterilization & microchipping of all cats and that cats be kept indoors.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:26:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Oppose	No

Comments:

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain advocates for the humane treatment of all animals, including wildlife.

It is not the fault of cats who have no home that they prey on wildlife.

Eradicating homeless cats is cruel and results in a perpetual cycle of killing because the spaces left when cats are killed are soon filled by other animals.

The humane programme of Trapping, Neutering and Returning is a solution used worldwide and we understand there are many willing volunteers to help implement it.

We beg to oppose this inhumane motion.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:49:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Song	A Bay Kittens, ADVOCATS	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a Hawaiian Resident born and raised in the islands. I have been around animals for all my life and to hear that this has become an issue and that the only way to solve this is to end innocent lives!! We all have no choice on being born into this world, which goes for all animals, but here we are and that our only soul purpose in life is to survive and to live! I do understand what has become of the dangers to our wild life, our home surrounding etc.. That is just the nature of a single animal. We have Goats, wild boars, sheep, that do also create situations for the island as well, however we do take into consideration that they are just here to live and survive until it is their time which nature has its own way of taken care of things with out the force of humans. I have worked as a volunteer for several years with ADVOCATS and A Bay Kittens in the effort of maintaining a healthy environment for feral cats as well as caring for them. There are other organizations throughout all islands that would love the chance to come up with a more positive solution in the efforts of maintaining the lively hood of these wonderful, loving and caring animals who just need a chance in this world. Perhaps the funds to support DLNR should go to the organizations that so desperately need the counties help in their efforts to maintain a healthy environment for all.

I speak for hundreds of relentless volunteers who give their 100% everyday to help support the cat environment and other animal and wild life and will continue to. We ask for your help in an effort to solve this issue in a more humane way, reach out to all organizations for suggestions and help, you will be surprised of how far and wide the animal community will rally in their efforts and support to help!!

February 3, 2022

The Honorable Mark J. Hashem
Chair
House Committee on Agriculture
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 424
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Sylvia Luke
Chair
House Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 306
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable David A. Tarnas
Chair
House Committee on Water & Land
Hawaii State Capitol
Room 316
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairman Hasham, Chairman Luke and Chairman Tarnas:

We are writing today on behalf of Alley Cat Allies and our thousands of supporters in Hawaii to make you aware of our grave concerns regarding HB 1987, which would – if enacted - require and fund the development and execution of a mass killing of free-roaming cats across the State of Hawaii. The slaughtering of cats is something my organization, Alley Cat Allies, and the vast majority of the citizens of Hawaii believe to be unacceptably cruel and unethical.

I am the president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, the world's leading advocacy organization dedicated to the protection and humane treatment of cats. We have promoted evidence-based and compassionate policies for cats since our founding in 1990, and we regularly advise individuals, nonprofit groups, local governments, and state policymakers on humane approaches to cats.

HB 1987 would (1) require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to conduct a count of feral cats per island by the end of June 2023, (2) require the Invasive Species Council (ISC) to develop and implement a program to “effectively reduce” the feral cat population in the State by the end of 2025, and (3) appropriate funds for the fulfillment of these tasks by DLNR and ISC. Regarding the “effective reduction” of feral cat populations, the bill indicates that by the end of 2025, the feral cat population on the islands of Kauai, Maui, and Hawai'i should be “eliminated” and the feral cat population on the island of Oahu should be reduced by 50%.

The bill makes plain that these eliminations and reduction should be achieved via a cull, and recommends that the ISC consider the dispersal of poisoned baits, specifically singing the praises of Curiosity® and Eradicat® poison baits. The bill inaccurately refers to this method of killing as humane and also inaccurately indicates that the baits pose no risk to non-target species.

There is nothing humane about the way cats die after ingesting either Eradicat® (which contains sodium fluoroacetate) or Curiosity® (which contains para-aminopropiophenone) Both are enthusiastically suggested in HB 1987, and both bring about painful deaths involving much suffering. Sodium fluoroacetate (1080) has no known antidote. It is flat out wrong to say that non-target species are not victims of suffering and death as a

result of Curiosity® and Eradicat® baits. The Government of Australia itself acknowledges as much. Non-target animals are at risk following the ingestion of these horrific baits and through ingestion of animals – cats and others – who have recently eaten the baits. In humans, poisoning by 1080 causes vomiting, abdominal pain, confusion, agitation, cardiac abnormalities, twitching, and sometimes seizures and death.

HB 1987 ludicrously suggests that through massive culling across the Hawaiian islands free-roaming cat populations will be “eliminated” on Kauai, Maui and Hawai’i by the end of 2025 and reduced by 50% on Oahu. There is simply nothing to support this wild claim.

The amount of poisoning that would be required to even attempt to meet this cruel objective is staggering and would be necessary involve extensive placement of baits in heavily habituated locations, including areas where children and pets play. Tourists and citizens alike would encounter the baits and dead animals.

And after all the risk presented by such distribution of poison, all the suffering and all the death, it would still have no chance of providing any meaningful long-term reduction in free-roaming cat populations. Study after study confirm that in an area in which there is potential for the migration of new cats, re-population will occur. The goal of eradication of cats is simply non-viable. Multiple peer-reviewed scientific studies also have shown that with the exception of on very small islands on which there is no possibility of influx of new cats, efforts to remove cats from any given area do not actually decrease feral cat populations over the long-term.

So not only would it not work and risk harming people and other animals, but the inescapable reality is that the people of Hawai’i are deeply opposed to the killing of free-roaming cats. They object to the very heart of what HB 1987 proposes – the mass extermination of cats.

Alley Cat Allies commissioned two state-wide polls, one in 2017 and one in 2018, to take the pulse of the citizens of Hawai’i on their preferred approach to management of free-roaming cat populations in your state. Both polls were undertaken by award-winning, Hawai’i-based public opinion firm, Anthology Marketing Group, and involved polling hundreds of residents of Hawai’i eighteen years of age and older (485 respondents in 2017; 683 respondents in 2018).

Both polls showed unwavering, strong opposition to lethal cat population management methods.

Seventy-seven percent of residents of Hawai’i indicated that they would leave a stray cat outside when given the choice between two courses of action on what to do on finding a stray cat - leaving the cat where it is outside or having the cat caught and then put down.

The result which may in fact be most germane to discussion of HB 1987 is centers around the question of whether it is ok to engage in the lethal removal of animals in attempts to help save other species. The following was read to respondents:

“Stepping away from the specific details, I’m going to read a statement to you and I’d like you to let me know whether you agree or disagree with it. Choosing to kill members of one animal species to save another is inhumane and should not be allowed.”

Fully 71% of those surveyed agreed with the statement. Please re-read that and let it sink in.

Seven in ten residents of Hawai’i do not support killing members of one animal species to save another one. They, like we, want efforts to be undertaken to protect endangered species. They – like we – want effective efforts put into place that truly protect endangered species and their habitats, and we – like they – want these efforts to be carried out without the inclusion of the lethal removal of animals.

There are many studies showing that non-lethal method of predator control (wolves, coyotes, cats, etc.) is highly effective, and there are an ever growing number of programs in place across the US and around the world demonstrating the effectiveness of this approach.

The old-school, tried-and-failed, ethically troubling approach to conservation in which it is thought to be morally ok and believed to be effective to kill large numbers of animals in hopes that doing so might help save others is

increasingly rejected by the leading lights in the conservation community globally.

Killing need not and should not be part of Hawaii's approach to conservation.

It falls to the legislature to help set clear bounds around what it allows to be done on behalf of the people with tax dollars collected from the people. On this point, the public has given clear direction.

The public wants killing to be taken out of Hawaii's conservation toolbox. The public does not want poison bait littered across the state, and it does not want cats killed.

We respectfully request that HB 1987 receive no further legislative attention. Instead, more realistic, compassionate suggestions be developed and put forward in its place. Dropping HB 1987 will save the state a great deal of money, aggravation, failure and negative public attention.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Becky Robinson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Becky Robinson
President & Founder, Alley Cat Allies

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:17:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KANAKO TSUGE	JAPAN	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposite killing cats.Life is equal around all animals concluding human beings. We should find another way to solve the problems.

Cat People of Oahu
P.O. Box 894286 • Mililani, HI 96789
www.catpeopleofoahu.org
catpeopleofoahu@gmail.com
EIN: 83-2888194

February 2, 2022

IN OPPOSITION OF HB1987

Dear House Committee on Agriculture:

Cat People of Oahu is a 501c3 nonprofit cat rescue with a mission to help people help cats. We provide information, education, resources for individuals who own or care for pet, feral, and free-roaming cats. We actively promote and participate in Trap-Neuter-Return and strive to humanely reduce the cat overpopulation problem on our island.

We are testifying against House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. This bill is inhumane, unethical, and dangerous.

Poisoning is one of the most horrific and painful ways for a cat to die. It is frankly shocking that anyone in the Aloha state would suggest such a barbaric and cruel method of reducing the free-roaming cat population. It is important to consider how such a bill would cause Hawaii to be perceived on a national and international level.

Intentionally poisoning a cat is animal cruelty and is a crime in Hawaii and the United States. This action is a felony punishable by law. Accordingly, how can legislators reasonably suggest state-sanctioned killing in a manner that is outright illegal? To do so would set a precedent that this is an acceptable behavior and encourage others to do so without cause and fear of repercussion.

By intentionally poisoning free-roaming cat colonies, you will put the lives of other non-target animals in danger. We live on a very densely populated island where cat colonies are in our urban, suburban, and rural communities. Domestic and wild animals live in all of these areas and there is no way to accurately prevent pet dogs, pet cats, or wild birds from accidentally ingesting poison. Additionally, in such highly populated areas, there is always the risk of unsupervised children being unintentionally harmed.

Ultimately, this bill fails to address the free-roaming cat problem where it starts – personal responsibility. The state needs to focus on providing low-cost spay and neuter to residents, strengthening laws that punish individuals who abandon their animals, increase the availability of pet-friendly housing, and work with military commands to educate on responsible pet ownership.

We encourage the state to embrace Trap-Neuter-Return as the only effective and humane way to manage the free-roaming cat population on the island. With the state's support and funding, Trap-Neuter-Return efforts can finally be maximized.

We implore the House Committee on Agriculture to vote against HB 1987.

Mahalo nui loa,

Alexis E. Jamison
President

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:13:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosalind Canite	West Hawaii Humane Society - Ginger Towle	Oppose	No

Comments:

I was appalled to hear that "my representative" Nicole Lowen is the originator of this initial bill HB1987 " count and kill feral cats". And to give such a short notice to respond, one day? Not only does this angers me but clearly shows the kind of representation and lack of respect to the people of our community that you Nicole are responsible for. If you are indeed the originator if this bill shame,shame on you. If my beloved Hawaii mother, Ginger Towle were here today, she would have better choice of words for this ungodly bill. She courageously spoke on behalf of those 4 legged furry friends who couldn't speak for themselves and went up against those that continually shot her down, but that didn't stop her. She fought for the rights and supported such organizations as AdvoCats and many other citizens who care for tirelessly go out and make sure to support trap, spay and neuter programs. Nicole if you are not the originator of this bill and want to continue to represent our community, then stand up alongside with those who chose you to represent us and truthfully testify under oath that you did not originate nor support this bill. When you hug your own kitty, please think about all the others out there defenseless waiting for you to count and kill them. No.more vote for you Nichole.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:35:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Kaaumoana	Hui Hoomalu i ka Aina	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, on behalf of Hui Hoomalu i ka Aina, one of the parties to the legal action requiring the Kauai Seabird Habitat Conservation Plan, this legislation is key to the effort to protect the dwindling remaining native birds in Hawaii.

We are fishermen, weavers, hunters and farmers with family histories in Hawaii since humans arrived in these islands.

These birds play a vital role in the health of our cultural and economic environment.

We strongly support this legislation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:23:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Narumi Shikada	Japan	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't want to hurt my beloved cats.They are loved and protected.I pray that my thoughts will reach you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:03:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steven Thompson	Lucky Paws Animal Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

We strongly oppose culling of community cats.

Refent studies show that TNR is the most effective approach to reduce overpopulation but we must have this legislature on board with high intensity TNR, not the killing of cats.

A new study shows that over a 10-year period, free-roaming cat populations managed by a high-intensity trap-neuter-return (TNR) program experienced 31 times fewer preventable deaths. There are many groups on this island that want and need support and funding to go after and sterilize these community cats and we have largely been ignored.

[A Long-Term Lens: Cumulative Impacts of Free-Roaming Cat Management Strategy and Intensity on Preventable Cat Mortalities](#) was recently published in the peer-reviewed open-access journal *Frontiers in Veterinary Science*.

Using sophisticated modeling software to simulate the impacts and associated costs of seven different management strategies on reducing cat populations, the study’s key findings include:

- TNR can be effective for reducing preventable deaths. When performed effectively, TNR can reduce preventable deaths drastically while also reducing population size.
- Intensity matters. The ability of TNR to reduce preventable deaths and population size largely depends on intensity.
- Kitten mortality deserves more attention. Kitten deaths comprise a large majority of preventable deaths under all management scenarios, including removal where trapped cats are euthanized.
- ***Reducing abandonment is important. More than with any other option, TNR outcomes (especially population size reduction) can be improved by efforts to reduce abandonment and adopt out friendly cats.***
- Comparing approaches. Culling (waiting until populations reach a certain level before removing and euthanizing cats) is likely to be ineffective for population management regardless of intensity, while the effectiveness of regular removal (a certain percentage of cats removed every six months) varies with intensity.

“Sadly, many communities still opt to do nothing to control populations of community cats or use outdated, ineffective methods such as sporadic trapping and removal. This research confirms

that high-intensity TNR is the most effective, humane way to stabilize a population of community cats and, over time, reduce them,” said Margaret Slater, DVM, PhD, Senior Director of Research at the ASPCA and co-author of the study.

When even your animal control contractor (HHS) opposes the plan, you know it's junk! We implore you to implement a high intensity TNR campaign instead of culling thousands of animals unnecessarily.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:36:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Nickerson	Hawaii Island Humane Society	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture,

In opposition of HB1987.

My name is Lauren Nickerson and I am the Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Island Humane Society.

The Hawaii Island Humane Society agrees that data is needed to better understand the state's Free-Roaming cat population. Our colleagues at the Hawaiian Humane Society on Oahu are presently coordinating the first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawaii, working with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking DC Cat Count. As a member of the Hawaii Animal Welfare Association, the Hawaii Island Humane Society intends to stay current on the progress made on this front by our colleagues at The Hawaiian Humane Society.

The eradication strategy championed by this bill, however, is inhumane and unrealistic. It will only serve to further alienate those who are poised to make a positive impact: animal welfare groups, TNR advocates, and colony managers who are dedicated to the humane management of free-roaming cats.

The Hawaii Island Humane Society is in favor of solutions to humanely manage existing cat populations such as TNR and establishing colonies away from sensitive waterways and ecosystems, as well as government-supported funds for spay and neuter services to prevent the continued population bloom of free-roaming cats.

Finally, by eliminating the existing cat populations, the explosion of rodent populations will have damaging effects to our fragile ecosystem and public health. There are more sustainable ways to provide humane care for existing free-roaming cats, while also mitigating the effects on other species.

As is written, The Hawaii Island Humane Society is strongly opposed to the mass eradication of free-roaming cats in Hawaii and the cruel methods proposed. Please join us in developing humane solutions for effective management of free-roaming cat populations and fighting this short-sighted and cruel attack on vulnerable animals who are living outdoors through no fault of their own.

Lauren Nickerson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:18:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alisha Tokumaru	My Five Strays	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987, It is highly unethical to euthanize feral cats. Feral cats and community cats are being successfully managed by their colony caretakers and feeders. Instead, the legislation and other concerned parties should consider educating people about Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR), fixing their pet cats and keeping them indoors only. The legislation and other concerned parties should consider that the cat population could be better managed if the people would stop trapping and dumping cats. The legislation and other concerned parties should consider educating the people who are dumping their pet cats and that it is the people who are the problem and not the feral cat population. Military families, families who move off island, or families who move to non pet friendly homes will often dump their pets, unfixed, at local cat colonies. If the people stop dumping their pets, take responsibility as a pet owner and get their pets fixed this would increase the success of TNR. Why are we going to euthanize former pets, and feral cats because of a problem that humans created? They didn't ask to be left on the streets to fend for themselves. They can't talk and ask for help like humans can. Alternatives that can be pursued is educating the public about fixing their cats, TNR, not dumping their pets, and rehoming them before moving off island. It should also be encouraged to fix a cat before adopting them out or rehoming them, if anything a bill should be passed on that, that a cat/kitten MUST be fixed before going to their new home.

TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1987

By Holly Holowach, Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary

Please accept this testimony STRONGLY OPPOSING HB1987.

I, Holly Holowach, have spent my life being of service. For two decades, I served the very wealthy as a caterer and event producer. Then for another two decades, I served the poorest of the poor as the director of two shelters, U.S.Vets Hawaii and Weinberg Village Waimanalo, that serve the homeless individuals and families with little or no money or resources.

Now I serve those beings who need me the most – feral and homeless cats.

We agree. There is a crisis in Hawaii where the explosion of homeless cats has caused the general population to want to do anything to remove them, even if it means killing perfectly healthy animals, as this bill does. Living on an island in the middle of the ocean provides unique issues that other communities don't have to be concerned about. We are fortunate to have a plethora of unique wildlife and ocean life that isn't found anywhere else on earth! Cats were brought here by European settlers who came by ship. Without spay/neutering or any natural predators, they rapidly multiplied. Over the centuries, they have found their way to every part of every island. Without human intervention, they feed on native birds, like the endangered Shearwaters that nest in the ground along the beaches. They are also a danger to the monk seals because **SOME** cats (not all) can carry toxoplasmosis. If they have the virus and their fecal matter enters the ocean through rain runoff, they can contaminate the water and sandy shoreline where the monk seals live and rest. We just recently lost one of our monk seals to this horrible, preventable disease. This hurts me as it does you. Because people love and want to protect the endangered species, they tend to resent and want to destroy all of the cats. Since this is a man-made problem, we need to be the ones to fix it before more die.

We understand that this is a problem and like you, want to solve it.

KILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER!

I am the Founder of Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary, which is dedicated to providing a permanent, loving, healthy safe home for the homeless cats, which is a WIN for the community, a WIN for the cats and a WIN for the endangered wildlife who are at risk due to the activity of the homeless cats.

Like the people who wrote and support this bill, I love and want to protect the wildlife on these islands, especially the endangered birds and monk seals. I understand the issue and know there is no easy solution. But I also feel that cruelly slaughtering thousands of healthy cats is NOT the answer.

Many of you may have heard of the Lanai Cat Sanctuary which has been extremely successful at removing feral cats from areas where the birds nest and giving the cats a safe, loving home in an outdoor enclosure similar to a lion enclosure at the Zoo. The local DLNR on Lanai have trapped cats and brought them to the sanctuary which solves the problem for the agents who want to protect the birds and the people who want to protect the cats. This creates a win-win situation!

Please take four minutes and watch this short video featured on the CBS Morning News to understand how this works and why it can be replicated on every island to help us solve this problem statewide.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/video/island-hopping-the-lanai-cat-sanctuary/>

There was a feral colony of cats living on the Weinberg Village Waimanalo property. When I wanted to retire, the State Homeless Programs Office required that I remove the colony of about 50 cats, even though I had not brought them there. Being a good steward of the animals, I had taken on the responsibility to trap, spay/neuter them and get as many adopted as possible. While researching for someone to help me move them, I found that there wasn't any location like the Lanai Cat Sanctuary anywhere else on O'ahu or any island.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary is so successful and well loved all over the world, so I became determined to start Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary here to help the cats on this island.

The problem here is that we not only have feral cats all over the island but we also have a lot of stray and abandoned cats roaming the streets. Cat haters have started trapping pet cats and dumping them in neighborhoods far from home. Pet owners can't find their cats who end up fending for their lives eating whatever is available. People who leave the island and can't take their cats are also dumping them in feral colonies which is terrible for cats who used to be pets.

All of this puts a strain on the thousands of people around the island who go out night after night to feed their colonies. These people use their own time and money to TNRM their colonies. TNRM means Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage. Cats are trapped and "fixed" which prevents more kittens thus lowering the populations on the streets. Cats are then returned to their colonies because cats are very social and like to stay with their own families and friends. Manage refers to the very important step of going out day after day to feed the animals and trap any who show up and haven't been fixed. Colony caregivers know their cats and make sure they are well-fed and get medical care.

When I think of the problem, I am aware that my one sanctuary might just be a drop in the bucket in a problem of this size. There are literally THOUSANDS of homeless cats living all over the island of O'ahu who are in serious jeopardy without intervention. In my BIG vision, I see sanctuaries that can hold thousands of cats, not just hundreds! I visualize Popoki Place sanctuaries all over the island and even around the state. Right

now, I am hoping to start on land in Waimanalo. But with your support, I can visualize and WILL CREATE Popoki Place Waimanalo. Then we could create Popoki Place Haleiwa, Popoki Place Waianae, Popoki Place Pearl, Popoki Place Town, etc. Why stop there – we could also create Popoki Place Lahaina, Popoki Place Kihei, Popoki Place Hana, Popoki Place Makawao. We could also do the same thing on all of the islands. I know that there are already groups who want to start sanctuaries on Kauai and on the Big Island.

KILLING IS NOT THE ANSWER.

If we work together, dedicate some land to this endeavor, and find a way to support it, I know that there are thousands of cat lovers on every island and around the world who will step up and help us build these sanctuaries.

OUR MISSION

“Popoki Place is dedicated to the mission of providing a safe, loving, healthy home for homeless cats.”

OUR VISION

“We envision a world where all cats on the island of O‘ahu have a safe place to live their best possible lives which will also protect our endangered birds and monk seals.” (We could increase this to “in Hawaii” not just the island of O‘ahu!)

Our vision not only encompasses the homeless cats that we will help at Popoki Place but reaches ALL cats on the island whether they come into our sanctuary or are adopted or are cared for by one of the other groups on the island.

Please – **STOP THIS BILL.**

Give us what we need to make Popoki Place happen. Give us a chance to make a difference in the lives of the cats, the endangered wildlife and the community.

LOVE cats? – HELP US.

HATE cats? – HELP US.

Love Wildlife and Endangered Species – HELP US CREATE POPOKI PLACE!!!!

It will be a WIN-WIN-WIN! A Win for the cats, a Win for the Wildlife and a Win for the community!!!!

We CAN do this!

For more information, please contact me at Holly@popokiplace.com, 808-226-2271 or visit our website, <https://popokiplace.com/>

Mahalo for reading this and considering a NO vote.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:58:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelley Blessing	A Kitty's Pursuit of Happiness	Oppose	No

Comments:

Culling of any species has been proven time and time again to be ineffective due to the vaccum effect. Trap-neuter-release programs work. A decline in bird populations are primarily due to humans, NOT feral felines nor other animals. Most if not all of Hawaii's outdoor tourist, shopping, hotel, restuarants etc have horrific glue traps installed which rips off limbs and wings of birds if they are lucky to be able to pry away. One is very disheartened when visiting Hawaii only to witness how businesses are purposely harming and killing birds simply because they "might" defecate or beg for food from patrons. Please don't blame this on innocent cats who occasionally will catch a injured bird (and again, injured because of something related to humans), look at our own destructive species. Humans are the results of all imbalance - never animals!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:42:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alfreda Shore	Catsnap	Oppose	No

Comments:

As President of a cat rescue, our extensive use of spay/neuter has significantly reduced the cat population in a humane way. Clinics held 3-4 times a year is an inexpensive way to encourage spay/neuter and reduce the overpopulation naturally.

I would certainly hope this solution would be considered versus a bill to exterminate cats because it is thought to be an easy solution. Such a bill is inhumane, unnecessary and unexceptable.

Take the time to review the data proving spay/neuter is the only solution.

Alfreda Shore

Catsnap President

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:41:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicemarie O'Neill	Cats	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello and thank you for hearing my testimony for the cats.

Attached is a recent photo of mother and daughter cats (Grace & Grace, Jr.). Both are spayed. On the Big Island we have several organizations, such as Advocats, whose primary focus is trap-neuter-release. And it is working. We just need time to continue our work.

We feed the feral cat population, mostly out of our own pockets. We don't ask for anything except the time to continue our work. Granted, humane animal control is slower than poison. But our work is respectful of life, all life. I also care for turkeys and birds.

Does Hawaii really want to be know for animal slaughter? There are humane ways to support and control animal LIFE. Native birds are safer when we regularly feed the feral cat population. Primary care starts with trap-neuter-release. It is the 1st course of action when we find a new cat/kitty. And it is working. We just need time to continue with the program. Granted, it is slower than poison. But it is more respectful of life, all life. Do we really want to set the example for our children that we remove animals by wholesale slaughter? Or, do we want to teach respect for life? We can't do both.

Please, give us time. That is all we ask. If you want to visit feral cat colonies on the Big Island, I would be happy to arrange this. Wildlife is a big part of Hawaii's appeal. Please, let us honor them.

Respectfully

Alicemarie O'Neill

alicemarie777@gmail.com

808-315-8415

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:39:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicemarie O'Neill	Cats	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello and thank you for hearing my testimony for the cats.

Attached is a recent photo of mother and daughter cats (Grace & Grace, Jr.). Both are spayed. On the Big Island we have several organizations, such as Advocats, whose primary focus is trap-neuter-release. And it is working. We just need time to continue our work.

We feed the feral cat population, mostly out of our own pockets. We don't ask for anything except the time to continue our work. Granted, humane animal control is slower than poison. But our work is respectful of life, all life. I also care for turkeys and birds.

Does Hawaii really want to be know for animal slaughter? There are humane ways to support and control animal LIFE. Native birds are safer when we regularly feed the feral cat population. Primary care starts with trap-neuter-release. It is the 1st course of action when we find a new cat/kitty. And it is working. We just need time to continue with the program. Granted, it is slower than poison. But it is more respectful of life, all life. Do we really want to set the example for our children that we remove animals by wholesale slaughter? Or, do we want to teach respect for life? We can't do both.

Please, give us time. That is all we ask. If you want to visit feral cat colonies on the Big Island, I would be happy to arrange this. Wildlife is a big part of Hawaii's appeal. Please, let us honor them.

Respectfully

Alicemarie O'Neill

alicemarie777@gmail.com

808-315-8415

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:37:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Frances Pueo	Hui Pono Holoholona	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Frances Pueo oppose HB 1987, because it's wrong and will not solved the cat over population with senseless killing. This bill is full of trying to justify and reverting to a "Kill mentality solves all" towards the feral feline population. On the contrary to that senseless belief, if allowed to pass is more destructive then solving any problems.

Let's be absolutely clear what is really killing our native bird population, and too straining their full recovery. The greatest threat to our native species is caused by the Humane hand!

1. It's the destruction of their food and nesting areas caused by lack of Hawaii Legislature to place large specific land areas from any form of encroaching human development.
2. The Earth temperature is rising, and so are bird diseases that is life threatening as it spreads within their flocks. Bird Malaria once was more prevalent in coastal area zones is now spreading to higher elevations.
3. Run offs of everyday garden poisons, pollutes the air as well as fresh and salt waters. This weakens all living immune systems. Hawaii Legislators should step up and make a complete ban on future poisons coming to our islands.
4. It is well documented that the Hawaiian Crows when introduced to its habitat failed because it fell prey by our own Hawaiian Hawk and Hawaiian Owls. So more false hype to blame cats!
5. Kids with pellet guns kill more birds than any cats. Pellet guns should be banned, as serves no purpose.
6. Rats – Rats are prolific is killing more nesting bird fledglings than any cats. Rats are great tree climbers, with no barriers to stop them, except the cat. Cats are number one predator of the Rat.

1. 2004 HIHS on Hawai'i island were euthanizing well over 13,000 mostly cats a year. Those numbers were increasing with each year. Our Community questioned the unnecessary killing of healthy cats, and demanded better solutions. Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage of cat colonies was a brand new concept, and through Kona AdvoCats free spay and neuter clinics, the solution to decrease cat population humanely became its success. 2007, on the East side, Hui Pono Holoholona started free/low cost spay and neuter feline clinics. With each year, through education, grants, and getting more and more of our community in favor and involved shows success just by reviewing the Hawai'i Police monthly and yearly Humane Society Stats. What was high yearly killings of 13,000, now

less than 5,000. This is a joint effort by all the 501c3 nonprofit spay and neuter organizations. The science supports T-N-R-M of cat colonies.

The POINT! Reverting once again to killing is going to cause more harm. Trap Neuter Return Manage of cat colonies works in protecting indirectly are bird population. That may seem hard to believe but altered cats no longer will breed, and decreases cat population. Fed and managed feline colonies are less likely to hunt for food.

Respectfully Yours,

Frannie Pueo (808) 769-1128/ Feb 3rd 2022

President-Founder Hui Pono Holoholona

P.O. Box 943

Mt. View, Hawaii 96771

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:33:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Czekaj	Humane Society of the United States	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 must be opposed.

Trap-Neuter-Vaccinate-Return (TNVR) is the only scientifically effective way to manage homeless cat populations. Trap and euthanize or poison campaigns are not effective and rarely solve homeless cat issues because of the vacuum effect. Poison campaigns are an unnecessary use of tax-payer dollars and result in no significant reduction in homeless cat populations, and are highly unethical.

TNVR volunteers in Hawaii are making great progress. Instead of "kill" bills, legislation needs to be passed to provide more resources to TNVR organizations.

Thank you,

Tara Czekaj

Humane Society of the United States

Congressional District Leader, PA-18

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:32:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Regina Wilson	Animal Ohana Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Regina Wilson. As Director of Animal Ohana Hawaii I wish to provide written testimony opposing HB1987 reference invasive species count and management through irradiation. Cats on our island are an issue because of human actions and poor management for pet abandonment laws. I would like to challenge DLNR to organize animal organizations and cat people already involved in Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) activities to mass trap fix in multiple islands locations to sterilize the populations. Already pet organizations have been working to manage locations and create colonies as a way to contain kitten season. Organizing and managing would greatly improve the reeducation of cats capable of breeding and causing issues with endemic populations. Kill actions would endanger pet populations that are allowed to roam as indoor/outdoor. Neighbors and individuals do steal and dump a pet that they feel are trespassing upon their property. Organizing mass trap and fix will chip and enable a study of cat ranges and migration. It is important to meet the issue together in a win-win-win situation. My organization teaches school aged children about the invasive issue and how to manage their communities. Isn't it time that the adults act to set examples and educate through example? Blaming cats for toxoplasmosis and bird kills only adds to the misinformation. Mongoose kill birds and eat eggs. All mammals can carry and spread toxoplasmosis. The organism just happened to choose an effect host to breed in. Please consider using the public to TNR and manage healthy, safe, colony approved through DNLR to reduce the threat from feral cats. Mahalo for your time and consideration of my testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:26:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Grace Lin	Love A Cat Charity	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Grace Lin and I am a board member of Love A Cat Charity. I am testifying against the proposed HB1987 bill and imploring the honorable members of the Hawaii State Legislature to instead consider directly attacking the root of the feral cat problem which is illegal dumping of animals, and not having animals fixed. Should this bill pass and most feral cats eradicated, they will return and the same problem will exist, not to mention the cruel death these animals will suffer.

I ask you to take the budget set for killing these animals, and use it to fund TNR (Trap Neuter Return) groups. It is a proven method to reduce feral population. In addition, make it a bigger fine for people who illegally dump their animals. Make it a deterrent and we won't be overrun with feral cats that not only harm our beautiful flora and fauna, but also live painful and often diseased or disabled lives. There is an incredible network of private citizens and charitable organizations that manage a majority of the feral cat population. Help them. Give them some authority to point out people that dump their pets. When I lived in Northern California, the local police department asked for citizen volunteers to help ticket those illegally parked in handicap spots. This not only gave meaning to a lot of otherwise retired or homebodied citizens but it also solved the illegal parking issue. We can do that here. Hawai'i has such a caring and proactive community. Please work with us to do the right thing (significantly lower the feral cat population) while doing it in the right way (not inhumanely killing them and inviting the rat population to flourish until the feral cat population booms again).

Thank you kindly for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Grace Lin



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

1255 23rd St. NW
Suite 450
Washington, DC 20037
P 202-452-1100
F 202-778-6132
humanesociety.org

Feb. 3, 2022
PO Box 772
Honolulu, HI 96826

TESTIMONY OPPOSING HB 1987

Susan Atherton
Co-Chair

Thomas J. Sabatino, Jr.
Co-Chair

Kitty Block
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*

William H. Hall
*Treasurer and
Chief Financial Officer*

Alison Corcoran
*Chief Development
and Marketing Officer*

Katherine L. Karl
*General Counsel and
Chief Legal Officer*

Erin Frackleton
Chief Operating Officer

Nicole Paquette
*Chief Programs
and Policy Officer*

Alexa Herndon
Chief People Officer

Miguel Abi-Hassan
*Chief Animal Rescue,
Care and Sanctuary Officer*

Johanie V. Parra
Secretary

DIRECTORS

Susan Atherton
Yolanda Berkowitz
Georgina Bloomberg
J. Elizabeth Bradham
Marcus East
Carolyn N. Everson
Caren M. Fleit
Robert A. Greenspon
Brad Jakeman
Cathy Kangas
Sylvia T. Kaser, Esq
Adi Kumar
Charles A. Laue
Kathleen M. Linehan, Esq.
C. Thomas McMillen
David S. Niekerk
Marsha R. Perelman
Thomas J. Sabatino, Jr.
Suzy Welch
Steven G. White

The Humane Society of the United States is ardently opposed to HB 1987, a plan to eradicate “feral” cats in the state of Hawaii.

While we appreciate the State’s commitment to protecting threatened and endangered species, and share that concern, we are concerned with the humane treatment of all animals. We recommend against lethal management of “feral” cats on humane grounds as well as for the lack of proven effectiveness of such efforts.

The complete elimination of “feral” cats on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii and the elimination of half the “feral” cats on Oahu, by the end of 2025 is both abhorrently inhumane and fantastically implausible. The extreme measures the State would need to employ to reach such a goal would have devastating effects on household pets, residents and tourism to the state. Eradication of this popular pet will not sit well with the public. Residents of and visitors to Hawaii want to see animals treated humanely. An all-out war on cats is simply not in line with societal values nor a responsible use of taxpayer dollars.

The best methods for the control of a domestic species should not be left up to a wildlife agency. Given that housecats, indoor/outdoor pet cats, free-roaming lost and stray cats, and unowned feral cats are all the same species, treating domestic cats as invasive species alongside fire ants and coconut rhinoceros beetles is overly broad. Not only is the beyond the public’s general view of domestic cats, application of HB 1987 can lead to conflicts with existing anti-cruelty laws that apply to domestic cats. Domestic cats are defined as “pet animals” in §711-1100 of Title 37, Hawaii’s Penal Code. regulated by the Department of Agriculture. County governments and local humane societies work with the Department to manage these species for their health and welfare as well as the health and welfare of people and the environment. Animal welfare organizations in Hawaii have invested significant time and effort to address cat populations, have an understanding of the human dimensions of free-roaming cats and are best positioned to lead efforts to humanely address these challenges. The state’s humane societies have made great strides in the past decade to expand sterilization programs for all domestic cats. Cat counts, as proposed in the legislation, are already being implemented in parts of the state.

Humane, non-lethal strategies do work.



After a century of removing cats from the outdoors without having an impact on their numbers, animal shelter professionals have found trap-neuter-return based programs are far more effective in both saving lives within the shelter and decreasing the overall population of free-roaming cats in our communities. Peer-reviewed scientific research supports the effectiveness of non-lethal sterilization programs:

- A community cat program at the University of Central Florida in the 1990s reduced cat population by 85% over the course of 10 years.¹
- A population of over 300 cats in Newburyport, MA was eliminated through a concerted TNR effort paired with rehoming of adoptable kittens.²
- A 67% decrease in cat population was found in a Chicago neighborhood targeted for TNR, over the course of 8 years.³
- A study of TNR in rural North Carolina compared the impact of TNR with control groups. There was a 36% mean decrease where TNR was employed (range 30-89%) versus a 47% mean increase of control groups – where the actual increases across the three sites were 31%, 127%, 283%.⁴

Pet cats would be killed if HB 1987 were to pass

Free-roaming cats can be found within or adjacent to highly populated residential areas, making it impossible for a lethal eradication effort to differentiate between an unowned and an owned cat. Lethal means which will be employed should HB 1987 be adopted are final, giving cat owners no recourse to reclaim their family pet under the stray hold policies of their local shelter. A statewide “feral” cat eradication program under the leadership of the Invasive Species Council would circumvent existing laws and policies regarding lost and found pets and leave many families heartbroken at their loss.

HB 1987 and Poison Baits are Not Effective

While no actual plan is included in the bill and no check and balances on what that plan will include, guidance appears to come from Australia’s effort to eradicate “feral” cats. The bill claims baiting cats with specially designed products containing toxic substances, Curiosity and Eradicat, is the most effective method of controlling cats, however the success of such baits in Australia appears to be greatly exaggerated.

¹ Levy, Julie K., David W. Gale, and Leslie A. Gale. "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* 222.1 (2003): 42-46. <<https://doi.org/10.2460/javma.2003.222.42>>. Web. 3 Feb. 2022.

² Spehar DD, Wolf PJ. An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study. *Animals (Basel)*. 2017 Oct 31;7(11):81. doi: 10.3390/ani7110081. PMID: 29088106; PMCID: PMC5704110.

³ Spehar, Daniel D, and Peter J Wolf. "A Case Study in Citizen Science: The Effectiveness of a Trap-Neuter-Return Program in a Chicago Neighborhood." *Animals : an open access journal from MDPI* vol. 8,1 14. 18 Jan. 2018, doi:10.3390/ani8010014

⁴ Stoskopf, Michael & Nutter, Felicia. (2004). Analyzing approaches to feral cat management—One size does not fit all. *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. 225. 1361-4. 10.2460/javma.2004.225.1361.



- Curiosity bait trials in Western Australia found no significant reduction in feral cat population after aerial baiting. None of the cats in the study died as a result of the poison bait⁵.
- A comparison study of Curiosity and Eradicat found mortality rate of cats was low, with Curiosity killing two out of ten cats and Eradicat killing two out of eight. One reason given for the poor results was logistical issues with preparing and deploying the baits. Increasing the scale of such a project as to cover the entire state of Hawaii would thus seem to lead to an even lower efficacy and an extremely poor use of taxpayer dollars.⁶
- One study claiming “significant” impact with aerial poisoning of cats, only experienced a 15-20% reduction in the population.⁷ This is not a high enough intensity of removal to have a true long-term impact on the cat population, leading to even more killing, more wasted taxpayer dollars and no gains for wildlife.
- A study of baits as a management strategy for cats on Australia’s Kangaroo Island, found that cats rarely encountered the baits and only took the bait on one occasion. Shockingly, 99% of the baits were taken by non-target species, including several listed as endangered.⁸

The killing of non-target animals resulting from widespread aerial baiting programs can be significant. The logics given is often that the benefit to the chosen species outweighs the negative impact on the less desired species. However, no ecological risk assessment has been conducted nor is such a study part of the proposed legislation.

An environmental impact assessment was however conducted with regards to a Los Angeles California citywide cat program that included sterilization efforts for free-roaming cats. The final environmental impact report found that the program would have no negative impact on wildlife or the environment.⁹

Poison baits are not humane.

The two poison baits specifically mentioned in the proposed legislation, Eradicat and Curiosity, use Compound 1080 (sodium monofluoroacetate) and para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP), respectively.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency banned compound 1080 in 1972, later re-approving it only for use in Livestock Protection Collars in 1985. In fact, the poison is so dangerous that the FBI has identified it as a potential weapon of terrorism, and a threat to water and food supplies.

⁵ Johnston, M., O’Donoghue, M., Holdsworth, M., Robinson, S., Herrod, A., Eklom, K., Gigliotti, F., Bould, L. and Little, N. (2013) *Field assessment of the Curiosity® bait for managing feral cats in the Pilbara*. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No. 245. Department of Sustainability and Environment, Heidelberg, Victoria.

⁶ Algar, D., N. Hamilton, M. Onus, S. Hilmer, S. Comer, C. Tiller, L. Bell, J. Pinder, E. Adams, and S. Butler. 2011. *Field trial to compare baiting efficacy of Eradicat® and Curiosity® baits*. Perth.

⁷ Clausen, L., S. Cowen, J. Pinder, J. Pridham, A. Danks, P. Speldewinde, S. Comer, and D. Algar. 2015. *Fortescue Marsh Feral Cat Baiting Program (Christmas Creek Water Management Scheme) Year 4 Annual Report*. Perth.

⁸ Hohnen, R., Murphy, B. P., Legge, S. M., Dickman, C. R., & Woinarski, J. C. Z. (2020). Uptake of 'Eradicat' feral cat baits by non-target species on Kangaroo Island. *Wildlife Research*, 47(8), 547-556. <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR19056>

⁹ <https://eng.lacity.org/about-us/divisions/environmental-management/projects/citywide-cat-program>



Neither 1080 nor PAPP are an approved method of humane euthanasia, as defined in the American Veterinary Medical Association Guidelines for Humane Euthanasia of Animals. Compound 1080 causes vomiting, convulsions, and other painful and distressing symptoms before death from cardiac failure or respiratory arrest. PAPP causes animals to lose oxygen in the blood. While they may lose consciousness before death, cats may suffer anxiety and distress from not being able to move before losing consciousness. With the tactics colored as “humane” by proponents of this bill, animals can suffer for hours before dying.

Given the proximity of where the “feral” cats live to human residential areas, the sight of domestic cats suffering such a fate, dying in the streets, in backyards, in public parks, will cause alarm and trauma to many residents and visitors to the state.

Domestic cats and non-target wildlife are not the only victims of these poisons. Dogs are particularly susceptible to 1080 and accidental poisonings are known to happen in Australia, despite strict regulations on the toxin’s use. Haphazard aerial dispersal of such poisons put pets at risk. Even dogs walked on leash will not be safe. There is no antidote for compound 1080. The antidote for PAPP poisoning, methylene blue, must be administered intravenously by a veterinarian within 30 minutes of ingesting the poison, which is about the same time that the first symptoms appear.

Widespread dispersal of poisons is simply irresponsible and inhumane.

We recognize that there is an urgent need for practical and effective solutions to the challenges associated with the presence of cats outdoors. However, HB 1987 is not it. With determination, innovation, and collaboration, we can implement and sustain effective programs to humanely resolve human-cat-wildlife conflicts. That means including animal care and sheltering professionals as well as wildlife professionals in the crafting of a plan. Animal welfare organizations invest significant resources and energy each year on cat rescue, sheltering, adoption, and other protection measures. We encourage the legislature to support collaboration and problem solving among stakeholders rather than empower those who wish to eradicate cats by any means necessary.

Sincerely,
Susan Rhee

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:47:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karly Noetzel	CatSnip Hawaii	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hearing Committee,

I wanted to bring your attention to the humane work that CatSnip Hawaii and A-Bay Kitties has been doing to combat this exact issue of cat overpopulation. These two non-profit organizations work with a team of dedicated volunteers to trap, neuter/spay and vaccinate, and domesticate the wild cats of the Big Island with the goal of controlling the population in a humane manner. Killing the feral cats of the Big Island is cruel and inhumane, and there are far better options to fund that have scientifically proven to work, which I will outline below.

During the past few months, CatSnip Hawaii has held multiple adoption events in partnership with Hawaii Preparatory Academy to rehome cats to loving community members. If trapped cats are too feral to be rehomed, CatSnip Hawaii, A-Bay Kitties, and their team of volunteers return the cats to their original location and provide daily food and water for them, so that the cats do not rely on hunting or seeking out garbage for survival.

I ask you to please visit and carefully read this scientific article posted by the Executive Director of the NYC and Los Angeles Animal Care and Control Departments at <https://sentientmedia.org> to learn about how sterilization is the most effective way of controlling cat populations versus killing them: "Extermination only exacerbates the problem and actually produces worse results than doing nothing at all." Basing your decision on this fact checked scientific data will provide the Big Island with the most effective method of reducing threats to native species.

Sincerely,

Karly Noetzel

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:56:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liberty Peralta	Popoki + Tea	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I'm writing to urge the legislature to oppose HB1987 and redirect funding to support humane, evidence-based solutions to the feral cat issue, namely TNR, or trap-neuter-return. Humans created this problem, and it's up to us as humans to implement responsible, humane solutions that will work in the long-term. Implementing a program as proposed in HB1987 is not only cruel and inhumane, it's also been shown in other locales who have implemented similar measures that they do not work in the long-term, and leads to an endless cycle of killing and suffering (for both cats and the people involved). Please let's be wise about how we use our resources and support organizations and individuals who are already doing TNR in our communities instead: KAT Charities, Rescue Kitties of Hawaii, Neighborhood Kitties in Kaimuki are several that we work with that have placed socialized cats into our cat cafe and found responsible homes for them, instead of a death sentence. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:56:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Murray	Luckster Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is inhumane, you might as well go around and eradicate all the repeat human offenders that have over 50 charges on their record, homeless people, people living on the streets with mental illnesses and the drug addicts wandering the streets.

Ridiculous

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:09:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jay Penniman	Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project	Support	No

Comments:

As manager of a project dedicated to restoring seabirds to their ecological roles supporting coastal resiliency and watershed sustainability, I ask you to support, filly fund and pass this bill. Seabirds transport marine nutrients to the terrestrial habitats, from where they percolate to the near shore coral reef habitats and provide essential nutrients, stimulating growth and sustainability to corals, fish, limu, invertebrates - indeed the entire community. Cats are the major threat to the survival of breeding seabirds. In Maui county alone, conservation organizations spend over half a million dollars a year controlling feral cats!.And ther cats are loosers to - they are vulnerable to disease, traffic acidents and more. The best thing for cats is to be owned, kept indoors and walked on leashes - treat them with regiu;lation, just as we treat dogs.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:24:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kamil Dawson	Kitty Corner Hawaii, Action 4 Animals	Oppose	No

Comments:

I live on Hawaii island where approximately 14,000 animals (dogs and cats--mostly strays and abandons) have been killed annually. This has been going on for over 25 years and it has NOT solved the issue. Hawaii is the extinction capital of the world and the consensus of all the research I have read has been (1) loss of habitat due to over development and (2) pollution from toxins used by humans. It seems that people are the primary cause even in the ocean. In many areas of Hawaii, cesspools are used and sewage is dumped into the ocean. Herbicides and pesticides run-off is killing the reef life. Animals are abandoned by humans to fend for themselves. Hawaii has a terrible rodent problem. Mongoose kill nesting birds not rats.

1. we humans blame one source for the extinction of monk seals, birds, plants, we will find ourselves with unintended consequences. This issue must be addressed by looking at each cause contributing to the deaths of plants and animals and address it systemically and systematically. It is irresponsible to apply a solution, such as, eradicating all cats, when the causes are varied. This definitely will cause other issues, such as, rodent population explosion. Here are some links to articles that explain the different causes.
<http://www.savemonkseals.ucsc.edu/fast-facts-about-monk-seals> - " The biggest threats to Hawaiian monk seals are entanglement, food limitation, disease, shark bites, and climate change."

"Toxoplasmosis is only infectious in feces that are at least 24 hours old. People also can become infected when they eat contaminated raw or undercooked meats, such as beef, pork or lamb."
www.Petsandparasites.org

Some of the infectious diseases that pose a risk to the Hawaiian monk seal population include Canine and phocine distemper viruses, West Nile virus, Leptospira spp., and Toxoplasma gondii " from. <https://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/>

"The problems that exist today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that created them."
-Albert Einstein.

Thank you for considering my position on the issue at hand.

Sincerely,

Kamil Dawson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:03:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ronda MacLeod	Colorado Friends of Ferals	Oppose	No

Comments:

Whilst the devastation feral cats (and domestic cats) can have on the environment in a community is well documented, successful methods for reduction the number of cats in feral cat colonies has been documneted as well. Unfortunately, counting feral cat p[opulations and poisoning them (or other forms of immediate culling to reduce numbers) may provide some short-term relief, however, studies show that culling methods do not solve the problem in the long term, and may actually result in the unintended consequences of increasing the numbers of feral cats in an area. Trap, neuter and return projects have resulted in better long-term outcomes in a cost effective and humane manner. This bill as it stands is not humane and is unlikely to solve the issues in the long term..

The Humane Society of the United States reports that other island efforts have failed, for example: "Tasmania, researchers used wildlife cameras and cat counts to track the number of cats at each site. Despite culling efforts, researchers found large increases in cat numbers: one site had a 75% increase, while another had a staggering 211% increase. Researchers suspect that the populations increased because new cats moved into the sites to take advantage of resources that became available when previously dominant cats were removed. Another explanation could be that kittens born to the unsterilized remaining cats had a better survival rate thanks to more readily available resources (Lazenby et al., 2014)". (<https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data>). The survival rate of a feral kitten is estimated at about 25%

Trap, neuter and return projects have resulted in better long-term outcomes in a cost effective and humane manner, for example:

"100% reduction in 17 years

Newburyport Massachusetts implemented a trap-neuter-return program in 1992 which resulted in the elimination of more than 300 cats from the small town's waterfront. Prior to starting TNR, then a new strategy, none of the colonies were managed. The last known cat on the waterfront died at age 16, 17 years after the TNR program began. The area has remained free of cats since that time. Examining retrospective data, this case study illuminates the effectiveness of comprehensive humane cat management efforts, yet points to the need for the establishment of standardized data collection and assessment practices". (<https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data>).

"31% reduction in 2 years

This survey of Australians involved in trap-neuter-return found colony size decreased from 11.5 cats to 6.5 cats in 2.2 years, a 31% reduction, through a combination of TNR and rehoming of social cats and kittens. Those surveyed reported a median of 69% of cats being sterilized. Cats were fed daily and provided prophylactic health care (primarily treatment for fleas and intestinal parasites). TNR is unfortunately, not widely practiced in Australia and illegal in many communities. Respondents participated in TNR as individuals more than in association with an organization and self-funded at least some of their work". (<https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data>)

"An 85% reduction in population over 11 years

Before implementing a TNR program on the University of Central Florida campus, periodic trap and removal efforts tried to keep the population at bay when it increased to nuisance levels. This 11-year study followed a population of 155 free-roaming campus cats from 1991, when the TNR program began, to 2002. No kittens were observed on site after 1995. Additional stray or abandoned cats arrived, but they were neutered and adopted before they could reproduce. The campus cat population decreased by 85% to 23 cats in 2002, demonstrating that a long-term program of neutering plus adoption or a return to the resident colony can reduce free roaming cat populations in urban areas (Levy et al., 2003)". (<https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data>).

"For many years, Texas A&M University attempted to control its campus cat population with a trap-and euthanize approach. Two years after a trap-test vaccinate- alter-return-monitor (TTVARM) program was implemented on campus, there was a 36% reduction in the number of cats and fewer nuisance complaints to the university's pest control service. The authors also note that although the initial costs of starting up TTVARM programs can be substantial in terms of time and money, these costs tend to decrease with time as fewer new cats need to be caught (Hughes and Slater, 2002)". (<https://humanepro.org/page/community-cats-scientific-studies-and-data>).

Other TNR success stories can be read here:

<http://www.feralcatproject.org/trap-neuter-return>

So, whilst this Bill HB1987 addresses a community problem, it does not provide for an adequate solution.

References

Lazenby, B.T., Mooney, N.J., and Dickman, C.R. (2014). Effects of low-level culling of feral cats in open populations: a case study from the forests of southern Tasmania. *Wildlife Research*, 41, 401-420.

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.

Hughes, K.L. and Slater, M.R. (2002). Implementation of a feral cat management program on a university campus. *Journal of Applied Animal Welfare Science*, 5, 15-28.

Spehar, D. and P. Wolf (2017). "An Examination of an Iconic Trap-Neuter-Return Program: The Newburyport, Massachusetts Case Study." *Animals* 7(11), 81.

Tan, K., et al. (2017). "Trap-Neuter-Return Activities in Urban Stray Cat Colonies in Australia." *Animals* 7(6): 46.

Date: February 3, 2022

To: Rep Mark J. Hashem, Committee On Agriculture, Chair
Rep Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

From: Jennifer Kishimori, District 18
Cat Friends, President

Subject: House Bill 1987 (In Opposition)

I am in **opposition** to HB1987 to eradicate free-roaming cats via poisoning. This is an inhumane and barbaric approach. Cat Friends has been actively sterilizing cats using the Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage (TNRM) approach since 2002 and we have decreased the population tremendously through natural attrition. We have sterilized more than 11,500 free-roaming cats in the last three years alone with no State funding. This in itself has prevented thousands of more kittens from being born on Oahu. How can DLNR say TNRM is not effective? It has been proven that killing does not effectively stabilize and reduce cat populations, but TNRM does. Alley Cat Allies can provide countless studies to verify this information.

Rather than address the real environmental damage that human-led activities cause, such as loss of habitat, DLNR is targeting cats. What about the students who mercilessly slaughtered 15 federally protected Laysan albatrosses, smashed a dozen eggs and caused other eggs to not hatch due to the death of a parent at Kaena Point Natural Area Reserve? What about the three Hawaiian monk seals killed on Molokai in 2021 by humans ... two by blunt force trauma and one by gunshot wounds?

I agree that the feral cat population needs to be reduced, so rather than this ill-conceived plan of poisoning cats in HB1987, the State should support Trap, Neuter, Return, Manage and penalize those who abandoned and/or do not sterilize their pets.

Thank you in advance for your support **in opposition to HB1987.**

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kishimori

Cat Friends, President

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:43:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gloria Navan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The feral cats have been an ongoing issue. The humane solution for this problem is the implementation of TNR. Organizations and volunteers in Hawaii have been very active in attempting to remedy the situation without the use of poisons and slaughter of these animals. At the very least, an extension of the cruel proposals should be set back until the people trying to stop the annihilation of these animals are given a chance to help.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:43:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pat Flynn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. I have been an advocate for Trap-Neuter-Release of feral cats here on the Big Island and personally took care of a colony of feral cats in Kona for many years until another person took over for me. I personally TNR'd virtually all the cats in my colony (a few had already been done) and the person handling the colony now has continued this effort with new cats that wandered into the colony. We both use AdvoCats monthly neutering/spaying services, which has done a very effective job with TNRing.

The solution to reducing the feral cat population in Hawaii does not have to be a cruel, inhumane one, but should be based on education and incentives instead. Many of the cats are offspring of domesticated animals whose owners don't bother getting them spayed/neutered and/or who abandon them into colonies when they get tired of having an animal or decide to move (back) to the mainland. They mistakenly think their cat(s) will be OK with the colony. But this is very mistaken thinking and very wrong. EDUCATION IS NEEDED!

1. Educate residents about the crucial importance of spaying and neutering pets and the dire results of abandoning them - such as PSAs on television.
2. Provide an incentive, such as a gift card to make the surgery very inexpensive.
2. Host free clinics where people can bring their animals for spaying/neutering.

Hawaii has a reputation historically of treating animals either cruelly or at least irresponsibly (cock fighting, chaining dogs outside in the sun without water, abandoning animals, etc.). This proposed piece of legislation is disappointing evidence that we have not moved forward out of this ignorance.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Pat Flynn

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:50:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jane Raker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I understand the need to protect native bird populations, what you propose is cruel and unacceptable. Many communities work hard to trap, neuter and return feral cats - this is, though not the quickest or cheapest, the most humane and sustainable model for controlling feral cat populations. Feral cats deserve compassion and care, just as you express for native population of birds.

Please don't sully your reputation as a state by adopting this barbaric legislation.

Sincerely,

Jane Raker

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:50:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Mallion	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reconsider the methods for controlling the feral cat populations. While they are clearly a problem, poisoning them will most certainly have undesired consequences not yet seen. Maybe instead of buying all that poison, throw some money at the people who have been working on spaying and neutering these animals for years already. If they were better supported the cat population would be less destructive without making us look like a bunch of evil cat murderers.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:54:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Eubank	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I totally oppose this bill! It is cruel and inhumane to poison innocent animals, feral cats in this instance. There has to be better humane way of dealing with the feral cat situation. Poisoning them is not the way! Other animals could ingest this poison too. Terrible!

I oppose HB1987 !!!

Susan Eubank

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:54:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vincent Cama Jr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern: My name is Vincent Cama Jr. For a long time I have been wondering how i could reduce and help the cat population around my home and in the neighborhood where i work. Both areas being very distant from each other. I researched and spoke to many people about the most effective but also humane way of reducing and controlling the population. The answer, which I at that time, never heard before, from many people and organizations was simple. A method called TNR. I found out all i could about the process and became certified through a local organization. A class which consisted of lectures, hands on training and reading. Trap Neuter and Return is just that. A group of certified, compassionate volunteers who set up humane traps, collect as many cats as they can, and with the help of professional veterinarians, many who volunteer or work for less then their normal pay scale. spay and neuter these cats. Perform a medical exam, and if are fit to return, which most are, are returned. TNR reduces the population through attrition and the cats become more docile, and no longer exhibit aggressive behavior, are more healthy, and are able to live, which is beneficial for everyone. For the past 15 years i have been performing TNR in the areas of my home and work location. All with great success. The numbers have been reduced, the cats who lived here were more docile (Some i even took into my home!) and they lived out their short lives without pain or suffering. I am against this proposition which will count all the cats then kill them. May i remind you this is 2022, not 1822. We supposed to be living in a civilized world. killing domesticated animals, which have a heart and soul and all individual personalities is beyond barbaric! Its even difficult to understand how this insane proposition got this far!?! Where i live there are deer, many, many deer. Do you know what action the state legislator took? Yes TNR! they trapped the deer, performed spaying and neutering on them. tagged them and the released them. to live out their lives. My friends, WE ARE NOT SAVAGES! we are human beings. WE MUST LIVE AND LET LIVE. We do not kill innocent creatures that has been the result of years of ignorant people's mistakes because they bother us, they are in our way, or may be damaging something we like. We do the right thing, we Educate ignorant people, we provide, low cost or no cost spay and neuter, and we TNR. we do not murder. we do not poison, and we do not slaughter innocent creatures who have the same right that we do to be here. After the TNR process an outdoor cat doesn't live long, through illness and predators, these cats have a lifespan on average of 4 years or so. Please let them live out their short lives after they have been TNR'd. for the sake of humanity. Let Hawaii be a model for other states, who are watching you. You can become a role model in this, and turn what you think is a problem into a model example for TNR maybe even adding shelters or a sanctuary building where the spayed and neutered cats can live. there are so many possibilities rather then resorting to primitive savage like tactics. C'mon Hawaii, i know you're way above that. Whatever this proposition may be proposing, i would like to say, any means of killing are

savage, be it poisoning, shooting, or whatever horrific technique is used. Poisoning is no exact science and the innocent one suffers horrifically. They may eat only part of it and run somewhere, this cruel slow death is beyond imagining and in no way payment in some people's simple minds as retribution for an innocent creature's natural instinct. When a void is created, what happens? it's a proven fact more cats or other species will move right in. Instead TNR is the only logical and humane solution. I ask you to disregard this proposition and use the method of TNR. It is cost effective, logical, it is proven to work and most important, it is humane. Please seriously think long and hard about the atrocities you are planning to commit I really don't think Hawaii wants to live with the fact that it has become a savage blood thirsty state, it may come back to haunt you. Please choose life, after all someone chose that for you!

thank you for your time

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 12:55:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louise Yee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My brother, Jose Lee, lived in Honolulu until shortly before he passed away. He served in public health and in the City Council in Honolulu. I visited Honolulu a few times, even worked in the cannery. I like to think of the spirit of Aloha and of a committment to Mother Nature when I remember Hawaii. I felt at home there. There is a way to control the population of cats without resorting to the type of barbarbaric and cruel measures that are being considered. It is needless and unnecessary cruelty. Every homeless cat is a result of, or can be traced back ultimately to, human error and neglect/ human behaviors. The cats should not be penalized for this, especially when other methods are available. Work with the organizations that serve these cats and use tried and true methods of addressing cat populations, when they are cooperated with and worked with. The prospect of what is being considered here is horrible...the more horrible because it is unnecessary. There is a humane, and effective way to do this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:00:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike littrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider how hard AdvoCats [plus numerous S/N programs on Island] have worked to be a solution to this issue. Over the last 15 years my husband and I have actively participated as volunteers to humanely reduce the number of feral cats on the Big Island. AdvoCats has spayed and neutered over 25,000 cats at no cost to the tax payers. The number of throw away cats has decreased significantly due to this volunteer organization. AdvoCats [plus numerous S/N programs] are part of the humane solution, Bill HB1987 is not a humane solution.

Please recognize the humane work that these volunteer organizations have done at no cost to taxpayers to address this issue.

Mike and Laura Jane Littrell

68-1375 S. Pauoa Rd F-3

Kamuela, Hi. 96743

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:04:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katherine Linster	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB1987 and the irresponsible, wasteful, and inhumane eradication proposed. Native species have been pushed to their brink by the actions of people, corporations, and developers. To lay the blame on cats conveniently ignores the role people and the government played and continues to play in the misuse or resources and misappropriation of state funds.

Instead of short-sighted eradication efforts which would inevitably introduce barbaric methods and poisons that leech into the environment, community partnerships should be developed with trap, neuter, release and manage (TNRM) organizations and volunteers, with resources being devoted to support such efforts. The state government and DLNR continue to fail to effectively partner with TNRM community stakeholders and are largely dismissive of such calls and quick to disregard TNRM. The current TNRM resources still rely on volunteers and there is currently no community option, since HHS discontinued night drop-offs, for community cats to be held the night before their spay/neuter surgery. There is also a waiting list for surgery appointments. These are concerns and issues that could be addressed and allow for more effective TNRM if the government actually listened to and partnered with those trying to advance our community in the right direction.

There is a laundry list of reasons why this bill is wasteful, barbaric, short-sighted, and inhumane. Rather than list them all, I leave you with "be the change you seek." Do not decry the crumbling of our moral fabric and humanity and the increase in crime, if you support this cruel eradication. I expect better from our government and our elected officials.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:15:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexandra Warbasse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

First and foremost, this plan to count and kill feral cats is a waste of taxpayer dollars. It has been proven time and again around the world that catch & kill DOES NOT WORK as a long-term solution. The LONG-proven solution is trap-neuter-return (TNR) of sterilized cats -- and Maui was making huge progress using this approach until the covid shutdown, which had a disastrous effect on population growth. We need to be offering the community abundant and constant LOW or NO-COST spay-neuter services as our #1 priority. This would be for pets, community cats, and ferals. The other terrifying flaw with this proposed bill is that many innocent animals, pets, and other wildlife would inevitably be poisoned along the way. There is a proven and humane solution to our problem, and that is massive SPAY-NEUTER services combined with TNR. This is where we need to be spending our hard-earned TAXPAYER dollars. Please vote NO on this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:18:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
simone kopitzki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is cruel and does not agree with animal rights. I think that the beautiful State of Hawaii can do a better job by implementing a trap neuter return program. I oppose this bill!!! Simone Kopitzki

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:19:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Daly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I would like to ask respectfully but in the strongest terms that you please reconsider this bill. TNR (trap neuter return) works as a strategy for maintaining feral feline populations. Yes, it's slower than simply poisoning and killing cats, but it is humane. No one is arguing that feral cats are a benefit to native populations, but they at least deserve to be treated with humanity and respect. The data behind TNR is there, and it will solve this problem if you give it time and allocate resources. Rather than pay to kill cats, why not put that money toward TNR?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:20:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Conrad	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider another solution to the feral cat problem other than euthanasia. Sterilization works. No killing of innocent animals should be permitted. Your plan is barbaric and unethical. You must stop this bill from passing.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:23:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charles McVey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to its inhumane actions against feral cats. If this is the solution for invasive species then this should include donkeys, goats, pigs, sheep, axis deer, turkeys and other destructive species that are allowed to run rampant and do severe damage to farms. The penalty should be imposed on the people that leave their cats behind when they move to another island or to the mainland due to costs involved for shipping said animals.

What is the Humane Society position on this topic since they have now been removed from their position of assisting with this problem by offering neutering of feral cats. The funds to support this Bill could be better used by supporting organizations like Advocats Hawaii.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:26:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Conti Ferguson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Progress is already being made reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter! HB1987 is not only cruel and unsustainable, there is a much better, more effective means of feral cat management that already has proven effective.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
caroline kleindienst	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The community is already making progress with reducing the numbers of cats using the only humane and effective method of spay and neuturing. Eradicating cats by killing them and encouraging to use poison is brutal and barbaric. Only supporting and introducing further spay and neuter programs is the humane way to go here!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:41:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kristy neubo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no way to distinguish between owned family member cats and Feral free roaming cats and will lead to heart break with families losing their cat to poision. Additionally, feral cats prevent rat and mice explosions and they help the environment by keeping vermin at bay. Trap Neuter and release is the most effective way of keeping feral cat populations under control. Poisoning cats is a horrible, cruel idea and these cats are highly intellegent creatures who deserve better. It would be far better of an idea to put money towards spay and neuter programs, than to poison a bunch of cats. You will kill owned family memebr cats in posioinng them and you will kill otehr species as you can not just target cats with the inhumane poision. Birds, reptiles and other wildlife will die a cruel death as well. I am surprised that the Hawaii that we all treasure, love and visit would consider something so barbaric and cruel. My family for one will boycott Hawaii and not visit if this cruel law is passed. It is a horrible, barbaric and cruel solution!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:41:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen J McCardel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 1987 relating to feral cats as invasive species. As proposed, the Bill is riddled with unproven assumptions and logical inaccuracies and represents a waste of state funds and time with questionable return-on-investment.

Regarding predation on native birds: No doubt that feral and domestic cats have been the demise of a number of endangered birds in the islands. However, rats, pigs, mongoose, and mosquitoes have also contributed—perhaps more than cats—to the decline in populations of these endangered organisms, not to mention the role of human development and encroachment on the native species. However, a few dramatic examples of feline predation of protected native species are used in the draft Bill as evidence to justify extermination of only one of those threats: cats. In fact, the Bill admits that the actual effects of feral cats on native bird population is unknown, and there is no evidence provided to suggest that any systematic study of the effects of cats on bird populations has been conducted within Hawaii, let alone a comparison of the relative danger posed by cats versus any of the other invasive species or human activities. The state should consider better quantifying these dangers and the costs to address each threat through cost-benefit analysis before committing significant resources to eradicating a single component in the system. In addition, most of the areas where feral cats originate and congregate are in areas that have been extensively developed and inhabited by people, so the populations of native birds, and the birds’ natural habitats, have already been destroyed in those locations. Therefore, eliminating feral cats in those areas will cost a lot of money but will have minimal impact on protecting and restoring native bird populations.

Regarding toxoplasmosis: Although studies show that feral cats can have a significant seroprevalence of *T. gondii*, that percentage ranges from as little as 18% to up to 82%, depending largely on how much the local environment has been developed by humans (greater human presence and development is associated with higher prevalence of toxoplasma antibodies in cats). While those numbers may seem alarming, one must account for the life cycle of the parasite when parsing the overall effect that adult feral cats have on the spread of *T. gondii*.

- Cats are only one part of the life cycle of *T. gondii*. Wild rats and mice that are rampant on the islands are a major reservoir for the parasite and likely account for most infections of feral and free-roaming cats in the islands. In studies in Europe, the control of rodents in the area was considered a protective factor limiting infections.

- Once infected, kittens and cats shed potentially infectious oocysts for only about 1–3 weeks. Most *T. gondii* infections are likely in cats within the first 6 months of life. Therefore, most adult feral cats are not likely to be ongoing sources of *T. gondii* oocysts. A dedicated sterilization/TNRM program would significantly decrease the number of newly infected and infectious animals by reducing the number of potential infectible hosts (kittens). However, eliminating populations of adult cats will likely have minimal effect on the transmission of toxoplasmosis.
- Studies in Europe indicate that feeding of cats by people reduces the predation on infected rodents, which acted as a protective factor limiting infections of cats by *T. gondii*. While cats are still likely to hunt and kill the rodents, they are less likely to eat them. Thus, the feeding of sterilized and managed cat colonies by human caretakers plays an important role in the reduction of the prevalence of *T. gondii*.
- The Bill states that toxoplasmosis is considered a leading cause of death by foodborne illness in the United States. However, it neglects to point out that toxoplasmosis as a foodborne infection is primarily caused by consuming contaminated meat, largely pork. Considering the percentage of Hawaii’s food that is shipped in from the mainland and originates in various countries around the world, this argument would appear to be a red herring, and establishing a food-safety education program about how to properly cook meat would better address this concern. Furthermore, the threat to pregnant women, developing fetuses, and immune compromised people is largely connected with the handling of feces from litter boxes (and subsequent poor hand-washing hygiene) of indoor cats, and therefore has little relevance, if any, to feral cat populations.

To my knowledge, few, if any, systematic TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage) studies have ever been conducted by state or federal agencies, so how can the HISC state with any credibility that TNRM programs are not effective means of population control? Several TNRM programs have been conducted whose outcomes indicate that TNRM stabilizes and eventually reduces feral cat populations. See <https://www.alleycat.org/resources/trap-neuter-return-research-compendium/> for examples. The Hawaiian Islands are a unique crucible in which a comprehensive, systematic, and state-sponsored TNRM and population control protocol could be developed. TNRM isn’t a “quick fix” like eradication, but it is far more likely to be successful and sustainable.

Hawaii has well-known food-security issues, and the success of small farms and private gardens are essential to the sustainability of Hawaii’s food systems. With my husband, I operate a small farm in the Mountain View area of the Big Island. We “employ” two free-roaming cats, who keep our gardens and home free of rats and mice. Both cats are sterilized and microchipped, and we provide medical care and feed these cats. In turn, they are integral to the success of our farm by minimizing rodent incursions and discouraging visits by mongoose that threaten our chickens. As written, the Bill does not adequately address the difference between truly feral cats that have invaded wildlife sanctuaries and free-roaming but “owned” pets or working cats who are part of our ‘ohana.

As written, the Bill does not address the ongoing source of feral cats: humans who treat cats and kittens irresponsibly. Even if the state were to be successful in eradicating feral and free-roaming cats by the end of 2025, the problem will not be fixed unless the state also institutes and enforces

a spay/neuter requirement for all feline pets on the islands. Otherwise, irresponsible or disadvantaged owners will continue to allow pet cats to breed, some will escape or be dumped by people who just don't want to deal with them, and new, *T. gondii*-infectious, native-bird-hunting populations will explode in the newly vacated habitats. The money earmarked for the proposed plan would be better spent making TNRM programs and free spay/neuter options available on all islands and requiring that all felines “owned” or managed by people be sterilized and registered.

In closing, I support the conduct of a point-in-time census of feral cats in the islands. Knowing this information is essential to developing a plan that has any chance of success. However, approving an elimination program without additional data is irresponsible and short-sighted. A few suggestions to consider: Start with protected wildlife areas and sanctuaries and work up to larger scale, such as a single island before approving such a massive undertaking that will cost several million dollars and has very questionable ROI. Also consider that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution and that eradication may be necessary in some areas but that TNRM would work better in other areas.

Mahalo for your time and kokua.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:45:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Love	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a current resident of Illinois, but lived in Hawaii both part time & full time since the early 1980s. When I first heard of this bill I had an instant flash of memory about the killing of cats related to the black Plague of early times in Europe. What more of a lesson do humans have to learn about these decisions borne of cruelty than this? Even more important, for years AdvoCats of Hawaii have been working to stabilize the problem humanely.

Instead of spending taxpayers' money on this cruel and unsustainable solution, consider helping the ongoing humane efforts of AdvoCats, a program that has the heart, the manpower and the brains to continue their selfless & humanitarian work in protecting these creatures.

Have the submitters of this bill considered the danger to the environment of the poison they will use as bait, which may cause a bigger problem than the cats? Finally, will your next eradication legislation have to cover the elimination of rats and mice which will be left with no natural predators.

Thank you for allowing my concern for your beautiful Hawaii to be heard.

Barbara Love

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:49:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeannie Moniz-Kekumu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I am writing this to express the concern and disapproval of this bill. Feral cats are a big part of why our island doesn't have a huge rodent problem. They are living animals that are taken cared of and loved by the people who take care of them and the majority of their communities. It is not fair to try and get rid of them. It is not their fault that their humans dumped them when moving off island or when they tire of them. The biggest concern as well is there are so many mean and horrible people who take cats/kittens from their neighbors, knowing they are pets who are loved and drop them off elsewhere because they do not like cats nor want them around. Maybe making stiffer laws that penalize these types of people and a program to educate them. Terminating the lives of these defenseless beautiful creatures is barbaric and heartless and I ask you to reconsider and help groups that are already in place, TNR so that it minimizes the population instead. There are better ways then what is being proposed in this bill and I strongly suggest it is thrown out and voted against so it stops here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration on the matter and really hope you all do the right thing and help them instead of harming them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:52:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kat Kawamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. How will our free foaming pets be protected from this inhumane measure? Hopefully, we are more civilized. Cats should be checked for a microchip first and a TNR program would decrease the population. Be kind.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:56:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric T White	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

They tried to eradicate coyote from North America. It failed spectacularly and caused endless amounts of suffering for the intended targeted for many other innocent animals. This too will fail spectacularly and cause immense suffering. If anything was learned from the coyote debacle it's that once a species is present there is no way to eradicate it. No matter how much money you plow into this project it will not work. The proper course of action is a program of spay/neuter. It is the most cost effective and humane approach. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:57:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shari Kochiyama Urda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poison should not be used!! What if someone's pet gets out and they eat the poison!?!?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:58:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eileen Knox	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I live in the State of Delaware and I wish to testify to save the lives of feral cats in Hawaii and all states for that matter. The best way to deal with feral cat overpopulations is to use the Trap, Neuter Return, methods. We use this in Delaware and it has proven very successful. Feral cats are trapped by volunteers, spayed/or neutered by volunteer veterinarians and/or funds are donated to pay for the spay/neuter by rescue groups. After the procedures and a 2 day period the cats are released back into their feral community where they are fed and taken care of by volunteers in the community or they are taken to foster homes where they are socialized and put up for adoption. Many people dump domesticated cats out into the community if they are having hardships financially and can no longer care for the pets, or if they cannot afford to spay or neuter and the cats become pregnant or the death of an owner and the families do not want the cats. Therefore these animals are very adoptable and loving pets for people. Poisoning feral cats is barbaric and unnecessary when many of these animals can be saved or if sick can be quickly treated and/or if necessary put down humanly by a competent veterinarian. Please save the lives of these beautiful and intelligent animals that could be providing needed companionship to people in your community. Community Cat Action League in Kent County, Delaware is happy to provide instructions, training, etc. on how to implement this program and to explain how successful donations had come in from the public to make the above procedures work for feral cats.. Thank you very much for your consideration to save feral cats from count and kill.

Eileen Knox

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 1:59:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
eva marie kelnhofer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I feel that the eradication strategy championed by this bill is inhumane, unrealistic and alienating to the people like myself that actually are doing something to manage the free roaming cats by TNR. There is always a better solution out there instead of poisoning the innocent cats who are out there of no fault of their own.

Sincerely,

Eva Marie Kelnhofer

Aiea, Hawaii

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:05:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
udom stamegna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT support this bill !! It's inhumane

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:05:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peggy Bishop	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Having visited the Big Island & Maui many times in the last 30 years, I have had encounters with several feral cats. Most of these encounters were at the resorts.

what I learned over the years, was that the feral cats were largely being captured, spayed/neutered & released back to their original environment, & they were being fed by caring volunteers from AdvoCat, or other people, who care about these innocent animals.

I have fed & even petted many of these ferals, who are usually very friendly, & very hungry.

I learned that some of the resorts (some Hilton Grand Vacation resorts), would not let AdvoCat or anyone volunteers come on to their property to catch, fix, & release & feed these sweet animals.

In fact, the management had a sign in the livingroom saying, Rest Assured the feral cats are being taken care of. This was a lie.

It breaks my heart to see these cats being neglected. The answer, in my opinion, is to appropriate funds to organizations like AdvoCat, to catch, spay/neuter & release & be allowed to have feeding stations for the cats away from the main resort areas, meaning away from condos & guests, but in close proximity so the cats can find the feeding stations. AdvoCat & others are already doing this, but they need more resources to make this model work for all of the ferals.

Please open your heart to the reality of the feral's plight. They have been abandoned by Humans, & need Humans' help, not to be poisoned & tossed into a dumpster. Other cats, people's pets, & other animals, may eat the poison and die as well. Many of the kittens & younger cats can be adopted out by the local Humane Society Shelters. Please vote No on this heartless & inhumane solution to the Hawaiian Feral cat population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:12:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The most effective and humane way to reduce the feral cat population is Trap/Neuter/Return, which is currently under way in many locations. There is no reason to fund more Draconian measures. Treating cats as if they were fire ants is inhumane.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:12:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynne matusow	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let me start by saying that I do not nor have I ever owned a cat. I agree that the feral cat problem is out of hand and am dismayed by the animals that have been injured or died from attacks by cats or their feces. However, there has to be a better way. Poison is inhumane. If an animal is killed by poison there is a chance that animals higher up on the food chain that may feed on a feline dead via poison could also be poisoned.

I understand a first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawaii is being coordinated, working with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking DC Cat Count.

I request that this inhumane bill be deferred.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:14:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dawn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a travel agent we have had a very rough few years. A number of years ago the killing of cats became an item in Waikoloa particularly at the Hilton hotels and timeshares. This reached international levels. I became aware of the situation through several of my clients canceling reservations. From there it continued a barage to such a level that we started to see a reduction in bookings here. Boycots insued until a peacable resolution was reached. Currentlly they have successfully dealt with the issue through community organizations. While you may feel like feral cats have no place and are not important that is not the position of many in the community and our travelers.

If we are going to spend our tax money it should be done on items that do not harm businesses and divide people. We have had enough divisions over the last several years. Why not take the money and fund the trapping, neuter and release instead of the trap and kill. I do not think it is worth the negative feelings and division that will happen. Our state does not need more division we need healing and a way to pull together not divide more. Please vote no on the passage of HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:16:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shalyn Redding	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do NOT support HB1987. There are already numerous cat groups on big island that take care of reducing the island's cat population through humane means (spaying, adopting, etc). The real issue on the island is the population of rats. If you take out the feral cats, the population of rats will increase astronomically. LEAVE THE CATS ALONE!! I have 2 outdoor cats on our property who kill numerous rats daily, not once have they killed any birds.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:18:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gretchen Watson-Kabei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Gretchen Watson-Kabei and I am a resident of Holualoa, Hawaii. I am submitting my testimony in opposition of HB1987. I am opposed to the suggested practice of managing feral cats by live capture and 'lethal injection,' as recommended in the 2013 UH survey and its representation that 87% of Hawaii residents preferred this practice as a viable solution. We, the community, created the problem, not the feral cats - many of which were once domesticated cats left to fend for themselves when their owners either moved off island or returned to the mainland. Much of the information found in HB1987 is taken at face value by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council - five interdepartmental agencies + UH. Was any input sought from the various non-profit organizations that work diligently to provide for the feral cats through spay/neuter programs, provide food and medical care -- especially to those 'feral cats' that were once domesticated and now left to defend themselves from other cats that live in established 'colonies?' The committee should seek input from organizations such as AdvoCats Hawaii, Cat Snip Hawaii (these are Hawaii island based organizations). I agree that toxoplasmosis is a serious concern and its effect on the monk seal devastating - so is the illegal killing of monk seals, and ingesting fish hooks left by careless fishermen. WE are the problem and we need to find a more humane resolution to address the feral cat population, especially those that have not been colonized, by working with the non-profit organizations/communities to rehome or relocate the cats to an area which would minimize the threat to our native birds. Please reconsider the lethal injection solution and focus on a more humane solution. HB1987 directly impacts the lives of not only feral cats, but domestic cats as well. Colonies help to control the cat population by spay/neuter programs. Your support of the non-profits to curb population growth, would be helpful. Presently, HB1987 implies the complete ERADICATION of the cat population, both domestic and feral. Auwe!!!! Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:20:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leigh Ann Conway	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am so disappointed this is even a consideration. We are so fortunate to live in such a beautiful, tranquil place and that place includes the cats. Yes, the CATS ARE PART OF LIFE HERE. In 2022 we should be able to find a way to all survive and thrive together. TNR can be successful if properly managed. Whoever came up with this plan is inhumane and has NO empathy. I would much prefer ALL cats have loving homes. Unfortunately it has been people who created the situation the cats now find themselves in yet this state has determined punishing the cats is the best plan of action? Maybe the state should consider using the funding for sanctuaries for the cats rather than cruelly poisoning them. Would I rather see cats on my sidewalk or would I prefer one having a seizure after ingesting poison? When does it stop? I am not usually an activist but in this instance I have been compelled to speak my mind. You are proving human cruelty has no limits. Mahalo, Leigh Ann Conway

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:20:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Montague	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I own 7 cats that come and go from my house. Most are adopted ferals. They are neutered. My wife and I have trapped 24 feral cats within Ocean View. All have been neutered. Advocats has a great program that stearlizes about 70 cats per month in Ocean View. I support decreasing the numbers of ferals over all, but am opposed to spreading poison around for pets and other wildlife to get into. Pet dogs and cats will needlessly be killed. The porblem of containing pet dogs to their properties is a huge issue, but until this is done, pet dogs will end up dying from poison bait. What is going to feed on the dead poisoned cats?

The STATE OF HAWAII should step up and conduct widspread neutering programs. Cats should not be returned to sensitive areas. If you must, trap ferals where they are not wanted and put them down WITHOUT POISON BAIT.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:20:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carole R. Richelieu East Honolulu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Humane Society, an agency much more appropriate than the DLNR, is already coordinating a free-roaming cat census. Therefore, that part of this inhumane bill is not necessary and a waste of time and public funds. In addition, section 1 of the bill is less than scientific and hugely biased.

This is an abominable bill created and supported by apparently morally and ethically bankrupt individuals who desire to indiscriminately slaughter via poison outdoor felines which are house less through no fault of their own.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:25:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James C Hilbert	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Euthanizing otherwise healthy feral cats seems a cruel and inhumane way to deal with the problem of a troublesome invasive species, of which HI

seems to have so many. The problem is already

being solved, albeit slowly, by the intervention of hundreds of kind hearted volunteers who devote

themselves to seeing that feral cats are being fed,

neutered and provided vet services. It seems to

me that the problem can be resolved in a few

years with kinder methods, particularly if the state

would assist and support the efforts of the existing

volunteer community. Please consider this

alternative and reject HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:27:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Hunt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 NO !

Progress is ALREADY being made in reducing the number of cats BY MANY COMPASSIONATE VOLUNTEERS like myself. And it is being made with the only HUMANE and effective method - spay/neuter.

HB1987 is INHUMANE and 100% UNACCEPTABLE. Rather than resorting to inhumane poisoning (WITH OUR TAX DOLLARS!!!) the legislature should recognize, encourage, and help support the many good, compassionate VOLUNTEERS who are regularly & actively giving of our time, energy, and money to catch, spay/neuter, and release hundreds and thousands of feral cats.

These are cats, not criminals. Your bill, on the other hand is an heartless, inhumane INSULT.

SHAME ON YOU...!!!

Date: February 2, 2022

To: Rep Mark J. Hashem, Committee On Agriculture, Chair
Rep Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

Cc: Rep Jackson D. Sayama

From: Wayne Niide, District 20

Subject: House Bill 1987 (In Opposition)

I am in **opposition** to HB1987 and find the verbiage quite disturbing.

- HB1987 would indiscriminately kill **any Free-Roaming outdoor cat**; both feral (living outdoors through no fault of their own) and **domestic pets**.
- HB1987 is inhuman(e), unrealistic and **alienating** to the only people who are actually doing anything to count or manage Free-Roaming cats on a large scale, animal welfare groups and TNRM (Trap, Neuter, Return & Manage) stakeholders and volunteers.
- HB1987 will also alienate the larger voting block of **domestic cat pet owners** due to the indiscriminate and cruel **poisoning** of a member of their **Family unit**.

Again, let me emphasize The Hawaiian Humane as well as myself, is strongly opposed to this inhuman(e) inflammatory piece of legislation as a cruel attack on vulnerable animals

The Hawaiian Humane Society is presently coordinating the first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawaii, working with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking "**DC Cat Count**".

I recommend that the Legislature **support** and **collaborate** with the Hawaiian Humane Society and support their efforts to move forward with the "**DC Cat Count**".

Thank you in advance for your support **in opposition to HB1987**.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:30:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please stop considering state-sanctioned animal killing and invest in appropriate management. While always room for improvement, for decades Maui island managed cats through the TNRM approach. The cause of recent growth is the pandemic shutdown and subsequent reduction in services at the Maui Humane Society and abandonment of colony management at the shuttered golf courses, resorts, condo complexes, etc. that have never been fully reimplemented.

Our condo complex on south Maui island successfully maintained cat colonies for decades. At the beginning of the pandemic shutdown in 2020, we experienced a significant increase in cats for two reasons: the surrounding facilities shutting down in our fairly rural area of the island and therefore abandoning their colony management and a simultaneous decision by a couple rogue board members to engage in the unlawful activity of withholding the controlled feedings from our colony cats with the hope they would starve to death or go elsewhere. The few of us Hawaii residents who remained here suddenly experienced a 30% increase in cats on property and all of them were begging and acting in ways they'd never done before. When learning of the board members' directives to withhold food, we immediately began feeding the cats once daily again and they stopped their nuisance behavior. We had the new cats that had infiltrated our colonies spayed/neutered, adopted out a couple cats that were more socialized and have since managed through attrition nearly down to the number of cats we had before. They're all healthy and doing the job always intended: protecting their territory and rodent control. In 35 years we've never once seen them chase a bird nor have we ever seen a dead bird anywhere on property. The reality is that wild dogs, chickens, mongoose, other animals and diseases are all a significant threat and killing cats will not help save the bird or any other animal population.

We didn't know anything about cat colony management previous to our experience above but we now know **WITHOUT A DOUBT** that the cat population here can be managed without barbaric acts like mass poisoning. We didn't have a "cat in this hunt" until we saw with our own eyes how this works. There are literally thousands of people standing ready to make it happen but funding and leadership are required.

The solution is not to fund state-sanctioned killing. Adequately fund DLNR and organizations like the humane societies and other nonprofits already working on this issue to work together on a robust colony management program that focuses on spaying and neutering for population control, medical services for disease control/prevention and appropriate feeding for behavior control.

Sincerely,

Sharon Smith & Don Barbieri, Kihei, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:42:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Alford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. It is truly barbaric.

Catch/neuter/release (CNR) has been proven time and again to be a successful procedure in controlling feral cat populations worldwide.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:43:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tina Lia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I object to murdering cats. There are effective, humane ways to manage the feral cat populations on these islands. This proposed bill is totally unacceptable and inhumane. It is not an effective solution, just another waste of taxpayer dollars. Affordable spay-neuter services and trap-neuter-return programs are proven to work and are already widely available. Non-profit cat sanctuaries are another humane solution that should be supported. To say that cats have no intrinsic value is disturbing and callous. Frankly I am appalled. Do better Hawaii, this is not the way. Vote NO on this terrible bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:48:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Edna Montague	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Ocean View on the Big Island. I have 7 cats that were feral that I have had fixed and adopted. They are indoor outdoor cats. The idea of spreading poison bait around to kill cats is very upsetting. I feel that many cats and dogs that are pets will be killed. The cats I have are like my children. I would be very upset if they were murdered. The poison will be eaten by pet cats and dogs as well as other wildlife, when they die some where on the ground birds that eat dead animals like crows , owls, hawks will eat them and die. The other animal that will eat the dead animals such as pigs and if it does not die then a peson could catch the animal and eat the meat of the pig might get very sick. Traping and fixing the cats is an effective way to reduce the number of cats. Wholesell murder of all cats is not the answer.

The bill talks about loss of habitat for endanger speices. Yet there is no moritorium on how many people can move or visit here which is destroying habitat. All I hear is let find ways to get more people here to destroy more habitat. Maybe the solution should be less people coming to the islands.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 2:49:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily Cardell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is beyond horrendous. For starters, most of the "dates facts" and "research" stated is outdated. How can anything further that five years be considered relevant? It's not. Secondly, the people who are proposing this bill are naive. They're looking at outdated statistics and making a decision. If they were actively part of the community and looking at the work that people are doing they would realize there are far better options than poisoning cats who are just living their lives and doing what they know how to do. Hunt and live. Anyone who wrote and looked over this bill is oblivious to the hundreds of people who volunteer and go out of their way and spend their own money to rehabilitate "feral" cats and get them off of the island and into homes where they can live out their lives. Please imagine your own pets, if you have them. Now imagine willingly feeding your pets poison and watching them die painfully. That is classified as animal abuse. Point blank period. There are specific laws against animal abuse and now you want to go around and abuse cats on the street. If this bill gets passed there will be an uproar like you have never seen before. Don't be arrogant, let the community continue its work. And shame on anyone who approves of this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:03:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Craig A. Moody	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is insane. There are alternatives to mass extermination. How about setting up cat sanctuaries. I feed nine stray cats that are all chipped, neutered, and vaccinated.

These are healthy cats that provide so much enjoyment for the complexes of condos where I feed them for the people who cannot have cats because of HOA rules. Instead, they can enjoy them from morning to evening. In addition, vacation guests bring a great sense of joy to visiting young people and parents alike.

When will you decide that there are too many homeless and start to extinguish them too? Let's see; cats are a reasonably low cost to society and generally harmless. But, on the other hand, homeless people are a cost to society, often disruptive and even dangerous.

This mentality of exterminating a class of species because they are deemed a nuance starts with cats and continues up the food chain.

It would be nice to see if the elected officials could stretch their brains to develop alternatives. BTW all of my animals are adopted or rescued from the very pool you choose to exterminate. They have brought joy to my family and friends for years.

What's going to happen with kids getting too unruly?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:03:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helga Tossmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

First of all, who is going to decide if a cat is feral or is it a "throwaway" discarded by it's owners.?? There are very few feral catts on the Big Island. Most of them are cats dumped by their owners. Secondly, who's going to decide if a captured cat is owned by someone?? Are you really willing to go into neighborhoods trapping and killing cats?? If you are, the first cats killed should be those that belong to the sponsors of this bill. Can you imagine the law suites you'll be facing. What about mongoose, are they not included in this bill?? Also, I have NEVER seen an endangered bird in my yard. or around my subdivision. This is the most ridiculous bill ever suggested...You'll have the public taking potshots at each other while trying to protect their cats against the cat haters. You should have thought of this bill 20 years ago or had legislation in place so we wouldn't have all these throwaway cats. I respectfully suggest you rethink what you're proposing. Killing thousands of cats to save a few birds endangered or not, is not the solution to this problem. Why don't you give more funding to the groups including Advocats, the Humane Society and others that are trying to make a dent in the (your words) "feral cat" population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:03:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Colleen Fox	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposed HB 1987. Any plan that involves killing community cats is no real solution and is a barbaric approach to species management. If we are truly concerned about the impact of cats on our community, the state needs to support more TNR programs and provide additional funding for neutering and spaying cats. The time and funds spend counting cats could be spent on TNR efforts. It's a better long-term solution. HB 1987 is not an appropriate solution. Please vote against HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:07:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stacy Johnstone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good Morning. I request that you block the passage of this Bill. It is inhumane and barbaric. It is too easy for pet cats to be caught up in the poisoning process. Organizations like Advocats are already helping to reduce the numbers of feral cats through the services that they offer. I have a very small colony because of their services. I would be overrun with cats without them. Please let their services serve as the population reduction plan instead of indiscriminate poisoning. My cats are well fed and have been coming "home" for their meals for almost 8 years now. In that time, my colony has reduced, not grown, showing that their efforts are working. I have less than 10 cats that come in nightly for food, four of them don't even leave the yard. They are a huge help with reducing the rats and mice.

Please vote NO. Thank you for your time, Stacy Johnstone

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:07:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan J Ponder	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Most feral cats are domestic homeless cats--DNR is more effective than the inhumane killing of homeless cats--I am appauled to think the government would even consider such homicide

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:08:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pavel Stankov	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed legislation involves the "elimination" of feral cats. The main justification is that they pose a threat to native wildlife. One of the secondary justifications is "strong support among Hawaii residents for effective management to reduce the abundance of feral or free-roaming cats" partially because of the "lack of intrinsic value of feral cats."

Elimination means poisoning and killing. But to cause the suffering and painful death of a creature that has no fault for its existence in the Hawaiian Islands nor is it responsible for its essential characteristic of being a carnivore is cruel and unjust. Two wrongs do not make a right.

It is because of negligent and short-term thinking humans, which I hope the Legislators will show themselves to not be, that cats have been introduced here. And now these creatures are convenient to blame for the destruction of wildlife because they have no voice and do not vote, while the environmental destruction caused by humans, your constituents whose pockets make your jobs possible, is tactfully ignored. Even after all cats are mercilessly killed, the building of hotels will continue, and the development of new neighborhoods will flourish, and the native species will, sadly, keep on dying off. The defenseless animals on both sides of this tragedy are mute, but the business interests that made it possible will continue to speak loudly and eloquently.

When we humans become aware that our place in this world is undeservedly privileged considering the ocean of suffering in every direction, all that is left to do is ameliorate it, and certainly not add to it. Instead of killing off the introduced defenseless creatures, protect the native ones through stricter environmental regulations, expanded preservation areas, and humane management of feline populations. Trap-Neuter-Release programs are compassionate alternatives in urban areas, and the removal of feral cats without their killing from environmentally sensitive areas and placing them in places that could support colonies is a possible measure, even if it is more costly than the "final solution" approach. Invest in public messaging about the importance of spaying and neutering, and support these procedures so that they are affordable and readily available.

As the only species that has made it, our responsibility is to take care of the rest of the natural world in a way that causes the least unnecessary pain. And if we believe that *we* have any intrinsic value, then we should start behaving like we do.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:08:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing cats is not fair or necessary. Yes they are a threat to native bird populations yet so are humans and probably more so. Funds and focus should be directed into the already humane and effective catch + spay/neuter efforts. Please do not allow the killing of cats in Hawaii.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:09:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
michelle gascon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing feral cats on the islands is completely inhumane and wrong. There are more humane and effective ways of keeping the number of feral cats low, such as spaying and neutering these cats. Please do NOT even consider approving this bill. It is morally and ethically wrong.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:11:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Martin Zorn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Representatives, I have read HB1987 and am opposed to the use of poison to eradicate feral cats when there are humane programs to reduce the population through TNR - Trap, Neuter and Release. There are good volunteers on Maui working hard to trap and neuter these animals and feed them which reduces the risk of killing birds and other animals otherwise considered prey. The groups practicing humane and proven approaches share the desire to reduce and eliminate feral colonies and populations but poisoning these animals is barbaric and should not be allowed.

Further there are many instances at least on Maui where pets are trapped and then relocated only to add to the feral problem. At the same time there are multiple posts per day of families and children heart broken by the cruelty of citizens who add to the problem. Any bill addressing feral cats should put teeth into animal cruelty laws and insist that law enforcement take these reports seriously and enforce current and hopefully stricter laws. Perhaps providing more funding for the Humane Society, for cat sanctuaries like the highly successful one on Lana'i or funding the efforts underway to reduce and eliminate the feral problem using humane approaches is the direction that the state should take.

In summary I support the control of all invasive species but do not condone the methods and approach outlined in this bill.

Respectfully,

Martin Zorn

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:11:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against this bill. Do not pass it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:15:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Powell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cats are merely the symptom of the greater problem of lack of human responsibility and compassion. Do we owe them that as their creators? It was humans that made domestic cats, it was (European) humans that brought them to Hawai'i, it was humans that let them run wild and breed, and it's certainly human activity (see: introducing cats) that has made the birds and tiny mammals they hunt endangered to begin with. Their existence is not a capital crime. I read the bill and I see that TNR is not a favored solution to this problem. Okay, how about Trap, Neuter, Shelter? Not all of them can be rehomed and god knows there are already so many other "unwanted" creatures in shelters, but I think we do owe it to them to try. We have let down feral cats. Governments let down people by not helping them make good decisions on behalf of animals. Maybe now is a good time to start to do better. Thank you.

February 2, 2002

Chair of the House
Senate Committee

Re: In Opposition to HB 1987 Relating to Invasive species

Dear sir/Madam,

My name is Gayle Puou. an advocate for the less fortunate, our furry animals, specifically feral cats. I am testifying against this bill because it's inhumane. It's also not their fault. I believe the feral cat population has popped up around the state because owners that once owned a cat and cannot care for them anymore, especially in a pandemic, simply release their pets to avoid whatever they are currently facing or perhaps a not so nice neighbor that dislikes cats, relocate them. Yes, we do have a law on the books about desertion but nothing is being done like half a dozen laws but that is beside the point.

I'm a cat owner. My cat was dumped in one of the feral colonies located not too far from where I reside. Seeing him on my Facebook one day made me want to help him find a home. The caretaker stated in the post that he was dumped because he was so friendly that she felt sorry, probably was put out by its previous owner and was looking for someone to foster him until he was rehomed. Well, I became a foster failure. He now lives with me and my dog. And just the thought that if this bill was passed and he got out. He would not stand a chance. I'd do anything for him and all the other cats. I believe in trapping, neuter/spay and releasing, rehoming through animal shelters as well as helping a neighbors with rehoming his/her cat.

I oppose the above bill. The Hawaiian Humane Society as well as other local entities have been working to close the gap on the feral cat colonies. I am also a voter who takes this matter seriously. I'd stand in line to vote if the line was as long as it could be to keep people like yourself in office if I know you too will help not pass this bill. I am just one vote. I believe there are a million plus voters in this state. What will the Primary bring us? What will this legislature focus on, killing cats? How about shifting to caring for our keikis? Do the right thing! DO NOT PASS HB1987.

Mahalo,
Gayle Puou
Owner of Operation Purple Paws, LLC

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:18:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ivana Bodey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an individual citizen, I strongly OPPOSE the proposed legislation as misguided and frankly, barbaric. The community at large is putting much energy and efforts through various TNR programs to prevent the issue. Treating these animals as "invasive species" to "justify" the "killing" is barbaric. The funding sought to "kill" should be diverted to support these various community TNR programs instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:18:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurel Gregory	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs,

I find HB 1987 poorly conceived and ill-defined. Mass eradication of feral cats using a toxic bait is inhumane. TNR has proved to be an effective method of reducing cat populations, especially in areas near or amongst human populations. TNR island wide and select removal in sensitive areas like bird and wildfowl sanctuaries is a more reasonable approach. How would this mass eradication possibly be attempted? Would there be state government personnel going through private property setting out toxic bait? Would there be aerial drops over large areas of private and public property? How will people protect their own cats and dogs from this assault? When word gets out of this, what will be the reaction of visitors to the state and how will that affect our reputation as the land of Aloha? People from all over the mainland and the world come to Hawaii to experience a kinder gentler culture, not to witness a mass genocide.

The studies used as justification are not properly sourced and out of date. On an official Australian web site, even they admit that there are sometimes less than desirable results no matter how much bait they use, and that the bait can putrefy. That would seem to create a pretty stinky mess that would only attract rats and mongooses. Other studies have pointed out that some cat eradication projects have gone wrong, when the cats are no longer keeping the rat or rabbit (denude grassland and nesting sites) population in check, the targeted endangered species actually declines more.

Finally, there is no estimated cost of a large scale project. I think it is irresponsible not to include an estimate of the cost in dollars, not to mention the stress this will create for people who care for their own domestic cats and dogs and practice TNR in their own neighborhoods.

Please do not let this Bill go forward. Thank you for your consideration of my opinion.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:21:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paulette	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I have read the bill and agree that measures - HUMANE measures need to be taken. Our native wildlife is important to the wellbeing of the island. If the trap and lethal injection is used it would also protect household pets from the possibility of being harmed. It appears to be the most Humane way. I do not see baiting as an efficient method on the Big Island because there are too many domestic animals that could be affected - dogs that are running loose, wildlife in the area, possibly children. Poison is the least humane way to put down an animal and I am adamantly against this option. On the Big Island we need more organizations that can help with issues such as this. There seems to be NoOne in charge.

Mahalo for taking the time to review my comments. Paulette

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:23:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carlos giles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Eradicating all the cats is barbaric and will throw off the ecosystem.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:23:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nate Dal Cais	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a cruel and unnecessary way of handling this issue. Cats can either be adopted or the population can be reduced by Trap, Neuter, Return (**TNR**). It's simple and pretty easy to do. And killing all of these cats will cause other environmental issues. We implore you to not go through with this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:24:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Erith Evans	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The would cause more danger and harm than good. The more appropriate way to combat this issue would be to do a nonprofit TNR clinic where the stray cats are caught and spayed or neutered. This would almost immediately stop the growth of the stray cat population by inhibiting their method of reproduction. Please take a look at Northern Colorado Friends of Ferals as an example to this method!

Using posion also could harm other native species, pet dogs and cats and any other animal or even child.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:27:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gabrielle Naughten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In response to HB1987, I submit the following as my testimony opposing this legislation.

First of all, this legislation is shortsighted and cruel. If enacted, it will begin in July without having done any sort of pre-determination of location of feral cat colonies; how it will differentiate a roaming house cat versus a feral cat; and, is just outright unacceptable to cull this population in such an inhumane manner.

The legislation cites the Australian example that culled and controlled the feral cat population. However, it failed to mention how the rat and mouse population was then allowed to run rampant after the feral cat population was culled. We already have a rat issue on Hawaii Island especially in connection to Rat Lung Disease. Cats are utilized, especially in rural areas, to help control the rat population which I am sure you would deem as more of a threat than a cat. Also, if there is such a worry about the Toxoplasmosis, then why is there not more concern over drinking water impacted from brown water run-off during heavy rains that contain toxic fertilizers being used on farms? I am sure this impacts more people that the small chance of feline feces degrading the water supply which I might add does not impact people who are on water catchment.

Secondly, this legislation cites the need to better protect the native fauna from feral cats. As someone who has a few feral cats who choose my property, I have observed these cats not catching or eating a single bird. This bill even cites feral cats are only an 8% threat to endangered species and there is no study to discern the actual numbers of birds killed each year by a feral cat. I also am bewildered that such legislation is targeting feral cats and not wild pigs who are so much more destructive to our flora and fauna than a cat. Please refer to the recent University of Hawaii study that determined that wild pigs are a main culprit for the spread of Rapid Ohia Death (ROD): <https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2021/08/25/new-uh-study-finds-link-between-rapid-ohia-death-feral-pigs/>

I also am very concerned with the interchangeability term use of feral cat versus cat. Since some pet owners allow their cats outdoors (I prefer my cats inside), how can the state make sure that these beloved pets will be protected from this aggressive cull?

Since moving to Hawaii in 2017, I have been shocked and saddened to witness how poorly animals are treated. From dogs who are allowed to be chained all day outside to the lack of animal control. If there were a more robust use of animal control, then maybe the feral cat population would not be as large as it is. I have personally trapped, paid for spaying and released

several feral cats on my property. I also deal with cats being dumped in my vicinity and not having an animal control option to utilize to relocate/rehome the abandoned cat.

In summary, cats, even feral cats, are living beings and have the right to not be culled in such a heartless manner as proposed in this legislation. I hope that this bill does not go any further and that our state legislators find a more productive use of their time and our tax payer funds to look at more important animal control topics like controlling the wild pig or coqui frog populations.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:29:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy McQuade	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I have received information from Advocats regarding this bill. I have been asked to oppose the bill; however, I am writing in support of the bill but not the method of destroying feral cats. As a retired veterinarian, my first concern is for the welfare of an animal and ensuring that they don't suffer. In my opinion, using poison to kill these cats is inhumane and unacceptable. The only humane way to kill these cats is by trapping and euthanizing by lethal injection. Obviously, there is not a person in this world who would want to be responsible for carrying this out but the alternative is surely not an option.

I look forward to receiving information as this bill proceeds through the house.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:31:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Alspaugh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Using poison to reduce the feral cat population is extremely inhumane. If you want to reduce the feral cat population have them spayed/neutered and the ears tipped so you know which ones are already fixed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:32:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Menacho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Feral cats exist due to the irresponsible actions of humans. They do not spay/neuter their cats and when they cannot care for them any longer they abandon them.. This causes the creation of feral cat colonies. You can poison, kill and try to wipe out all the current existing feral cats and you will still have the same problem in the future.if education and spay/neuter programs are not where the focus is put.

Also, poison used to kill the cats will kill other animals in the food chain. If you put the monies you will put into this program into education and spay/neuter programs, you might come closer to humanely helping the problem.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Mary Menacho, Hawaii resident for 15 years

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:37:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Friedrich Boeck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning is not a population control method. The only way is trap/neuter/return and slowly decrease the population. The spay/neuter efforts on the islands are not financially supported by the state and therefore cannot work at full capacity.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:46:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vadim Antonov	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This written testimony is submitted in opposition to the proposed bill HB1987.

After careful reading of the bill I contend that:

1. The assertions in the bills regarding harm of the feral feline populations are not grounded in science, but rather arbitrary anecdotes are provided as evidence. For example, there is no distinction made between harm caused by feral and domestic feline populations. As such, these assertions must be dismissed as justification for any public policy. While any non-native species (automatically considered invasive) do alter environment, the reality is not as black and white as this bill tries to portray. (There is also no evidence that feral cats, rather than outdoor domestic cats are responsible for spread of toxoplasma gondii - in fact, it can be argued that it is domestic cats which, unlike feral cats, are in close contact with humans, are responsible for infecting humans.)

2. Cats have coexisted with humans for millenia, and have proven their worth in controlling pests, such as rodents. Removing feral cats is likely to cause an explosion in population in much more damaging invasive species, particularly rats. Rats are also carriers of much more dangerous (to humans) diseases such as leptospirosis, lymphocytic choriomeningitis, as well as rat-bite fever, salmonellosis, bubonic plague, typhus, and hantavirus. Enacting this bill has a high probability of increasing incidence of these diseases (each much more dangerous than toxoplasmosis). This bill refers to Australian "successful" feral cat elimination programs while failing to mention the outcome: the resulting massive rat infestations in Australia, to the point of rats completely covering the village streets and clear-cutting all edible crops. Similar outcomes were recorded during Chinese Cultural Revoution and its feline extermination programs.

3. The discussion of feral cat population control methods relies not on science but on surveyed opinions with surveys of unknown provenance and validity. This kind of justification cannot and should not form basis for public policy.

4. The proposed method of eradication such as use of poisoned bait is wildly dangerous and irresponsible.

4a. First of all, domestic pet cats in Hawaii are mostly outdoors (the island climate makes it impractical to keep cats strictly indoors). The posidoned bait use is likely to kill more pet cats than feral cats (feral cats are naturally more cautious). In addition to killing pets, it will result in

many more cases of poisoning requiring urgent and expensive veterinary care, placing large financial burdens on Hawaiian families.

4b. The poisoned bait is as likely to be eaten by cats as by other species. There is no cat-specific bait. It is very likely that introducing poison to the environment will result in unintended and devastating consequences to other species.

4c. Some of the species which are known for eating cat food (i.e. free ranging chicken) are widely used as supplemental food source by less affluent Hawaiians. Poison from the bait will result in human poisoning and death, affecting the most vulnerable populations first.

4d. Ill cats tend to hide, which means that most weakened cats and poisoned cat carcasses will not be collected, and will be consumed by scavenger species (including native Hawaiian species of omnivorous and carnivorous birds), which will result in poison being widely spread in the ecosystem, with potentially devastating consequences.

5. It is impossible to eliminate feral cat populations in the areas (i.e. the islands) with significant human population keeping (and sometimes abandoning) domestic cats. This means that poisoning campaigns will have to be on-going and thus cause on-going damage as described above.

6. The bill fails to consider other alternative approaches to feral cat population control, which are both effective and humane. For example, it only lists catch-and-euthanize and catch-and-release approaches, while failing to consider catch-and-keep approach whereby a sanctuary is established for the captured feral cats. Cats provided with a stable food supply will not stray far from a sanctuary, and appropriate on-site veterinary care can ensure that the cats are properly sterilized. Such sanctuaries can even become revenue-generating tourist attractions - as evidenced by such sanctuary on the island of Lanai.

Given the above considerations, I have no choice but to conclude that HB1987 is ill-conceived, not based on careful consideration of science and alternatives, and will result in damage to environment, human health, and well-being of pets and their owners. As such it must be rejected.

Respectfully, Vadim Antonov

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:48:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Tax-payer money is going to be spent on this. Is this a wise choice given that there are times when our teachers and librarians have to stay home because we can't pay them? The money will be spent and the population will revert back to previous levels when the effort is discontinued. Please save our money for beneficial and lasting programs.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:50:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lois Crozer	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I understand we have a problem with feral cats but I'd like to see some education to the public first so they don't keep dropping them off to places where they see them being fed. The people who take care of the cats have big hearts, and they need more assistance handling this situation. Shame on us to poison them!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:51:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelley Fuller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not use inhumane and ecologically threatening methods to reduce feral cat populations. Trap Neuter Return is the only humane and effective way to reduce these populations. Poison and other lethal methods are inhumane and threaten other species in our ecosystem. Thank you for your consideration. - Kelley Fuller

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/position-statement-on-trap-neuter-return/>

Alley Cat Allies supports non-lethal and humane practices that address community cat populations. We support and promote Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs.

Community cats have been living full, healthy lives outdoors for over 10,000 years. The cruel, outdated practice of catching-and-killing cats is a futile and never-ending cycle, and it is being abandoned by more and more cities and shelters across America. We support Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) programs. TNR is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. It not only helps cats, it helps the communities where they live. Therefore, we advocate for catch-and-kill schemes to be replaced by Trap-Neuter-Return in all communities across the country and around the world.

Community cats are unowned cats who live outdoors in virtually every landscape on every continent predominantly where people live. Like pet cats, they belong to the domestic cat species (*Felis catus*). However, community cats, also called feral cats, are generally not socialized—or friendly—to people, therefore cannot live indoors.

Trap-Neuter-Return is the mainstream approach to community cat populations, worldwide. Today, over 650 municipalities have adopted a Trap-Neuter-Return ordinance or policy, and thousands more are conducting grassroots volunteer-led programs.

During Trap-Neuter-Return, cats are humanely trapped, taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, and vaccinated and eartipped (the universal sign that a cat has been part of a TNR program). After recovery, the cats are returned to their home outdoors.

Trap-Neuter-Return stabilizes community cat populations and, over time, colonies decrease in size. TNR stops the breeding cycle, eliminates mating behaviors, such as yowling, spraying, roaming and fighting, and consistently produces the best results among all options available to coexist with people. Finally, Trap-Neuter-Return benefits public health because community cats, who are just as healthy as pet cats, are vaccinated against rabies. Overall, the cats' physical health improves as does their relationship with the community.

The lethal scheme of removing outdoor cats from their environment and impounding them at shelters and pounds is cruel, ineffective, and is done at the taxpayer's expense. Nationwide, 70% of all impounded cats are killed, and that number is nearly 100% for cats who are unsocialized, and therefore unadoptable. In addition, attempts to remove cats result in population increases as an influx of new, unsterilized cats move into the same area and reproduce. This well-documented natural phenomenon is known as the "vacuum effect."

Every cat should be valued and protected. We strive for a world where all domestic cats have a safe community in which to live, including those whose homes are outdoors.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:54:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rod Aries	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Who Will Speak For Those Who Can't Speak For Themselves?

It Isn't Hate That Makes You Want To Kill, It's Ignorance, And Laziness: The ignorance is that you are treating the disease, instead of preventing it. The laziness is that it is an easy way out and you are not the person actually killing the cats.

Many Of These Cats Have Names... Like Fluffy. I have been witness to people pulling up to a cat colony at the Kona Transfer Station, opening their car door and throwing the cats into the bush - then speeding off.

Do you know what the last sound the cats heard as they left their 'home'? "*Daddy, where are you taking Fluffy?*"

Hawaii Has Made Killing Cats Impersonal: Do you know why Hawaii calls this problem a 'feral' cat problem? They want the killing to be impersonal. Hawaii wants to simply say, "Twenty-three feral cats were eradicated at this location... <pause> It was a good day for killing cats."

Take A Number: Hawaii wants to use numbers, not names, to lower their guilt and distance themselves from the slaughter of innocent lives.

Hawaii believes that no one cares about the number of cats murdered when it is reduced to a number.

When You Kill, You Can't Live With Yourself: When you kill, you aren't just killing cats, you are killing your soul.

Identify The Real Source Of The Problem: Unresponsible pet owners have largely caused and continue to cause the problem, yet the innocent and largely domesticated cats are paying the penalty. Not fair, not fair. Where's the Aloha?

Focus On The Cure, Not The Problem: People caused the problem, yet the cats are paying the penalty.

Is there a feral cat challenge? Yes.

Is killing cats the solution? No!

The Solution: Embolden and appoint an educated citizenry -- who are both unaffiliated with the government and who desperately care about the issue and who will donate their time and efforts, as taxpaying citizens, to identify and create logical, cost-effective and timely humane solutions.

Kitties Of A Lesser God: Many in these magnificent islands are Christians, and other faiths. What is the Second Commandment?

Thou shall not kill.

I am quite certain that God did not mean that only for humans, but for humans who kill animals with no goodwill, simply because they are inconvenient. If not, who/what is next?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 3:59:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia Lau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am vehemently opposed to HB1987 on the eradicating of "feral" cats via poisoning. This is absolutely ridiculous, inhumane, ineffective & inflammatory legislation which will surely upset all cat, animal lovers, those who, like me, spend my own time, money and efforts to TNRM (Trap Neuter Return Manage) free roaming cats on this Island. I agree something must b done to control the population of free roaming cats such as counting the population, making stiffer penalties for those people (and there are MANY) who dump animals, pets or strays, all over this Island & often not fixed which makes it difficult to TNRM colonies because many cats will know the traps & not go in again. Keeping the spay/neuter surgeries free of charge will go a long way in encouraging more people to fix the animals. By indiscriminately destroying the cat population (which is not an invasive species) by any means, we would be killing innocent, friendly animals who got dumped all over this Island. Oahu needs a sanctuary (like Lanai) for those cats not wanted in neighborhoods where we can relocate them to live out their lives in peace & love. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this legislation & work with all the animal organizations to come up with humane solutions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Patricia L. LaU

55 S. Kukui St. #1901

Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:02:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donna L. Ching	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for taking serious and swift action to control invasive species that pose a threat to our native flora and fauna. Chief among my grave concerns are wild pigs that tear up our rainforest habitat and feral/loose (including pets!) cat policies that allow colonies to grow and threaten birds, monk seals and other native species through predation and transmission of toxoplasmosis bacteria.

I have never understood why we have leash laws for dogs but not for cats. Cats should be kept indoors or on leashes because they pose very serious public health and environmental harm. This serves the cats, too! Indoor cats are healthier and live longer than "outdoor cats." We should no longer let any cat roam freely and unattended. Any legislation that moves forward the goal of eliminating free-roaming cats from our island has my whole-hearted support. Mahalo!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:02:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Oliver	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

This is my testimony, please read it out loud. Thank you.

Aloha Patrick, I just read your proposal HB1987. I am appalled. I present my thoughts here. As a scientist myself and an active member and volunteer for AdvoCATs on the Big Island, I feel you've missed the boat on this one. While many of your points may be accurate, I'd like to see some science based fact finding before you start poisoning cats! There will be poisoned dogs and poisoned pet cats as well. I find your suggestion inhumane and likely illegal. I will be contacting legal counsel to find out. You are asking for a law suit. And there are many of us that will fight for feral/ homeless cats rights. You haven't thought this through. Think again. There are other humane solutions.

I personally have trapped and returned dozens of cats and also am a vet assistant volunteering my time each month both in Kona and Ocean View . We care for these cats as volunteers. No money comes from the state. We do this out of the goodness of our heart and health of our community. Our community has approximately 200 cats per month neutered. Do the math. Look at the evidence. This is free of charge. How about promoting this? How about you come see what we do? Don't be ignorant.

You have not given us time to debate this issue. Sunshine rules once again neglected and abandoned. We deserve better. Is this part of your re election campaign strategy? Who are you appealing to? It's no one I know. This is simply cruel. Not only to the cats but cat owners. Really? Are you going to trap and poison my cats too? And my dogs in the meantime? I personally live with 5 feral cats. They are friendly and my companions. You want to murder them? Genocide? Poison?

Dogs loose are much more of an issue. Catch them. Enforce those rules before you poison the cats.

What about feral/ homeless people in the bushes, are they next? Is that what we do? In our society we deal with issues a little differently than annihilation/genocide. How about relocate? How about euthanasia humanely? How about you sponsor a spay neuter state program? Lots of discussion needs to be done before this is railroaded through. Living creatures are not disposable commodities.

Stop this now. You are opening a can of worms for yourself. Let's see some more facts. How about some discussion?

You look young and ambitious. But don't use the cats for your political gain. This is abuse of power. I've seen enough of this lately. Where is your aloha? Tourists pockets? This is a shameful proposal we can ALL LIVE WITHOUT. Please contact me if you need assistance with this. I am a RN for more than 40 years. I've never heard of such an in humane treatment of animals. There will be repercussion for you.

Thank you.

Sincerely, Susan Oliver

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:03:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cristine mcconnell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 Testimony

I am a 10 year Maui resident, writing in to express my concerns over the feral cat population control bill. I am definitely all for population control, but “count and kill” as this bill is being referred to, would be barbaric, dangerous and probably ineffective.

I have noticed when we were attempting to get our cats spayed and neutered that is is extremely expensive and difficult to do so. The humane society has a great service available but it is nearly impossible to secure a timely appointment. This makes Trap-Neuter-Release efforts hard to pull off in a timely manner. I vote we procure funds for the humane society to hire more vets and expand their spay and neuter facility, rather than call “open season” on the cats on the island. I’m sure you can imagine how things could go very very wrong with the implementation of this proposal - people’s pets will be killed and local wildlife will be incidentally poisoned.

Let’s make a solid push get all the cats spayed and neutered on this island. We should not only make it free, but also immediate. We could hire people to set the traps and take them to and from the humane society. Other islands around the world have had great success with this TNR method of population control. If this is implemented, the population problem will be dealt with in a humane considerate way instead of the horror show that would be created by poisoning not only the feral cats, but also pets, wildlife and possibly someone’s child. There will be great heartache if this bill is passed.

thank you for the consideration

sincerely, Cristine McConnell

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:04:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Latisha Arrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a member of a rescue organization, I have assisted in trapping, neutering and releasing, which has cut down on our local cat population. To date over the course of 3 years, there has been no new cats added to the colony. Further more, some cats, although they were outdoors, with time were socialized and fostered and adopted out. I understand the issue an increased feral cat population poses to wildlife in HI, however there are other options to controlling the cat population, other than senseless killing of a living breathing animal. Cats cant be eaten nor their fur be used for coats to keep a homeless person warm, so the killing of a feral cat, provides no further use, other than a senseless act of killing.

In the bill there was no other solutions visited, prior to jumping to such invasive tactics as lethal injection. There are rescues and organizations that can be tapped into, to assist, with much life wildlife preserves, a sanctuary for cats, out of harms way which threaten the natural wildlife of HI.

I strongly oppose, and believe oher solutions should be visited before resorting to invasive tactics of trap and kill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:04:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Miyamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To: House Committees & Hawaii State Senators.
St. Wailuku 96793,808 385-5735

From: Carol Ann Miyamoto, 1010 Eha
Aloha, my name is

Carol Miyamoto and I oppose the proposed bill HB1987. My husband Michael and I have been colony caregivers here on Maui since 1999. We have help reduced the feral cat population by TNR programs via 9th Life,MSPCA,Feline Foundation, MHS,and HARF. I personally rescued dogs,numerous birds and including seabirds. I do admit covid has put us back some,as to businesses including Maui Humane Society had to stay closed for some time,then when allowed to open, spay/ neutering appointments were scarce. This allowed alot of unwanted kitten births. We are in need of more low costs spay/ neuter programs to help in the fight of over population of cats here on Maui. We need to focus on laws to stop the dumping/abandonment of animals on government lands. Passing HB1987 will hurt tourism,if they get word we are killing animals here in Hawaii,I'm sure animal lovers will think twice on coming. Also,I believe crime will rise,people will trap pets and drop them off on state lands,knowing they will be killed. I have witnessed animal cruelty and the hateful people that do it. There's a link between violence to animals & violence to people. I would think the Anti-cruelty laws here in Hawaii would prevent such a bill like HB1987 from passing. I don't understand why the eradication of feral cats on Oahu is proposed 50% and other islands 100%. We are not allowed to poison trees and grass on county lands but if this bill passes feral animals and maybe accidentally someone's pet or heaven forbid an endangered species may be poisoned.. Poison is not a humane solution to rid a living species the state doesn't want on our land. I believe the money for this proposed bill would be better used in the fight to spay and neuter all pet animals in Hawaii. Putting a voluntary space on state tax forms, to donate monies in the fight to help control the cat/animal population is needed.

Thank

you for the opportunity to voice my opinion against the proposed bill HB1987. Carol Miyamoto

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:07:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
June Vallies	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The only humane way to reduce the number of feral cats is to spay or neuter. Killing cats does not solve the problem. Stopping them from reproducing will! Please reconsider the HB1987 bill to a more humane and smart method!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:07:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lizbeth Guadiz-Franco	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987 not only because I participate with various cat organizations to feed, pay to render medical aid, trap, spay and neuter feral cats but because using poison is inhumane, detrimental to our ecosystem and has the potential to leak into our natural resources and poison humans as well (ie, poison leaks in stream and water supply, fish eat poison, man catches and consumes fish and becomes ill)! And who's absolutely certain that our indigenous species won't be poisoned as well? In other words, the domino effect has far reaching implications with irreversible consequences. We are willing to volunteer our time (and have often used our own money) to spay, trap and neuter. Rather than waste our tax payer money on spot harmful poison, please allocate funds toward the Trap/Spay/Neuter programs. This will keep the cat population in more control. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:07:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christine A Grabar	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I oppose HB1987 because this is cruel and inhumane. As a proud mom of two wonderful cats, it really disturbs me to know there are people anywhere in the United States who believe it is ok to poison domesticated animals! This will not end feral cat overpopulation because another feral cat colony vwill eventually move into the area. Cats wind up outside because people abandon them instead of rehoming them. Cats should not be killed simply because they are not lucky enough to have loving, indoor homes.

Please consider working with Alley Cat Allies. They have employees who work nationwide throughout the United States -- not sure about Hawaii and Alaska. They specialize in Trap Neuter Return (TNR). This is a great program that keeps feral cats from having more babies -- a great way to control the population! Their website is www.alleycat.org and they are based out of Bethesda, MD. Please reach out to them and ask for assistance immediately. Cats do not bother anyone and deserve to live out their lives free of harm.

Thank you for your assistance with this very important matter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:08:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarah Coatts	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop this insanity - pay for the spay or neuter animals - do not kill them

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:10:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen A. Geimer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Hawaiian Humane Society, an agency much more appropriate than the DLNR, is already coordinating a free-roaming cat census. Therefore, that part of this inhumane bill is not necessary and a waste of time and public funds. In addition, section 1 of the bill is less than scientific and hugely biased.

This is an abominable bill created and supported by apparently morally and ethically bankrupt individuals who desire to indiscriminately slaughter via poison outdoor felines which are house less through no fault of their own.

There are humane ways to deal with this situation instead of killing animals once befriended by humans then turned out to the elements because they are no longer wanted. The free roaming cats we are helping per Hawaiian Humane Society guidelines are sentient beings, not Walmart stuffed toys.

Stephen Geimer East Honolulu Voter

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:11:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kym Bower	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a cat and wildlife advocate, I strongly oppose HB 1987.

It is very challenging, almost impossible, to fully eradicate feral cat populations on a large scale with lethal, or even non-lethal, means. While I certainly understand the risk that cats pose to wildlife including birds, it is best to properly manage the cats through targeted and comprehensive Trap Neuter Return (TNR) programs.

Attempting to fully eradicate or kill the current cats all at once will be counterintuitive – doing so will actually increase the number of cats over time, therefore deeming it not only cruel but also ineffective. Eradicating the cats will also have adverse side effects on wildlife including birds. For example, in some cases, removing the cats altogether can actually create a dramatic increase in rats, which in turn harms the birds, the very species this bill aims to protect. Cat predation of rodents and rabbits, particularly on islands, has been shown to actually protect vulnerable bird populations. Outdoor cats provide several other critical benefits to our modern-day, extremely complex ecosystems. And feral cats, also called community cats (the same species as our indoor pets), are adapted to living outdoors alongside humans and wildlife, as they have done so for thousands of years.

I understand there are variable factors on islands that must be considered – there is not a perfect solution. But rather than concluding to outdated or misguided strategies, it would be more productive and beneficial if cat advocates and wildlife conservationists could work together to create humane solutions, such as TNR and other associated deterrent methods.

TNR is the most humane and effective solution to managing the feral cat population – it is the best solution to protect cats, people, and wildlife. During TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, ear-tipped, and returned to their outdoor home; oftentimes a caretaker continues to care for and manage the cats. There is proof that with TNR: the feral cat population is stabilized (creating less cats over time), adoptable kittens/cats are removed from the outdoors, feline and community health goes up, nuisance issues and complaints go down, and euthanasia rates go down (saving tax-payer dollars). Additionally, targeted and comprehensive TNR ultimately reduces the threat to wildlife – less cats outside means less threat to wildlife.

In conclusion, please vote NO on HB 1987 and consider more strategic and innovative approaches to work together to restore wildlife habitat while simultaneously implementing

effective and humane cat programs that both minimize outdoor cat populations and conflicts with wildlife.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:14:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liz Bushman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this legislation because there is a better way. A count and kill cats effort is absurd and inhumane. What has been proven to lower the population of feral cats is spay and neutering through a TNR program. TNR is Trap Neuter Return.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), the humane approach to addressing community cat populations, works. It saves cats' lives and is effective. TNR improves the lives of cats, addresses community concerns, reduces complaints about cats, and stops the breeding cycle. TNR improves the co-existence between outdoor cats and humans in our shared environment. This is why so many cities are adopting it.

Scientific studies and communities with TNR programs are proof that TNR reduces and stabilizes populations of community cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:24:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Girbino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a conservation ecologist, a graduate student at UH Hilo, and a cat-lover, I believe the evidence suggests that the surveying and culling of cats is vital to the health of Hawaiian biodiversity. As much as folks love them, there are simply too many cats, and they pose direct threats to Hawaiian birds, as well as indirect threat via toxoplasmosis to our endangered monk seals.

Simply on the basis of endangered species protection, the cats have to go. I empathize, truly, but the precedent has been set; Australia has implemented cat culling programs with moderate success, and their toll on biodiversity simply outweighs the costs of control.

For the sake of Hawai'i, please vote yes on HB1987, and help reduce the invasive species population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:27:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn M Chapman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose killing feral cats. I have helped to feed and neuter feral cats and they do a service controlling rodents. Rats and Mongoose are multiplying and are what really needs to be eradicated.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:32:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Nally	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider other means of reducing the cat population. One idea is for people, persons, or whole communities to adopt, neuter/spay, and support the feeding of cats. I adopted two feral cats from AdvoCats. They roam free about my yard and sometimes visit our neighbors and their cats visit us. Our two ferals are very useful at keeping mice and rats at bay. Have you considered what would happen if our adopted cats came upon the "poison" that has been suggested at reducing the cat population and ingesting it?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:35:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosemarie Muller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:36:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
S Beth Crumrine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987.

This plan to eradicate does not differentiate between truly feral and domestic cats. Domestic abandoned colony cats as well as pets living in the vicinity of this proposed method would be at risk. That is unacceptable.

As a pet owner, this proposed legislation would put my cats at risk.

I am also a colony cat feeder for 18 years. I see that the word "feral" is often used to describe any stray/homeless/community/colony cat but "feral" means that the cat is wild, not domesticated. Cats that I have come in contact with in the colonies I feed in Wahiawa are not feral, they are abandoned domestic cats. Generally speaking these cats do not hunt, do not know how to feed themselves. They rely on the love and kindness of those that provide them with cat food. While it is true that there are truly feral cats that will follow their natural predator instincts to survive, most colony cats do not fall into that category. They are helpless domestic cats that have been abandoned by irresponsible humans.

To poison cats indiscriminately is not the answer.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Mahalo,

S Beth Crumrine

sbethcrumrine@gmail.com

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:36:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caroline Bee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose HB1987. This short-sighted and ineffective bill reflects a very serious and virtually complete lack of understanding of and familiarity with the issues as they exist on the ground regarding supposedly "feral" cats.

The vast majority of cats in colonies that people like those who wrote this bill refer to as "feral" are not, in fact, feral at all. They are cats that have been dumped by owners upon leaving the island, a practice which continues without consequence because there is *no enforcement* by either the state or the DoD (one of the prime offenders) of Hawaii's existing laws prohibiting animal abandonment. As recently as a few months ago, those investing their time on the ground on a daily basis, caretakers, both witnessed and videotaped a man, accompanied by a woman, abandoning six kittens in a cardboard box. The caretakers called HPD and showed them the video of the actual event, which included the car's license plate and clear pictures of the perpetrators. Yet HPD said they "couldn't do anything." What's needed here is an emphatic message that these laws be enforced.

In addition, many of these supposedly "feral" cats are actually *currently owned cats* whom "neighbors" have stolen and dumped far away from their homes out of irritation either with the cats themselves, or, just as often, and far more despicably, a personal gripe they have with the owner. Just yesterday a woman was reunited at last with her 7-months' missing cat, who was found by a caretaker far from his home. Such tales are far from unusual amongst those of us working to solve this problem every day.

I would suggest, rather than this short-sighted bill, that Hawaii spend both money and time enforcing the existing penalties for animal abandonment, please. It would also be far more effective to provide more funding for neutering services, and NOT JUST TO HHS. There are several organizations that strive to provide these services, both for abandoned cats and owned cats, yet due to lack of funding, there are not nearly enough opportunities for those who wish to take advantage of these services, and the numbers wishing to take advantage are large. The current wait time to get a neutering appointment at HHS is one month. Mass neutering events are booked up almost as soon as they are announced, and the wait to get an abandoned cat neutered through HHS is often longer, as many as 6 months. The idea that TNR "isn't working" might just be because TNR programs are both woefully under- and unfunded and limited to one

organization, HHS. Seems peculiar to decide something "isn't working" when the odds against such programs appear to have been stacked from the beginning.

Now we're in a situation where what I suppose you might call "stakeholders," who are very dedicated and very busy people trying to solve this problem, who are spending untold hours of their own time, and quite literally tens of thousands of dollars of their own money to help (so yes, I think they meet the definition of "stakeholders") are trying to find ways to get the animals neutered without having to wait months. Perhaps the legislature might see fit to earmark further monies for that, and perhaps fund a program with recent veterinary school graduates to come for short stints to the islands so such in-demand services are accessible and available. The state has an abysmal shortage of veterinarians willing to participate in community spay/neuter.

In addition, there are organizations that have been working very hard and very successfully, I might add, to send these supposedly "feral" cats to rescues and shelters on the mainland where they are adopted out, sometimes on the exact same day they arrive, which should indicate just how "feral" they are. Perhaps it would be more effective to assist in funding these partnerships, where Hawaii's cats are very much wanted.

One of the best ideas, of course, especially given that we are an island state is to make it mandatory that all pets currently in state be neutered, as well as making it illegal to bring an unneutered animal in (and, of course, enforcing the laws). There should also be high licensing fees and compliance checks for any breeders.

Effective solutions come from a complete understanding of the problem, and again, the biggest problem, by far, is that people here adopt and then abandon. Colonies might vanish with this shorts-sighted solution of poisoning all the existing cats, but they will just reappear again and again as more cats get dumped. In addition, this policy has the additional, inhumane and disgusting effect of declaring "open season" on **all** cats, at-will kill, (not to mention the torture we see far too often,) no matter what the situation, because DLNR has said it's okay because they're "feral". I'm sure those lawbreakers who currently hold cat target practice out on Kapa'a Quarry Road or near the Royal Kunia golf course will perform due diligence and make sure the cats they shoot are unowned, right? I've picked up two cats' bodies from the latter area that were riddled with bullets. (The surviving cat, for your information, after much care and expense, was sent to a rescue on the mainland and was adopted on the car ride from the airport to the shelter--didn't even make it to the adoption floor in Washington.)

I hope you hear more voices from those of us who have been in the trenches helping out, generally unassisted, for years now. They may not have the time to write because, as I've said, on top of working full time, they are busy working to make this situation better. Nevertheless, I hope you decide to fully fund programs that **are** working and will work even better, when they're given the chance to work through funding, enforcing existing laws, and enacting legislation that stops unneutered animals from entering the state. We can all get behind that.

Finally, there is ample evidence of "collateral damage", that is, other animals being poisoned by compound 1080. It's a controversial program in other countries for a reason.

Again, I repeat my strong opposition to this bill and urge the committee to reject it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:42:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosalyn Loong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I had a colony of feral cats that I trapped and had neutered with the help of Advocats who supplied the traps.. There was approximately 10 cats involved and the procedure was done in a day. I certainly did not, and would not even consider poisoning and killing them. Since then there has not been a single litter of kittens since the neutering, and the remaining feral cats are living out the remainder of their lives. I no longer have a problem with mice and see fewer mongoose. I can only wonder what kind of legislators would suggest something so barbaric as a solution to a problem. Hawaii needs to support and promote humane neutering.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:43:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kent Rayhill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose the poisoning of feral cats as proposed in HB1987. It is an unrealistic and inhumane approach to the problem and it simply will not work. There are many existing and new organizations working hard to solve this problem in a humane way and those people are making good progress. The passing of this bill will result in the poisoning of people's pets. It's just a bad plan that should never pass. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:44:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ina S Barnett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a private party who moved to the Big Island two years ago; I am not a member of AdvoCATS although I greatly respect their work. I started walking every day at the Old Kona Airport gardens and soon discovered the feral cat colonies there. A long-time cat feeder had recently passed away, and I soon picked up where he had left off. Together my husband and I feed about 50 cats every morning. 95% of these feral cats have been spayed or neutered and then returned to the park to live out their lives. Although this statement is anecdotal, I can definately tell you that in the two years that I have been feeding the cats the number of cats in the park has been SIGNIFICANTLY REDUCED which is the whole point of TNR (trap/neuter/return). Two years ago we were feeding 15-20 more cats in the same areas! As the cats get very old and stop eating, AdvoCATS euthanizes them. In the mean time, they are well-fed by volunteers like me at our own expense. Furthermore, many people (both kama'aina and visitors) come to the park and truly enjoy seeing the cats and even learn their names and pet the ones that allow it. Last July I actually asked people who walk in the Old Kona Airport Park to sign a statement supporting the cats. In 3 hours a day for 7 days, I collected over 70 signatures! If that number is extrapolated over the 12 hours that the park is open, it becomes very clear that there is tremendoud support for the feral cats. The real problem is that people keep dumping off their "un-fixed" cats and even whole litters of kittens. And absolutely nothing in this bill is going to prevent this!! **AND POISONING CATS IS DEFINITELY NOT THE ANSWER BUT IS THE TRUE DEFINITION OF ANIMAL CRUELTY! BETTER IDEA: Appropriate funds to build a cat sanctuary on each island where all these spayed and neutered cats can live out their lives safely. Other communities have done this, and there is no reason that Hawaii cannot. SURELY NONE OF US WANT THE REST OF THE COUNTRY TO THINK OF HAWAII AS THE STATE THAT POISONED ALL THEIR FERAL CATS! Thank you for listening--Ina Barnett**

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:46:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Jacobson	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Legislatures of Hawaii,

I would ask that instead of eradication via killing feral cat colonies, the state look into the data on implementing a "Trap-Neuter-Return" program.

Best,
Robert Jacobson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:50:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynley Dows	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Resubmitting as my submission did not appear in "green" in the sidebar as is noted that it should if it is processed.

Mass extermination is not humane for domesticated nor feral animals. And, in an article by the American Museum of Natural History you will find this definition, "A domestic animal becomes "feral" simply by fending for itself when left in the *wild*, without being helped or managed by humans in any way." So, most of the cats in our islands are not feral by this definition as many thousands of community members have stepped up to help and manage these abandoned animals and their offspring in a concerted effort to get them trapped, neutered and returned to their colonies. This is a proven management and reduction plan when people invest the money and resources to make it a comprehensive and consistent action. Lack of funding, lack of consistent support and management, and lack of resources has hindered the grass roots effort to make this work. If you want to move 1000 jelly beans from a jar to a bowl you don't do it with a toothpick. If the State of Hawaii invested as much money in trap, neuter, release action as the State will eventually invest in this flawed plan proposed by the bill the population rapidly declines and the problem would be managed.

Most of these colonies on Maui, Hawaii and Oahu are not in the vicinity of rookeries or native bird nesting. Yes, there are some cat populations in the areas of nesting and rookeries and we should manage these areas carefully. That does not mean that the same solution is appropriate for all areas. We do not fence off and cull feral pigs and goats in all areas. We address them where they are damaging to native forests and other plants and wildlife including birds which their destruction of habitat clearly affects negatively as well.

It should also be noted that since the grass roots efforts of the community have been growing, many of the cat colonies are managed by caring and invested community members. These cats that have been fed, provided vet care, socialized to the extent that they are not aggressive to each other are loved and supported. Though they were abandoned or the offspring of abandoned cats they are deserving of humane treatment. The colonies are also expanding due to a lack of effort for the State of Hawaii and the Counties and towns to enact means to encourage people to be able to affordably keep their pets. There needs to be incentives for rental properties to allow pets, perhaps insurance for renters supplemented by a government program to reduce the number of pets that are abandoned. There needs to be more investigation of people who trap and dump pets away from their neighborhoods. This has become rampant and is not only increasing the number of community cats but puts these cats now at risk of the State exterminating them.

On that note, how will the state ensure that pets that are lost, dumped, or simply outside are not exterminated. Many of the most responsible pet owners have suffered the heartwrenching situation of a pet going missing, inadvertently ending up out of their home area. The pet may be chased, may have hidden in a vehicle, may have wandered after moving, or may have been maliciously trapped and dumped. How will you avoid baiting or killing these pets. The State will not have any effective way to safeguard against this cruelty. Neutering a person's pet is far less tragic than killing one!

Put the money and the effort where it belongs. Establish real and effective teams to trap, neuter, and release the community cats funded and managed by the state not Humane enforcement or shelters which are already overburdened. Hire people who already have the skills and train more. Hire Veterinarians and techs to solely provide these services consistently daily. You will reach manageable numbers so that these needs can be turned back over to the shelters in a matter of a year or two if this is a dedicated service. Provide fencing topped with cat proofing in the sensitive nesting areas. This is not significantly different than the fencing out of pigs and goats. There is fencing that cats cannot climb over.

Once you start to devalue life...you will send a message that cannot be unsent. Do not pass this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:51:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Naughten	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In response to **HB1987**, I submit the following as my testimony opposing this legislation.

First, it is appalling that the Hawaii Legislature is proposing a barbaric act of poisoning cats using tax payer dollars. Funds should instead be used to eradicate the feral population by engaging animal control and rescue groups. Why are you headed straight for the kill solution when you have not tried controlling the feral populations through non-lethal and humane means? How about starting with a public service campaign which educates the public on the importance of spaying and neutering as well as the responsibilities of pet ownership? How about allocating state funds to help low-income individuals pay for spaying and neutering?

Second, the legislation mentions that the feral cat population has contributed to native bird population loss, but it also mentions that disease and loss of habitat are also contributing factors. I would argue that loss of habitat is a much larger contributing factor as opposed to feral cats. If the loss of native bird populations is such a concern to legislators, I would like to know why they are not protecting these habitats by funding open space measures or calls for less development near important ecosystems?

Thirdly, the legislation mentions the issue of toxoplasmosis in water sources. Of course, fecal matter finding its way into a water source is an issue. So why are legislators not instead focusing on cattle and dairy farms that pollute water sources more widely. This argument really falls short when you see how much a cow pollutes.

Lastly, by culling the feral cat population, you will see a huge increase in the rat population. Rat Lung Disease is a real and pressing issue now on the Island of Hawaii. Why are legislators ignoring the rat lung issue and targeting cats instead?

In summary, this piece of legislation is misguided. There are better and already proven ways to curb feral cat populations that does not involve inhumanly poisoning cats. Stray and free roaming cats will be caught up in this process. There are just too many questions, some are noted above, that remain unanswered. More research and exhausting other methods are needed well before starting a cull.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:54:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
katherine florer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I just became aware of bill HB 1987. I would like to express my horror and disbelief that the State of Hawaii would even consider such a cruel and unnecessary measure. Advocats has made tremendous progress in reducing the number of homeless cats with their spay/neuter clinics and will continue to do so. Perhaps the State of Hawaii could use taxpayer funds to expand these clinics as an alternative to killing the cats. As a taxpayer, I would certainly support this plan. In closing, I am totally opposed to this bill.

Katherine Florer

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:57:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lyndsey marrel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

the idea to eradicate invasive species via poison is not only the laziest thing i've heard, it's also heartless. This idea will not give the state the results it's looking for because there will always be irresponsible pet owners as well as people smuggling in animals that aren't allowed. And has anyone ever thought about the impact of spreading this poison and how it will effect the native wild life? Seriously, you cannot expect it only impact the animals you want it to. The Cats are a problem, i get that. And there is a huge community of volunteers who work endlessly to trap and neuter, which is the first step needed to slow down the ever growing population of cats. The next step is partnering with sister groups on the mainland that will take the cats via air cargo into their possession to find foster and homes. Could you imagine how much faster this process would go if the government worked WITH these groups and used the funding from this assanine bill to do that instead. To use that power and money to preserve life instead of destroying. I mean seriously, have we not done enough harm to our world already? the best idea you all can come up with is "let's spread a bunch of rat poison all over the island, i'm sure this won't have ANY negative affects of the plants, native animals we are supposedly trying to protect or the people. there's no possible way it could get in the WATER supply or out to the ocean, or seep into the ground and get into local produce". it's laughable that whatever "educated" person came up with this, didn't seem to think about all these other possibilities. So i vote a big, loud "No" to this proposed bill, because it is not the answer. All life is precious, even if inconvenient and there is always a better way than mass eradication via poison, it just means putting in a little bit of actual effort.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:58:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helena Berg	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a cruel and insensitive approach to living beings. This is genocide. Spaying and neutering is the ONLY practical, sensitive and humane approach to reducing the feral cat population. It's already in progress and working. There are many cat lovers on these islands, myself included. Those who vote for this bill will lose the votes of humans who love cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 4:59:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Schneider	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the citizens of Hawaii I opposed HB 1987 because it is cruel and inhumane to murder cats just because they are wild. Trap neuter and release is a much more humane and effective way to control the feral cat population. We are doing it in our communities here. It cost money yes but people donate to causes all the time and the people who are doing the trap neuter release program are also fundraising. Returning cats to the area that they are living in and comfortable with are the humane way to treat these cats. If you don't put them back where they have been they will try to get back to the original place. It's not easy to find homes for old cats they are releasing them to farm homes where they will be left to hunt and yet provided food and shelter for lean times. Leaving it to citizens to kill cats is a way to breed animal cruelty in children and adults. How will they ever learn to take care of their own animals? These are God's creatures and need to be treated as such it's not their fault that they're wild! They are left while off of because somebody moves and lets their cat be out without any shelter food or water and so the cat naturally goes back to the wild. Not controlling the population through spay and neuter programs is also humans fault. Putting poison out can also lead to people's pets being killed or children picking up the poison and eating it. That's terrible way to kill animals anyway. They have done these programs in New York City and other places successfully. Getting rid of the entire cat population is going to allow rodents to overpopulate the area and then you have another problem. I would advise you to look up trap neuter and release programs or the community cats program before you make your decisions that lead to the loss of these poor cats. Respectfully Julie Schneider fort Dodge Iowa

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:03:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Roberta Mau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987. It is absolutely inhumane to poison cats or starve them to death when the problem was created by humans. They are living, breathing creatures and have committed no crime. Punish the humans for creating the problem. Please, please I urge you not to pass this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:03:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darlene D Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How utterly archaic. Feral cats are not an invasive species. They are, in fact, the unfortunate result of people's careless disposal of companion animals.

It's hard to understand how, in the year 2022, such ignorance as this is even being seriously considered.

Please check your facts and refer to the many resources available that instruct humane methods of reducing and manage populations of feral and community cats. The rest of the free world gave up poisoning and shooting feral cats in the 1980s, and this practice is illegal in most of the United States.

This proposal is bringing very unwelcome attention to your beautiful state. Join the 21st Century and deal with your feral and community cats using proven, humane methods.

Make us proud, not angry. The animal rights movement is strong and will advocate a boycott.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:10:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a concerned resident of Hawaii and am again appalled at the overreach of our state government officials who seem to think it is their responsibility to eradicate all that seems to be a pebble in their shoe!! They seem to forget that ALL CREATURES AND PEOPLE ARE FROM GOD and are worthy of life!! What is being proposed is inhumane and cruel. These statements are lacking the clear understanding of how creation was designed and the fact that anyone thinks there is a quick fix is sadly mistaken. GOD is very clear about how He disciplines those that destroy His creation because they think they know what's best. This is not why we pay taxes and it certainly is not the government officials responsibility to make such decisions!! Honestly, I pray you all would just do the job the people put you in office for and that you all would do your due diligence in honoring the oath you swore to uphold!!! I pray God has mercy on your souls!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:11:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jan Kanaeholo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Animals deserve respect and dignity. Use humane methods to reduce the feral cat population. Neighborhood Cats is making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

Respectfully,

Jan Kanaeholo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:15:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debbi Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony for Bill HB1987.

My first correction to this bill is that 90% of the cats in colonies are not feral (born in the wild). They are people's pets that have been abandoned to fend for themselves or ignorant people have trapped and dumped them in the colonies or just ignorant people who do not spay and neuter their animals and have let them overpopulate. This is a people problem not at any fault of the animal.

As for predators to the native wildlife, it's not the cats but the mongoose and rats. I have never seen a cat kill the birds that were mentioned but I sure saw the mongoose kill them . The cats won't even go after the chickens.

As for toxoplasmosis where do you think the cats contract that but from the rats. This is a lame and ignorant excuse to poison cats. So I go back to the rats and mongoose are the real predators.

As for TNR it definitely works. There were over 200 cats at a location on Maui. After the program started that 200 has gone down to 32. It has stayed at 32 except for the cats that are dumped by ignorant people. Those cats are then taken to MHS to get adopted out.

For 30 years I have been doing TNR on this island and rescuing dogs and puppies dumped by ignorant people. It's about time we get this situation under control and start concentrating on the real problem.

We need to not pass this useless bill but pass a mandatory spay neuter bill. We need to fund free spay and neutering. There should be strict laws and high fees for any licensed breeder. There are numerous cities on the mainland that I found in my research who have passed these laws and are very successful in controlling the population. We will need to fund more animal control officers but it will be worth it to control both the dog and cat population on these islands which has gotten out of control. I would be happy to work with folks on this bill. This would be the most successful answer to this problem.

Below is an example of a bill that needs to be passed now.

CALIFORNIA

BEAUMONT

- Spaying and neutering is mandatory for dogs and cats over the age of 4 months. Exemptions are provided for animals whose health would be endangered by the procedure and for animals owned by city-licensed breeders. The former must be confirmed with a written statement by a licensed California veterinarian.
- Owners with unaltered animals may only be cited if they are in violation of another state or local law that concerns possession of a dog or cat.

6.02.080 Mandatory Spay and Neutering. No person shall own, keep, or harbor an unaltered dog or cat in violation of this Section. An owner or custodian of an unaltered dog must have the dog spayed or neutered, or provide a certificate of sterility, or obtain an unaltered dog license in accordance with this Title. An owner or custodian of an unaltered cat must have the animal spayed or neutered, or provide a certificate of sterility.

Penalties issued for failure to spay or neuter a dog or cat shall be enforced as set forth below:

- a. An administrative citation, infraction, or other such authorized penalty may be issued to an owner or custodian of an unaltered dog or cat for a violation of this section only when the owner or custodian is concurrently cited for another violation under state or local law pertaining to the obligations of a person owning or possessing a dog or cat. Examples of such state law or local violations include, but are not limited to, the following: failure to possess a current canine rabies vaccination of the subject dog; dog or cat at large; failure to license a dog; leash law violations; kennel or cattery permit violations; tethering violations; unhealthy or unsanitary conditions; failure to provide adequate care for the subject dog or cat in violation of the Penal Code; rabies quarantine violations for the subject dog; operating a business without a license and/or lack of State Tax ID Number; fighting dog activity in violation of Penal Code section 597.5; animals left unattended in motor vehicles; potentially dangerous, dangerous or vicious animals; and noisy animals.
- b. Should the owner or custodian of an unaltered dog or cat be found in violation of a state or local law, as stated above, in subsection (1), the owner or custodian shall be required to spay or neuter the unaltered animal in accordance with this section. (Ord. 960, 10/20/09; Section 1)

6.02.090 Mandatory Spay and Neutering-Exemptions. This section shall not apply to any of the following:

- a. A dog with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or death if spayed or neutered, due to age or infirmity. The owner or custodian must obtain written confirmation of this fact from a California licensed Veterinarian. If the dog is able to be safely spayed or neutered at a later date, that date must be stated in the written confirmation; should this date be later than thirty (30) days, the owner or custodian must apply for an unaltered dog license.
- b. A cat with a high likelihood of suffering serious bodily harm or death if spayed or neutered,

due to age or infirmity. The owner or custodian must obtain written confirmation of this fact from a California licensed Veterinarian. If the cat is able to be safely spayed or neutered at a later date; that date must be stated in the written confirmation.

c. Animals owned by city-licensed dog or cat breeders. (Ord. 960, 10/20/09; Section 1

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:15:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
stephanie stearns	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 should not pass as written. The only acceptable containment of feral cats as far as I'm concerned, is catch, neuter, release. If you are considering any other form of containment, like poison, it is unacceptable to me. I believe if you had a functional program of catch, neuter and release, many citizens might participate.

PLEASE do not consider poisoning them. It is a barbaric approach!

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:16:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

First and foremost I do understand that there is a HUGE surplus of stray/feral cats here on Oahu. With that being said I do not agree with how the situation is wanting to be handled. The cats did not ask to have been left behind/ abandoned! I believe that if they're chipped track down their original owners and have them held accountable!!

I along with a group of passionate and caring ladies go around and feed/TNR the cats. We are also trying to find a way to get them all off the streets and perhaps into a building to where we can have something set up like a Cat Cafe. With that set up we can get the feral cats tame and find homes for all of them.

Secondly, I suffer from PTSD. Pet therapy is what helps calm me down. Being around the cats has helped me out a lot. Pet Therapy in this case would be very beneficial to those that suffer from PTSD, Depression, and anxiety and any other behavioral issues.

Lastly, I understand that there is an overwhelming amount of feral cats on the islands. There are also a lot of abandoned facilities. I believe that with a little work and some volunteers we can turn the abandoned buildings into homes for the strays. I also believe that any wasted, damaged, or almost expired (unwanted petfood) could also be donated to these refugees to help feed them all.

Again they didn't ask to be brought into this world;to only be abandoned.

Thank you

Nicole Jackson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:23:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Parish	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I work as an Outreach Coordinator for a nonprofit organization called Operation Catnip in Gainesville, Florida. We provide low cost spay and neuter services for free roaming community cats. Last year, we sterilized and vaccinated over 5900 cats. I understand the contentious nature involving the topic of feral cats.

No one wants cats that are fighting, spraying, roaming, spreading disease and having litter after litter of kittens outside.

Much time and research has gone into finding the solution to this problem. The most effective and humane solution is TNR. Trap, Neuter and Return. Feral cats are trapped, brought to a clinic for sterilization and vaccination and returned to their outdoor home. Over time, this method stabilizes the population, reduces the spread of disease, and eventually the population dies out on its own. Simply rounding up and killing the cats will not work. Removing the cats from one area creates a vacuum effect in that environment and opens up the opportunity for more cats to move in. Not to mention, it's incredibly cruel. Cats that have been sterilized and vaccinated have been shown to roam and fight less, hunt less and are not having repeat litters.

Our organization would be happy to have a discussion with you about the best way to go about this that suits the best interests of the people and the cats involved.

Thank you for your time,

Stephanie

Operation Catnip

ocgainesville.org

352-380-0940

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:24:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicelle Herron	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing because I vehemently oppose this bill. It is barbaric and inhumane. There are other options available outside of culling the cats. There are shelter services and you can provide catch and release programs where you loan traps and can take them in to get spayed or neutered. I recognize that these are a problem to the monk seals and I want to find a solution to help those beautiful animals as well but, I do not think that a mass killing of cats is the answer. I believe there are more humane ways to fix this problem. Please take these options into account. I ask that you do not pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Nicelle Herron

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:25:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Richwood	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am appalled that this idea is even being considered! Poisoning an animal population is not only cruel and brutal, but will have unintended consequences by allowing the rodent population to go unchecked. Look what happened when the government tried to control the snake population by introducing mongoose! Now the mongoose are out of control - an outcome that was unexpected! There are humane ways of controlling the feral cat population namely spay/neuter/release and there are organizations which provide that service, which can be better supported with governmental funding.

Please reject this ill conceived bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:26:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Serina Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Serina Souza. I live on Maui. I am writing on behalf of our Beautiful Feral Cats here on Maui. Our Cats doesn't deserve to die because of overpopulation. All living creatures deserve to live a Humane lifestyle unless the animal is being killed to feed a Ohana such as Pigs, Fish etc.

PLEASE DO NOT kill our cats here on Maui. Instead let us invest in a Cat Sanctuary like on Lanai. We can give our youth an opportunity to help care for the cats.

Here on Maui we have a group called "Good Cat Network" on FB. They help to care for the colonies. They are a remarkable group of volunteers dedicated to our Cats here on Maui.

I'm leaving my contact information because I literally will do ANYTHING to protect our Cats.

Serina Souza

(808) 359-4693

pulelehuahoni@gmail.com

Thank you for your kind consideration of my testimony.

Aloha,

Serina Souza

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:30:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Greg Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Re: HB1987

I am opposed to this legislation you are considering. Killing is wrong. And, how are you going to accurately identify your target cats to kill? What procedures will you have to ensure that you are not killing pet cats belonging to residents? How would you compensate pet owners for wrongful deaths caused by this legislation? Thank you.

I Strongly oppose the HB1987 bill that would allow the killing of feral cats on the Hawaiian Islands. All lives matter including those of animals. Cats just like humans have a right to life and are sentient beings that do not deserve to be systematically murdered. It's shocking and appalling that such an act could even be considered as an option in this day and age and particularly in a place that is supposed to have such connection and reverence for nature inclusive of land and animals. What type of message does that send to the world about Hawaii. It seems almost hypocritical that you could claim to love the land so much but be more than ready to kill thousand of beautiful beings that live on it. SURELY YOU CAN FIND MORE HUMANE AND COMPASSIONATE SOLUTIONS TO THE FERAL CAT ISSUE. Please understand killing is wrong and never a solution especially the taking of innocent lives. I lived there for a period of time and loved it. I have also returned as a visitor many times.. However if this barbaric bill is passed it will undoubtedly change my view of the Islands as I am sure it will for countless people. I implore you to please have a conscious and choose more humane methods of controlling the feral cat populations. Show the world that you truly do care for life and seek balance through positive and humane methods not murder and torture of animals.

THANK YOU

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:37:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Mun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why would you kill the cats that are alive?? That is inhumane! How would you feel if you were to be killed because you had to eat other species for food and they think you should die because you are simply eating to live?!! There are other options! Feed the cats cat food. Spade/neuter existing cats, cat adoption, provide housing for them. So many other options and the best idea was to kill them? Are you kidding??

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:39:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sarah bumpus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i am a veterinarian on maui and am well informed about feral cat colonies on the island.

trap/ neuter/ release actually IS effective at decreasing the number of feral cats in public areas. i do not know if there are areas of maui with endagered speices that are predated by feral cats. perhaps those might be treated differently, but it is certainly not necessary to poison animals in public parks or to encourage the public to randomly poison animals in their neighborhoods, it is is barbaric.

do not think this is a pleasant death- here is info directly from RSPCA in AU regarding the poison in Eradicat and Courisoty baits: (link at <https://kb.rspca.org.au/knowledge-base/is-papp-a-more-humane-toxin-than-1080-for-pest-animal-control/>)

"PAPP works by reducing the amount of oxygen in the blood by affecting haemoglobin levels in poisoned animals, causing them to become increasingly tired, lose coordination and lie down. Affected animals then lose consciousness and die due to lack of oxygen to the brain and heart. The time from bait ingestion to first symptoms is generally around 30 minutes, and death usually occurs within one to two hours. **Prior to death, some animals may experience anxiety and distress from being unable to move while still being conscious. Dogs that ingest baits may vomit, especially during the later stages of poisoning. There is also the risk that poisoned animals are exposed to possible predation or exposure from climatic extremes during this period.**

Baits containing 1080 (sodium flouroacetate) work in a different way, as this toxin shuts down the energy supply to tissue and organ cells including the heart and brain. **The initial obvious symptoms of 1080 poisoning are retching, vomiting, anxiety, disorientation, shaking, frenzied behaviour, manic running, vocalisation and drooling. Once the poison enters the central nervous system affected animals will experience convulsions, uncontrolled paddling and muscle spasms, followed by total collapse and death. During periods of prolonged convulsions animals may be conscious between fits and experience pain or anxiety.** There is also potential for animals to injure themselves over this period. Symptoms usually appear within 3 hours of bait ingestion with death occurring 2-10 hours later. Thus, the effects of 1080 in causing pain, distress and death appear to take much longer than with PAPP."

will it will only take one inadvertant child poisoning to convince you this is just a bad idea?

PLEASE vote no on this bill

aloha

sarah bumpus, dvm

maui, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:41:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rita Batek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I want to strongly object to the proposed bill HB1987 concerning the eradication of feral cats on the Hawaiian islands. I'm absolutely appalled that such a barbaric and inhumane solution to the feral cat situation would even be considered. I would in no way consider this "effective management" of the problem. We all know there are too many feral cats on Maui and elsewhere and non profits like Good Cat Network are working very, very hard to help solve the problem. Mass poisoning would certainly NOT be a solution they'd endorse. I certainly do not think this bill is a solution most residents would support and I plead with you NOT to let it become law.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:42:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elisa Morse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987 and frankly am shocked such a law could even be proposed. My family and I have visited Hawaii many times and one of the beautiful things about being there are the animals you see. Cats and feral cats are not invasive species -- they are sentient beings who deserve to live there as much as anyone else, including people. Feral cats and cats are also wild where we live and not only do we not persecute them, we respect and value their lives. While we have loved our trips to Hawaii and had hoped it would be a favorite place for our whole lives to travel to, as animal lovers we could not in good conscience ever travel to Hawaii again and I have no doubt many other animal lovers feel the same. It is not for people to decide what animals are and are not invasive and to eradicate any animal population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:45:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heather Herrington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear House Members,

I sincerely beg you not to proceed with the cruel and needless eradication of cats. They experience pain and have emotions and their own unique personalities. Decades ago when I was a medical trainee (I'm a biologist and clinician) and was working 90-100 hrs/wk, a blue-eyed feral cat saved my life. She gave me purpose during a time when my training was brutal. She showed me love when no human did. Several years after that, my son was born. When he was 5, the neighbor's dog came into our yard and attacked him. At that time, a different feral cat I was caring for saw what was happening and jumped on the dog and saved my son.

Trap, neuter, and release is humane and controls populations. Because we are human, why should killing be an option? I have had many patients who derived great satisfaction and purpose in taking care of cats.

According to Laurie Garrett's book, *The Coming Plague*, (pages 13-29) medical researchers and epidemiologists from the U.S. investigated an outbreak of Bolivian hemorrhagic fever in Bolivia in the 1960's. People were bleeding to death from this disease (similar to Ebola). Through their findings, they discovered that the cats in those communities had died out. This coincided with a large pesticide spraying program. Field mice multiplied and were in people's homes. The researchers subsequently had hundreds of cats air lifted into the communities, and the outbreak stopped. Nature has a way of balancing things out.

Thank you for this opportunity, and I beg you to please consider TNR as an alternate means. I donate to organizations who do this, and I would gladly keep giving more to help to save these wonderful animals, as they have saved me.

Very Respectfully,

Heather Herrington

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:45:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alisha L LeBlanc	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been rescuing and spaying cats and finding them loving homes for several years. All but two of our cats were outdoor rescues and they are the sweetest, most loving cats. Outdoor feral cats help to keep the rodent population down. They are beneficial. They can be trapped and spayed to help reduce the population. Most kittens and some older cats can be tamed and put up for adoption. I have tamed three cats over a year old at time of capture. It takes time and patience, but it can be done. Others may need to be returned outdoors. Poisoning them is inhumane. You may also poison someone's beloved outdoor cat or other pets and wildlife.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:46:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Drout	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this legislature. While I agree there is a problem with feral cats on maui which desperately needs to be solved, this proposal is not the solution. I agree, starting with a true scientific study/assessment needs to be done using a validated scientific method (which i do not believe is what was being proposed in this legislature). This legislature states that a "humane" method should be employed to solve this problem, however recommends using POISON to bait the cats. I'm fairly certain that using POISON to kill cats will not be deemed humane by the majority of the voting public, and certainly not deemed humane by the Maui Humane Society, or any other animal organization. Not to mention, using POISON would have other unintended consequences by having non-target animals (perhaps even including the very ground nesting birds you are trying to save) consume the poison, OR also by having this poison enter into watersheds and soil contamination.

Furhtermore, the proposed legislation sates that all other humane methods, such as trap-neuter-release, are "not an effecitve strategy" and state that they have no scientific evidence. This is simply factually not true. Nonetheless, we are back to disputing whose "science" is valid and whose "evidence" is real.

I agree there is a huge problem. I agree with researching the data to get a baseline scope of the size of the problem. I agree there needs to be stong efforts placed to significantly reduce the population size by 2025. However, the suggested method of POISON is **most certainly not the humane answer**. Disregarding all other facts and studies and choosing only to rely on and promote *certain* facts and studies that fit a specific agenda also does not encourage approval and collaboration for **all residents** of maui county towards an effective solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:48:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lei Kihoi	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Chair of the Agriculture Committe and members: I am in opposition of HB1987, as it is inhumane, barbaric, and brutal to animals. Many animals (cats and dogs), are dumped into the enviornment to die when owners leave Hawaii, or else cannot afford to take care of them. A better resolution is to work or partner with SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), or the local Humane Society or Advocats (On the Big Island), to create a more humane resolution for the overpopulation of feral animals. Consequently, your eradication method as indicated in this Bill does not offer any other conclusion but the kill a defenseless animal. Please DO NOT PASS THIS BILL OUT OF THIS COMMITTEE.

I would sincerely appreciate a response to my testimony.

Aloha,

Lei Kihoi, Esq.

P.S. I am a member of Advocats, and a pro bono Attorney for the prevention of cruelty for animals. We have been successful in reducing the feral population by (spay/neuter/release program) by spay/neutering more than 20,000 animals with the help of voluntary veterinarrians. We also have helped find many homes for these animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:50:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Luu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I fear the violent sentiments this bill's method would promote towards all cats in Hawaii. Most people can't tell the difference between a feral cat and a domesticated pet one. And I fear that Hawaii residents that are already killing cats (via shooting, drowning, etc.) will feel more encouraged and right to do so. Not to mention that poisoning is already recognized as unethical and criminal by the law. And that most lost, stolen & dumped pet cats would likely die and suffer from this violence instead of reunited with their families.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 5:52:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Subrina Moorley	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I understand that feral cats have been detrimental in many ways to wildlife in Hawaii. I am not a resident of Hawaii and am extremely grateful for the opportunity to voice my opinion in this forum.

As a resident of New York City, where we also have a large number of homeless and/or feral cats, I entirely understand how this crisis can become overwhelming. While I sympathize with the sentiments here, I also believe that there is a more humane solution than eradicating all feral cats.

Cats are domesticated animals, and can be trained and live as human companions the same as other animals such as dogs. Feral cats are cats who have not been socialized, and have to fend for themselves on the streets or in the wild. Without wildespread spay/neuter resources, feral cats can breed and contribute to hundreds more per year.

A more humane solution would be to commit resources to organizations that are committed to trapping, neutering, and returning/rehoming feral cats. This is a humane solution to the issue of overpopulation of homeless or feral cats. Instead of killing all feral cats, we should work to educate more residents about caring for and neutering/spaying their community cats to decrease overpopulation.

In New York City, we say if one resident on every block commits to Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR), we will solve the overpopulation of community cats. This method is effective and rescue organizations are already largely committed to this mission and carrying it out without little or no government support.

If there was support given to rescue organizations or individuals carrying out TNR projects, or if government agencies began actively practicing this mission, we could see a real difference in the homeless cat population.

Cats can empathize with humans the same as other beloved creatures. Even feral cats can grow close to humans who repeatedly feed and care for them. They do not deserve to live brutal lives outside where they are constantly fighting for survival. But most of all, they do not deserve to be executed for fighting to survive.

We can help these cats not by seeking to terminate them but by vaccinating, spaying, and neutering them so that they no longer contribute to overpopulation. There are many groups nationwide already participating in this effort, and the government should be looking to support these groups to solve this issue together.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Subrina Moorley

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:01:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emma Vowels	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This shameful bill should not be passed. Many of the feral cat colonies are cared for by locals, and are loved by tourists. We have loved seeing the healthy, happy cats when traveling there and our condo complex had specific notes about them being in their care. I understand that the numbers do need to be regulated for many reasons. However, this should be done by supplying resources to "TNR" - which stands for trap, neuter, release. This is a very humane way to cut down on feral populations. In addition, partners should be organized to adopt cats out to the mainland. Living on the mainland, hardly anyone talks about the need to adopt cats and dogs from Hawaii. There could be MANY more resources put towards finding the cats homes and TNR for the ones who would do best remaining feral. If you move forward with counting and killing cats - this will be a horrific stain on Hawaii's record and horrify travelers from the mainland who spend their money to travel to Hawaii. Please everyone let's look towards non barbaric solutions - you all are better than this!

Opposition regarding Hawaii HB1987

I am opposed and appalled by the proposal of the Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to count all of the feral cats in Hawaii and then systematically kill them.

This plan calling for a census of cats by 2023 and then a disheartening plan to completely eradicate all of them on Maui, Big Island, and Kauai, and half of them on Oahu by 2025 is senseless.

These cats have multiplied through no fault of their own, behaving by animal instinct. The growing numbers are largely by means of human behavior.

The effort spent in planning to hunt and kill or poison these animals can be better spent by encouraging programs to better educate the public to spay and neuter all cats – even family indoor pets, to recruit volunteers to educate, to assist at shelters, and to promote adoption and foster care.

These cats can be spayed and neutered over a period of time to manage the potential harm that may be caused by their being natural predators to Hawaii's rare wildlife species and to control the spread of the toxic parasite of concern.

No animal should be eradicated for simply behaving according to their normal instinctive drive for survival in light of the role that our own human behavior has contributed to the problem.

Please vote no on HB1987. I encourage the DLNR and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to reconsider their approach to managing the number of feral cats in Hawaii. Spaying and neutering these vulnerable animals, encouraging adoption, fostering, and opening dialogue for other creative ideas will provide solutions we can all live with.

Thank you for your consideration.

Terry Lennox
Eagle, Idaho

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:05:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kariesmart@hotmail.com	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

in an effort to give our native birds a chance at life; I support the funding of this count, and effort to eradicate feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:10:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Trish Sierer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am familiar with the issue of feral cats on the islands, but is mass killing really the only option? Where is your creativity and compassion? Instead of killing or poisoning them, can't we spay and neuter them and put them back in place? That would stem the tide and allow them to live out their lives as animals. It just doesn't seem humane to just kill them all. I vehemently oppose this bill.

Hawaii needs to invest in a foster system that really works at the humane society so these cats can be captured, socialized and adopted. It's not the Hawaiian way to do what this bill is suggesting. Reject it for a better option of handling the issue.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:11:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eric McCardle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is inhumane and must not pass. Taking the lives of thee poor cats is not a valid option for control of population. Trap and release only!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:13:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren T Foo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I strongly appose the HR1987 catch and kill model. This will be very cruel and inhumane treatment of our community cat population. We had in the approved animal control budget money earmarked for spay/neuter programs for Hawaii Island. Since HPD has taken over Animal Control this has not been done regularly - only to the extent it has been done by local 5013c charities and local concerned residents.

The animals if neutered will live out their lives with minimal effect on our human population - once effectively neutered they will eventually die out as long as residents do not continue to add to the 'dumped' population.

If the spay neuter budget was released and programs were run regularly the situation would correct itself in a short period of time.

With respect to the impact on local wild life it has been proven that the number one killer of native birds has been mosquitos and mongoose population.

This is a problem that can be resolved by a properly run spay/neuter program. We do not need to poison cats to get there. Please do not do this cruel and inhumane action.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:14:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Malaika Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have read the proposed bill and think that it is an over reaction to an admittedly serious issue, and that it is a short-sighted and temporary solution. If the state has the reasources to do a head count of all the cats on the island then it should consider trapping the animals to be spayed and set free or adopted out. If volunteers (I would, and so would many other people) set out traps (provided on loan from the state) in the cat colonies the cats could be trapped. For future prevention of a growing cat population the State should seriously consider banning unfixed cats and dogs from being brought to the islands. This can be done at quarantine facilities and they can request a mandatory spay/neuter certificate from a licensed veterinarian, much like they request a vaccination certificate. I would suggest that only licensed breeders be allowed to enter an unfixed animal into the state for breeding purposes with the stipulation that all animals be spayed/neutered before going to their new owners. A registry of animal ownership should be established to ensure that breeders comply. Fines should be consequence of not complying. I think that this would be a law that would save the animals of the islands, both present and future. Please consider this idea in earnest. It is the not the fault of the animals. Common sense laws need to be established in order to make a lasting difference. Please don't kill the cats.

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:17:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lindsay Barnett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear lawmakers,

I urge you to vote no on the harmful H.B. 1987, which would needlessly and cruelly kill countless otherwise healthy feral cats.

Feral cats are not only unfairly maligned -- their population is easily controllable through humane, non-lethal means. The method known as Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) effectively keeps feral cat populations in check. Meanwhile, feral cats have an undeserved reputation for killing native wildlife. In reality, pet cats who are permitted outdoor access are typically the cats who kill native wild species. Feral cats, who are typically active at night, are instead a valuable asset to communities through their control of non-native rats.

Rather than killing feral cats, Hawaii should prioritize funding TNR programs to prevent feral cats from multiplying while allowing them to live out their lives, and educate the public about the importance of keeping pet cats indoors.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:18:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Yes we need to eradicate feral cats on all islands. They are a huge problem for our native birds, seabirds, seals and dolphins. This bill is a step in the right direction. Other countries such as NZ and Australia have already taken proactive measures to eliminate these predators. We must protect our threatened and endangered native wildlife. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:20:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sono Yem	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not do this. This is inhumane. This is an aggregrious misappropriation of taxpayer money and state funds. There are humane ways to TNR (trap neuter and return) these feral cats to humanely control the population of feral cats. I am heartbroken that the aloha state would even consider this as an option. I vehemently oppose this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:22:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leilani L McMonigle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

I strongly OPPOSE HB1987. Through no fault of their own free raoming cats are abandoned by irresponsible pet owners who DO NOT take the responsibility of spaying/neutering their pet cat. The Hawaiian Human Society along with TNR organizations work tirelessly to spay/neuter cats that have been dropped off by owners. If HB1987 is passed, I have heard that free roamng cats will be put to death with poison, extremely inhumane. Where is the compassion? How does one know without a doubt, that cats are killing these birds. Is it an assumption or could it be other wildlife killing the birds? Legislators need to familiarize themselves with TNR organizations, spend a day/eveing with them to actually witness the trap/neuter process. Find a way to penalize owners who don't microchip and spay/neuter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:23:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mick Seeley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am amazed and outraged at this proposed bill. To think that in this day and age that anyone would even suggest the mass murder of innocent cats disgusts me, especially when there are humane alternatives (spaying and neutering). That any legislator would even think of spending my tax dollars on this adds insult to injury. It makes Hawaii look backwards and barbaric, and lawsuits against the state are guaranteed if this pogrom is attempted - which the State will waste even more tax dollars on defending. Can you imagine the outcry if wild dogs were the target? Well, LOTS of us Hawaiians care about our cats too!

If lawmakers really care about invasive species, get to work on eliminating the deer, goats, wild pigs and chickens that are REALLY damaging our environment and ruining our quality of life. Leave our cats alone!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:25:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elna Nagasako	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members:

I am writing to oppose HB 1987. Free-roaming cats are an issue of great concern; however, this bill is unnecessarily cruel and divisive.

Methods adopted in Australia, such as baiting and poisoning cats, may not work effectively in Hawaii given the differences in size and population distribution of these areas. Australia's vast size compared to the Hawaiian islands may allow feral cat control independent of changes in human behavior; in Hawaii's setting, I question whether these tactics will be effective. Furthermore, I am concerned about environmental risks and unintended effects to native species from adopting these methods.

Effectively addressing free-roaming cat populations also requires collaboration with organizations such as the Hawaiian Humane Society who are actively involved in this area. Adopting strategies that are likely to be opposed by animal rights advocates and that potentially contribute to increasing animal cruelty, e.g. by normalizing cat poisoning and other methods of cat culling, seems likely to cause controversy rather than to be actually effective.

I urge you to defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

Elna Nagasako

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:29:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ansel Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of HB1987. Humans created this crisis, and we must take action before it's too late. Cats are responsible for widespread ecological disruptions that are killing Hawaiian wildlife. They are one of the most devastating predators in Hawaii with no natural predator to keep their population check. Not only are they hunting and killing off native bird species, cats also contaminate our oceans with a parasite (toxoplasma gondii) which finds its way into the ocean from cats feces carried in rain water. This parasite is notably harmful to dolphins, and honestly I'm not a fan of swimming in cat poop water.

I have been a cat owner myself and wish for a better, more humane solution, but the choose is obvious. We either take no action and allow cats to demolish wildlife populations or enact this bill. I, for one, choose to support this bill and hope others will too.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:31:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
L Weir	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Wow - REALLY?! I know there are quite a few cat haters in Hawaii but how did they all get elected to the State Legislature? Drop this killing concept **immediately!**

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:34:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eri Sugino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not allow this bill to pass! Many citizens are doing there best to capture / trap/ neuter/ and release! They are doing a great job and progress is seen ! This is the best and most humane way to control the cat population! Please have a heart, get to know these cats and you will forever be a cat lover!! They are live creatures that have feelings! Please do not allow this to pass EVER!!!! Thank you! Eri

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:35:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
joy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Speaking not only as an animal lover with compassion and ethical viewings. Also as a TNR advocate, I have first hand experience on the positive outcome from TNR. Rather than a quick and inhumane "fix" I think a second more humane option should be developed. TNR as an option could easily help reduce overpopulation, I have had the pleasure of of visiting HI and my hotel had a few ferals on property, management said they helped with pests and visitors loved them. I think this could negatively impact the tourism and hospitality industry in HI. I believe a more positive resolution for these cats can be proposed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:36:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandra Dal Cais	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear leguslator(s),

I urge you to reject this bill as it proposes brutal and barbaric culling of the feral cats.

These animals are community cats and their colonies are being managed. Their numbers can and will be reduced humanely through the only effective and civilized method of trapping and neutering the cats. This has already been initiated in your state by Neighborhood Cats organization and other local groups. The progress is already being made and successful results that we see across the US will be achieved in a short period of only a couple of years in Hawaii as well.

Be humane and be civilized, Hawaii, so we tourists can proudly continue to sponsor you instead of avoiding you like we do with those places which treat animals horribly, such as China or Vietnam.

You can do better than that.

Respectfully,

Sandra Dal Cais

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:42:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shayne Gray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose HB 1987.

There are many people like myself, who are active cat colony feeders and attenders, who work daily to assist in reducing the population of Hawaii's cats.

TNR is a well-documented and effective solution to the problem, *if it is adequately funded*, a glaringly obvious shortcoming in Hawaii. I have to wait months to get an appointment at HHS for neutering, and so often go elsewhere because the need is urgent, paying as much as \$300 out of my own pocket to fix cats that get dumped. There have been times when microchipped cats, which means they are owned cats, appear, but because HHS no longer registers the microchips, it is impossible to locate the owner. There have been times when owners have been located, but they have moved away and have no interest in caring for the animals they adopted, *even if we, the cat care community, put together the money to send them to be reunited. There are no consequences for people who adopt and dump like this because Hawaii's laws are not enforced.

I can't count the hours or the dollars I have spent helping reduce the population of cats in humane and responsible ways. Perhaps the legislature should consider working with us, providing funding and helping us network resources, to end this problem in a evidence-based way instead of this misguided, inhumane proposal.

To repeat, I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:44:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tina Messerschmidt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

To end the life of innocent cats because people in this world are irresponsible and do not fix their cats is not a humane way to control the population. People dump their pet cats who are not fixed and then in turn those cats mate with other cats and then we have community cats.

TNR is the most humane way to control the population. Allowing the people of the community that want to volunteer to TNR these cats and then feed them is humane. If the community cats had enough food, they would not be hanging out in peoples yards.

The humane society fixes community cats for free. They need help though. Vets who are on island should also be doing this service. An opportunity for improvement would be to have all vets on the islands have to fix at least a certain amount of community cats for free each quarter. The process of fixing a cat is very simple in that line of work and they do it frequently. Why not fix a community cat while you are getting paid by your client to fix their pet?

Poisoning these community cats leaves the door open to poisoning other living creatures. Pet cats, pet dogs, birds, pigs, etc.

People think if community cats are fed they will no longer hunt mice and other rodents. This is simply not true. It is in a cats nature to hunt whether they are hungry or not. I have had experiences with community cats and while they might be more timid at first- once you build their trust- which, if you are a kind person won't take much- they are not going to attack. They are trying to survive and do not know who to trust. Once they establish trust, they act like normal pet cats. The group I have worked with totally love each other. They are the most loving cats I have ever seen. Please allow community caretakers to provide for them in a humane way so the other people who do not want to deal with them can feel at peace as well.

TNR might seem daunting- but I can tell you from first hand experience is not as bad as people think. I was able to get 11 cats through the TNR program in about 4-5 weeks.

It is morally unethical to kill a living animal because we as humans are lazy and do not want to put in a little effort.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:47:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Friedman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is absurd. The inhumane methods planned on being used are disgusting. There are better ways. This bill should not be passed. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 6:50:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Cooper	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

Thank you for considering this written testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to be heard on this matter. Although the impetus behind this bill -- namely, protection of endangered wildlife -- is laudable, culling cats is an indefensible solution to this problem.

Moreover, this bill fails to distinguish between feral and stray cats. Each population has different needs. Stray cats are cats that have been socialized to be around humans, but have been abandoned. These cats can be re-homed and provide companionship to new owners. Feral kittens who are four months old or younger can also be successfully socialized. So long as these cats are placed with responsible people who will keep them indoors, they will no longer be a threat to endangered wildlife.

Feral cats live in the wild, but may rely on humans for food, and some are at least partially socialized. Trap-neuter-release (TNR) is effective at managing this population. There are many organizations in Hawai'i -- Hawai'i SPCA, AdvoCATS, and CatFriends are some that come to mind -- which have successful track records implementing TNR.

TNR combined with colony management is the most effective solution for managing feral cat populations. Feral cats that have been spayed or neutered and are fed regularly stop displaying aggressive behavior towards wildlife. Additionally, these populations will decrease through attrition because they are no longer reproducing. TNR is unquestionably more effective and humane than eradication.

As noted in the bill, cats are a non-native species. They were introduced by humans, and the growth in the free-roaming cat problem on the Hawaiian islands is ultimately the result of irresponsible behavior by humans. This bill does nothing to address situations in which cat owners refuse to spay or neuter their cats, allow them to roam outdoors unsupervised, or worse, abandon them entirely. Until this irresponsible behavior is addressed, free-roaming cat populations will continue to persist in Hawai'i.

Hawai'i's resources would be better spent funding TNR efforts in conjunction with non-profit organizations, providing resources to organizations who specialize in re-homing stray cats and kittens, and imposing fines on cat owners who continue to engage in irresponsible behavior. This

would be far preferable to the methods proposed in this bill, and I hope that you will reconsider the available options.

Best,

David

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:00:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lyn Gribble	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is barbaric. So much anti cat legislation world wide. Manage as a desexed colony, removing cats will only create a vaccume. Support their existance and support proven TNR. Read the literature, it works, it is humane and what you are proposing is not.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:09:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
DRINDA MAXWELL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This inhumane bill should not be allowed to pass. Trap Neuter Return is a proven way to control the cat population without poisoning, which harms the environment as well as other wildlife. At the heart of this issue are ignorant humans who abandon pets and do not have them neutered or spayed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:13:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leslee Cook	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Dear Agricultural Committee this testimony is focusing on HB 1987. I recently moved to The Big Island and got involved in feeding, trapping and neutering the abandoned cats in my area in Kailua-Kona. At first I was working with Rainbow Warriors but then due to personality conflicts their contract was stopped and it went back to Animal Regulations. But Advocats was working on this situation and has also been picking up the slack after Rainbow Warriors stopped. All they need is more traps and funds to have public service announcements, pay their volunteers, and money to hire more Veterinarians for more clinics. Also of course they could us more volunteers to trap these local cats in order to get them fixed. This is a situation that has been ignored by the Agriculture Dept for too too many years now! But killing/poisoning the cats is NOT the answer. Raptors will eat the poisoned cats and also die an agonizing death. Dept of Agriculture should know we need raptors to keep the rat and mongoose populations down. Dept of Agriculture should know this fact that poison continues up the food chain. Using those precious funds to hire more agents to poison and pick up the dying animal bodies instead for purchasing more traps, hiring more Veterinarians (maybe just out of school who need experience) to come to our islands so we can put an end to the over population catastrophe is the wisest most humane option! By the way the cats do kill the mongose they are diurnal as well as nocturnal. They also eliminate the rat situation in the evening which is exacerbad by the homeless people situation. Why not be extremely far sighted and hire the homeless to help with this overpopulation situation. Advocats cats train these homeless people giving them jobs and a small income (if you appropriate funds for these jobs). Funds are needed to bring in more clean toilets and showers located all over our islands. Without these humane sanitation places for the homeless to clean up there will be more rat problems and more illnesses spreading. Besides when people can clean up they can gain back their self respect and thereby feel good enough to apply for employment. Government wants to get involved now, great, please research what organizations like **Advocats** has been successfully reducing this over population of cats, learn from their lead! Don't pay for a poisonous slow death which is then passed onto other animals in the ecosystem, making this an even bigger problem further up the food chain.

These animal rescue groups all over the islands need more resources, thereby they can provide Public Service Announcements to educate the unaware population on the timing of when it's time to get their animals fixed. If government hires more Veterinarians and provides **free neutering** then citizens will get their animlas fixed before 5 months of age. Please for once do the smart thing and listen to those of us "in the field" voluntarily working on reducing this feline over population situation.

Respectfully,

Retired Marriage Family Therapist, Leslee Cook-Kailua Kona

310-617-2577

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:16:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eryn Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislature,

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I understand that we have a problem, especially with the number of endangered species in the Islands. However, killing and especially poisoning the feral cat population is not the answer. There is no guarantee that the poison that is left out for these cats will only be touched by them. I personally know some people who have outdoor cats. There is no way to ensure that these pets will not get into the poison that is being laid out for the stray cats or that these pets will not be mistaken as strays. The poison that's left out could unintentionally get into the food sources or habitats of the endangered species thus, putting them in more harm.

One way that you can make real human progress towards reducing the number of stray cats is through spay/neuter. Through spay/neuter you are ensuring that there would be no reproduction of the stray cats without the uncertainty and harm that comes with poison. There could still be a count that happens to document the number of stray cats in the state but poison should not be used. Additionally, I know a handful of young people who leave the state of Hawaii in pursuit of a veterinarian degree. Offering these spay/neuter clinics would be beneficial not only to lower the population of stray cats but provide a place where these young students could give back to the place they call home. Students can get hands-on experience working with licensed vets while they are home, in high school, etc. You have the opportunity to create a learning environment for the next generation of medical workers. This might also inspire more of the younger generation to come home and give back to their community.

I don't think that we should be punishing stray cats for something that they have no control over. Currently, I live with a cat who started off as a stray. He went through a spay/neuter program where I go to school on the Mainland before he was adopted. I can say he is now effectively an indoor cat and one of the sweetest cats that I have met. Think of your pets or your friend's pets, and how no one really has a say in how they were born or brought into this world. I urge you to consider this and vote against allowing the killing and poisoning of these cats. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Eryn Lum

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:18:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adrienne Jensen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I live part time in Kailus-Kona, Hawaii and part time in Monterey county, California. I am opposed to and appauled by the notion of HS 1987, the euthenasia of feral cats. In Monterey county, dealing with feral cats has been done on a catch, sterilize, and return cats to their home colonies. This process was copied from the practice in Hawaii which is done by private groups such as Advocats. Cat colonies are then supported by private citizens without government financing.

The government should support these organizations financially as well as educate the public on their responsibility to pets. Cats are left neglected or abandoned by citizens living on the islands. The feral cat colonies help reduce the number of rodents on the islands. Why not put financing for eradication of mongoose rather than feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:21:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joanna Maney	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the feral cat population in Hawai‘i. I feel strongly that this issue needs to be urgently addressed in light of the dire situation facing Hawai‘i’s native wildlife species. Our native and endangered animals should have the highest level of priority in our islands, not the invasive species. I am extremely concerned that current invasive species protocols/policies, like TNR, are inadequate and, in fact, not scientifically supported “solutions” based on any evidence.

The scientific reports are very clear on this, trapping/spaying/neutering(TNR) feral cats has failed to even maintain what is currently already a large overpopulation of feral cats. It’s been tried for years and it’s just not working. It is vital we get this right because the extinction of multiple species, known only to exist here in Hawai‘i, hinges on humans making the hard decisions to do the right things to correct the mistakes we ourselves have caused to this unique and fragile ecosystem we call home. Humans created this problem. We brought cats to Hawai‘i and we have to be the ones to make the hard decisions to sustain these ecosystems.

Next to humans, cats are the 2nd most effective predator on the planet and one of only a few other species that *kills for sport.* Cats are to blame for at least 63 modern-day extinctions worldwide. That includes 40 bird species, 21 mammals, and 2 reptiles. They are cute but they are also lethal. A single cat can decimate an entire seabird colony in one night. Repeatedly, entire colonies, chicks and parents, have been killed in a single night, often leaving only one bird eaten for food by a single feral cat. Remote cameras have repeatedly captured these massacres and a quick google search will yield the tragic photos from multiple incidents.

I love all animals, including cats and the truth is many of these poor cats are not thriving and often suffer with disease, pest infestations, and lingering injury and infection. They spread toxoplasmosis which infects and sickens monk seals as well as people. Indigenous species long protected by the isolation of the islands have no resistance to toxoplasmosis, and for them, it is lethal. Cat feces washing into the ocean and infecting the seals is one of the main contributors to the decline of our Hawaiian monk seals. We cannot dismiss the immediacy of this crisis, there are only around 1100 Hawaiian monk seals left.

This is urgent. There is no recovery from extinction. I really believe we have to do what we can, what’s in our power, to prevent the complete, permanent loss of these unique Hawaiian creatures. I honestly hate the choices, but allowing any other species to go extinct because we

can't manage cat populations has to be the most poor choice we could possibly make. Its not fair, no, but it's not a balance-able equation and it never was. It is far past time we started implementing programs that effectively reduce these invasive and predatory populations.

Hawai'i's precious species of native honeycreepers, and seabirds, and monk seals are facing challenges from so many directions right now. This is one area we can truly help have a positive impact for them. Do we really want to wake up one morning and hear the news that we have lost the last 'i'iwi? Or seal? How would you feel if you could only describe them to your youngest family members and know they'll never see one for themselves because they are all gone? How would we feel knowing we didn't do everything in our power to save them? These wonderful creatures attract tourism dollars for our economy but more importantly, they are valuable to Hawaiian culture, Hawaiian history, and Hawaiian identity. We should celebrate them because they are precious and they only exist here in these magnificent islands. They need our help and we will surely regret not meeting these challenges with decisive action if they disappear forever.

Thank you sincerely for your time,
Joanna Maney

References:

TNR programs do not successfully reduce feral cat populations (e.g., Longcore et al. 2009);
TNR programs are not the preferred management strategy among Hawai'i residents (Lohr and Lepczyk 2014);
TNR maintains cats and mongooses on the landscape, where they continue to hunt and kill wildlife and spread diseases to people and animals (e.g., Lepczyk et al. 2020)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:22:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judy Sweatland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposed to Bill HB 1987. It is inhumane and barbaric to even consider such a behavior. My husband and I manage two cat colonies and have rehomed numerous abandoned or stray cats. They are kept contained in outdoor enclosure called catios so they are safe and do not wander. The colony cats are all spay/neutered, fed daily and are treated for health issues that happen. We support Alley Cat Allies, the best resource nationwide for community cats. They promote TNR as control for cats and we fully agree. TNR is the accepted method of managing colonies and works, but does take time and effort. We also adopt out abandoned kittens and cats and spread the word to spay/neuter. With all the cats I've helped over the years, it is my experience that they will choose to kill rats before birds, as they are more plentiful and easy to catch. Any attempt to eradicate cats will result in a vacuum effect, whereby more cats will return to the areas seeking shelter or food. The thought that our rehomed cats would be killed if not contained is ridiculous. Our cats are all microchipped also, including ferals. How can you allow killing someone's pet who is lost? We spend every dollar of our cats' expenses for food, vetting, supplies and care and spend hours daily to help them. People are the problem due to not spay/neutering their pets. Any unspayed or unneutered pets should not be allowed, and the state should use funds to increase free spay/neuter and mobile units to help people get their pets fixed. I've seen NOAA reports that Hawaiian Monk Seals injuries and deaths are caused more from human involvement, such as fish hooks, and not always toxo.

Hawaii needs to not join the ranks of barbaric practices like Australia or New Zealand, where killing cats was not effective and resulted in increased mice populations. It is an insult to all us volunteers and non-profits who spend their days and nights trying to make a difference humanely. I have rescued several feral cats also and they can be tamed with love, patience and compassion. Oh isn't that aloha? There is no aloha in killing. All of our cultures exist here and try to live as one. Cats are not the problem, humans are. Please reconsider this inhumane and ineffective bill. I'm embarrassed by the thought of it. Please for once care about managing the situation through TNR of which spay/neuter is number one. Alley Cat Allies should be contacted for more information about the program and how to implement spay/neuter benefits for all states.

Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:24:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Piazza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe that this proposed method of controlling a feral cat population is both inhumane and bound to be ineffective, as shown when attempted in the past by cities like New York City. The most effective and morally sound option is the practice of Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR), in which trained individuals and organizations safely trap colonies of cats, have them surgically fixed by a veterinarian, and afterwards carefully released to their original locations where they had been found. This method is known and trusted to appease residents disturbed by feral cat activity. Above all, I ask that you please act as a strong, compassionate voice for animals by opposing this bill. Thank you very much.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:25:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth Mende	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As an animal lover, I am thoroughly disgusted by this proposed bill. It is inhumane and cruel. I was born and raised on Hawaii Island and have great love and concern for the native bird and monk seal populations. However, killing all of the feral cats on the island is absolutely barbaric, especially when there are other means of humane population control, such as TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release). There are several groups on Hawaii Island which provide TNR and care for the feral populations here and have found much success with this method.

As someone who has adopted several feral cats, I ask how will the State determine if a cat is feral or someone's adoptive pet? How will they ensure that non-feral cats and other animals are not killed during the planned culling? There is also an issue on our island where people trap and dump other people's cats, who often times end up in feral colonies. These cats are pets. They are not feral. These cats may not find their way back to the families that love them should this bill pass.

Feral cats also control other invasive species like rats and mice. I have seen this firsthand in my neighborhood.

I kindly ask that you vote against passing this measure and focus your efforts on more humane methods of feral cat population control. I'm sure that the several non-profit groups that care for these animals on the Big Island would be more than willing to work with the legislature/DLNR on a humane plan for feral cat population control.

Mahalo,

Beth Mende Sawinski

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:28:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ken Love	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This sounds liike it could become the most barbaric thing this state has ever done. Do you really want to be over run by rats instead? Dont waste money on this when people are homeless and in need of food. Dont waste money on cats when the police and fire and dept of ag are grosely underfunded. If you must do something then use the cat sanctuary on Lanai as a model of humanity by the state. Ashamed that this was introduced and sponsored.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:29:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Kart	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”

Are we morally bankrupt to propose killing cats in the most painful way possible

That will not stop the people who keep dumping their pet cats

These cats are VICTIMS of human abandonment and cruelty as is.

Focus on Hawaii's homelessness, unaffordable housing, crime, inflation.

Leave the cats alone, show them some mercy

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:29:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Mascaro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha

I am submitting testimony in opposition to this bill. I have been assisting TNR groups in controlling the population of the feral cats. TNR works and it is humane. I have a colony that had 12 cats 3 years ago and now has 3. The cats do not reproduce and most feral cats only live 2-3 years. We are trying to humanely control the population. This bill is cruel and introduced without real field research on the care takers and TNR managers. Talk to them, go out and see the progress they are making. This works without killing.

DLNR should put their efforts into helping the caretakers manage the colonies and supporting this effort. Not attempt to kill all the feral cats.

I am asking you to not support passing this bill. Get the TNR colony caretakers and those out there every night helping with TNR together and have some real discussions on a better way to approach this,

Maybe DLNR can donate a piece of land the TNR community can build a cat sanctuary like Lanai? DLNR has land and resources. ANYWHERE on Oahu we will make it work. Work with us people Lets approach this better people. Save my name Im out here to help.

Mahalo for reading my testimony

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:30:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nikole McGreevey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill. It is widely known in the feral cat community that widespread killing of cats in an area does not limit or stop the population from returning to the area. Trap, neuter, release keeps feral cat populations in check by limiting the number of births and with the return of cats to an area, more cats will not move into the area. This is best conducted with targeted trapping and releasing in a certain area. No effort has been coordinated on any of the Hawaiian islands to target areas with TNR efforts. There are many places around the U.S. where targeted TNR has been successful. Baiting causes suffering, is inhumane, and should never be allowed. This bill is archaic, to say the least, with too many variables unaccounted for. Using statistics from people polled in 2013 is also not acceptable.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:36:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Piazza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I feel very strongly that this proposed method of controlling feral cat populations is both inhumane and bound to be ineffective, as shown when attempted in the past by cities like New York City. The most effective and morally sound option is the practice of Trap-Neuter-Release (TNR), in which trained individuals and organizations safely trap colonies of cats, have them surgically fixed by a veterinarian, and afterwards carefully released to their original locations where they had been found. This method is proven to reduce the feral cat communities without inhumanely taking away their innocent lives. I beg that you please act as a compassionate voice for animals by opposing this very harsh and inhumane bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:37:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Tanoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the barbaric killing of feral cats. Cats have been blamed for everything from killing wildlife to bringing plague. There are more predators out there that have done the same thing but goes unblamed. Cats keep rat populations in check and if the TNR program was implemented years ago, we wouldn't have such an overpopulation of them. If poisoned and left to die, who cleans up the mess? Who's to say someone's pet doesn't get poisoned? Are they left to empty out into our oceans and contaminate the fish we eat? Does this mean feral cats can never exist here in Hawaii? Its fair to assume the introducers of this bill are not cat lovers.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:37:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Krystle Michiels	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Colony caretakers already trn to reduce population growth of feral cats. New ones will just keep coming if they get removed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:38:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melinda Ferriera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee of Agriculture Chair Rep. Mark Hashem and Vice Chair Rep Amy Perruso,

Bill HB 1987 2/4/2022 at 10:00 AM

I oppose BH 1987.

I strongly oppose this bill BH 1987. DLNR has chose to eradicate the feral cat population is i humane and cruel. TNR has been successful and I think they should work with all the cat organization on island to have a successful outcome. Thank you for allowing me to share my concerns.

Thank you,

Melinda Ferreira

Makikilo 96707

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:40:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
betty guidotti	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't know if you realize if you kill all the kitties you are going to be infested with rats, mice and more cockroaches. The kitties are being trapped to be fixed and if not suitable to become domestic they are returned to their colony. There are fabulous people that care for the kitties and they get vet check ups and many visitors look forward to seeing the cats. Being fixed they are not multiplying and the colonies get smaller. Many places like having the cats as they keep the mice& rat problem way down. Please don't pass this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:42:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Edwina Talkington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987.

I live in Waipahu.

I totally oppose it because it is cruel and inhumane. Your bill uses the term cat bait but you want to poison and kill them.

Please do not pass this bill. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:44:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
J R Keoneakapu Williams	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou, I have been an avid animal supporter especially being a cat owner of 3 cats, I strongly SUPPORT this bill. This bill is long overdue and we are so far behind on this issue which has killed thousands of many types of animals, we can finally end the slaughter and the unnecessary killings caused by feral cats. As a cat person I know to many people this is inhumane but look at the other side of the situation with mass killings and eradication of many species caused by the overpopulation of feral cats. The comparison is far from equal when you look at the devastation caused by feral cats to me it is 99 to 1. Please pass this bill on to the next committee like i said it is long overdue, let us stop the mass unnecessary killings of many unique types of species we have here. mahalo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:45:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenworth K Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill, I think it is very barbaric for humans to play GOD and exterminate these poor animals. Individuals who bring these ideas are people who hate animals to begin with. The only selfish ones are humans, because humans are the problem not the cats. Who ever supports this will be in judgment with the creator.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:47:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lydia Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I believe this bill is full of inconclusive research and is proposing extreme, unnecessary, and inhumane action. There are other more appropriate and humane solutions with a higher chance of success of protecting native birds and wildlife. Mass eradication is not the answer, and the methods discussed in this bill are disgusting and inhumane. A collaborative approach consisting of TR, no-cat-zones, education, flying cats to the mainland and thorough research that identifies ALL the problems and best solutions is the only option.

I fiercely object this bill, implore you to reconsider the measures you're proposing and reach out to the community to collaborate and achieve a humane solution. Currently, there are local non-profit organizations talking and collaborating to focus on native wildlife in order to come up with the most humane solutions for the feral cat crisis. Please work with them for an alternative solution.

Sincerely,

Lydia

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:54:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ilze Sims	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I vigorously oppose this bill. The suggestions of killing and poisoning feral cats are both inhumane and shockingly cruel.... Cats are domestic animals - just like dogs. We have adopted a feral cat in our area and she is the sweetest animal and family member ever.... Feral cats on this island are just homeless cats that need help.... and they are perfectly adoptable. Organizations like Advocat and their spay and neuter and release program help to keep the population down. For the rest, it is our responsibility as human beings to take care of those who need our help. Please have a heart and help the less fortunate and homeless cats in your area.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:55:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
melissa duncan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is barbaric and unnecessary. Several organizations are already making headway on the feral cat problem. Why not use resources on TNR or low-cost spay/neuter?

Melissa Duncan-Hutchings

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:55:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen Jordan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Catch, spay/neuter, and release programs have proven an effective and humane way to control feral cat populations. Mass euthanization or poisoning of feral cats is irresponsible, cruel, and unnecessary. Do not allow this terrible mistake to take place in Hawaii, follow the example of other cities with successful catch and release programs.

Sincerely,

Kristen Jordan

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:55:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerry Hanley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for your time in reading my statement.

I am opposed to this bill if it means to reduce the population of feral cats by killing them. TNR-Trap-Neuter and Return (and adopting out those we can) is the most humane way to cull feral cat populations. We need to further enable groups who are active on this with funding and support. The answer is not killing cats–this is barbaric and backwards. I assist with a TNR nonprofit in my area and the cats behavior changes and becomes more tame when they are neutered, and they are also territorial animals that will defend and protect their turf from other cats. So normally a TNR cat will not allow for many other cats to enter it’s territory, which also thins the population. Feral cats come from humans who do not take care of their own cats. Educating people on the importance of spaying and neutering their pets and perhaps making rules surrounding this is the more thoughtful approach.

February 2nd, 2022

RE: HB 1987 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

My name is Jennifer Buckendorf. I am a concerned resident that lives in the State of Hawaii, on the island of Oahu. I oppose HB 1987 that aims to "Count & Kill the Cats". While I understand the importance of protecting our native wildlife, I feel that the HB 1987 is a cruel and inhumane approach to the feral cat population across our islands. I am an active volunteer on the island of Oahu that aims to help control or mitigate the feral cat population. I have many roles in this cause. I personally participate in Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) for feral cat colonies that continue to grow. I also serve as a foster for the cat rescue group Rescue Kitties of Hawaii. Rescue Kitties of Hawaii aims at partnering with rescues on the mainland that will take in our Hawaiian Kitties so that they can find loving homes. Rescue Kitties of Hawaii currently ship cats/kittens to cat cafés and rescues in California, Washington and Massachusetts. Since May 2021, my family and I have helped 80 cats across the island of Oahu. Of those 80 cats, 9 of those cats were true TNRs. The remaining 71 cats were either adopted into a loving home or shipped to a cat café/rescue on the mainland to find their forever home. This goes to show that there are other approaches to controlling the feral cat population across the Hawaiian Islands.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Buckendorf". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Jennifer Buckendorf
172 Hikina Court Unit 102
Wahiawa, Hawaii 96786

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:59:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amy Arce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to implore you to please do your research: if you would like to lower the numbers of feral cats the ONLY effective way is TNR (trap, neuter, return). Poisoning the cats is inhumane and barbaric, and will bring lots of negative pushback to your beautiful state. TNR will drastically lower the numbers through natural attrition, the only way to not create a vacuum, and have other non native species take over. Australia had the same idea as Hawaii 2 years ago, and now are dealing with a mouse infestation of biblical proportions. There is a way to safely and humanely reduce the numbers of cats on your islands, and that is TNR. Thank you

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 7:59:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bill Dixon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Barbaric legislation. Instead, fund existing groups that are implementing scientifically based, humane management strategies for the feral cat population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:00:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shayn santiago	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1987. I do not believe that the feral cat population should be extinguished. It is inhumane to kill feral cats. Many of the feral cats if caught could be adopted by loving human families. Sometimes peoples pet cats get lost and cannot find their way back home leading them to become part of a feral pack. How can you distinguish lost pets from feral pets? Every cat feral or not deserves a chance to find a human home if possible. Feral cats do no harm to humans in any way shape or form in fact they kill mice, rats and many insects. How you can even think killing the feral cat population is okay it is in fact inhumane and disgusting. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:00:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

House of Representatives

HB1987

February 4th, 2022

10am

In opposition

My name is Jennifer Anderson. I TNR and rescue cats as an individual here on the Island of Oahu and help multiple non-profit rescues.

I am testifying against HB1987.

I am strongly against this bill because it is inhumane. When you research the bait proposed in the bill, it is actually an inhumane poison that prevents oxygen from reaching the brain and vital organs for several minutes to several hours. How would you feel if you were deprived oxygen for up to several hours?

Feral cats are sentient beings and should be treated as such. They are not rodents. May I remind you that cats were purposefully and irresponsibly brought to this island in attempt to reduce the rat population. They should not have to suffer due to the states negligence to sterliize these animals prior to releasing them.

There is an incredible amount of individuals and rescue groups on this island that work tirelessly to help these animals. It is our goal to TNR as many cats as we can. We want to sterilize as many cats as we can for the same goal, to reduce the population. But, in a humane way. We understant the situation on the island and want to rescue as many of the feral cats as we can, and TNR the ones we cant. We want to reduce the amount of cats that are homeless and prevent any more from being abused and murdered.

In conclusion I am strongly against this bill. Inhumane genocide is not the answer. We need more resources and funding on island for individuals and rescues to TNR. If we worked together we could come up with a better plan and work toward the same goals.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Anderson

jennb887@gmail.com

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:01:16 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marie Heff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is absolutely inhumane! The feline community on Oahu is strong, tightknit, and will not succumb to this proposed bill. There are many loving caring individuals who look after these feral cats and do good for their lives - often times rehabbing them and making them wonderful family pets. They give of themselves both with their time and money to care for fix rehabilitate and rehome. Leave well enough alone!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:02:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dorothy boewer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987 because I believe there are other means of controlling feral cats like culling the sick and spaying/neutering the remaining population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:08:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia A Thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I highly oppose this bill. It is so inhuman to any animal to use poison to control the feral population. Please reconsider a more humane way and maybe work with the people that have been trying so very hard to control the population in a way that is safe for everyone.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:09:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marge Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do not use tax payer's dollars to kill innocent cats. Poison is painful & cruel. Birds create messes & should not be considered more important than other animals. This is not what we should be doing.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:13:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Matt Stevens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support the eradication of the feral cat population, and oppose both the aggressive timeline and method of eradication proposed in this bill. . While I do understand the need to protect native bird species currently endangered by the cat population, the catch/neuter/release approach feels like a compromise that values the lives of all living beings involved.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:15:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stacey Fujii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Stacey Fujii, my daughter Kaily and I are the caretakers for a free roaming cat colony at Sandy Beach on Oahu. We took this responsibility upon ourselves in March of 2020 when Covid 19 began to effect our state. We noticed that there were several cats there and began to feed and care for them. We learned from a non profit called Kat charities how to trap them and get them spayed and neutered. This agency along with several others like Cat friends, Cat people of Oahu and Aloha Kitty TNR introduced us to a network of humans who work very hard to control the population of feral cats. We do so with our own money and time. Govenor Ige granted an exemption to my daughter and myself which allowed us to conintue our work during the statewide lockdown. We have managed to control the population at sandy beach and keep the number of cats under 50. We do this by trapping, fixing and also finding foster and permanent home for many of them. I am in a position to be able to provide the care and resources for this task on my own with the help of these animal welfare agencies. I feed these cats daily. Their meal consists of tuna, fresh chicken and store bought cat food. I provide stations which have fresh water available to them. Their dry food is mixed with diatomaceous earth to prevent fleas and worms. If one of them is injured we trap and get them the medical care they need. We are making progress reducing the number of cats by the only humane and effective method which is to spay and neuter. Bill 1987 will not make a difference to the problem it suggest. First of all these cats have no need to feed off or injure native Hawaiian species. They are well fed and healthy. Secondly the area they reside is not home to any native Hawaiian birds because they require a fresh water source to survive. Trust me when I tell you I have done my homework before I took thid responsibility. I spoke to and received confirmation from the caretaker at sandy beach who supports my efforts. I also communicate with the city workers who maintain this beach from the landscapers to trash pick up. I am also on contact which the homeless who have lived at this beach for years. If any issue regarding a cat comes to light I am called immediatly. The reason I am telling you all this is because something is being done by not only myself but thousands of other people on this island who work day and night 365 days a year to reduce their population. Your committee should spend a day with one of us to see how much progress is accomplished. What is incredible is the fact that it is all volunteer. If you want a solution to this problem, these are my suggestions. Provide financial resources to people like myself who have willingly and passionately taken on this responsibility. Pass stricter laws which enforce the abandonment of animals at public places. Enforce a laws which prohibits breeding of both cats and dogs. Enforce a law which require all pets to be spayed and neutered. The Hawaiian humane Society provides free spay and neuter clinic for free roaming cats Wednesday, Thursdays and Fridays. There is something being done which should be supported by our government. Instead non profit groups have taken this

responsibility. Bill 1987 will propose an inhumane and horrific and useless solution to a problem whose true cause is not feral cats. More research must be done to support these claims. They are both animals and there needs to be a cohesive effort by all parties to ensure the health and safety of both. Ask yourself if the cat was a native Hawaiian species what would be the answer.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:18:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nicole Brown	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How many times are bills like this going to be proposed. This needs to stop. I do not believe the 2013 survey is applicable to this bill, it is extremely outdated. TNR does work! The cats do kill birds however they kill invasive birds as well. What will happen if you murder all the cats, what do you think will happen with the invasive bird species? They will skyrocket. How will that affect native birds? Have there been studies done on the effects of human development on native bird populations? It is so easy to blame the cats when so much more study needs to be done on what is actually impacting native bird populations. This bill is shortsighted and not good use of the Maui County's money. Killing cats is not the answer. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:22:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alianna J Maren	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To the Hawai'i State Legislature regarding HB1987:

I am a 5 1/2 year full-time resident of the Big Island, and have been an active member of AdvoCATS Hawai'i since moving here in 2016. ([AdvoCATS Hawaii](#)).

The safe, sensible, and low-cost way to both manage and reduce the feral cat population throughout Hawai'i already exists. It is through Trap-Spay/Neuter-Release (TNR) efforts, which have been underway for the past several years - at least more than a decade.

These efforts are supported by community volunteers as well as by private donors.

Hawai'i citizens and long-term residents put their time and effort into organizing regular TNR clinics. People trap cats, bring them to the spay/neuter site, and in one day, sometimes more than 70 cats can be spayed or neutered. This is done by a veterinarian who is trained for such massive day-long events, and the work is assisted by a veterinary technician. Hawai'i residents trap the ferals, bring them to the clinic, and come back in the late afternoon to take the ferals back to their home communities.

In this way, the population of feral cats can be steadily reduced over time.

I have participated in several of these TNR events, and will do so again - especially as they can be held more readily once COVID moves into an "endemic" rather than "pandemic" stage, and more community events can be held.

This same strategy has been in use throughout the Hawai'ian Islands. For example, on the Island of Kauai, the Greater Good has brought MULTIPLE TNR events to that island, with two events conducted in 2021, one already done in January, one underway, and two more scheduled over the next two months.

These TNR events are not costing the State of Hawai'i any money whatsoever. All the efforts are done via private support.

These TNR events are fixing the problem.

If the Hawai'i State Legislature wants to add some extra "oomph" to reducing the feral cat population, it could do so in a much more humane AND cost-effective manner by supporting ongoing efforts taken by the concerned citizens and residents of Hawai'i.

The following organizations are already active with TNR:

The Big Island: AdvoCATS Hawai'i: [AdvoCATS Hawaii](#)

Kauai: Kauai Community Cat Project: [Kauai Community Cat Project \(kauaicommunitycats.org\)](#) (also organizes volunteers for supporting the TNR efforts that are conducted by The Good Fix on Kauai)

Oahu: HI Cat Friends: [HUMANE MANAGEMENT of COMMUNITY CATS | CatFriends | O'ahu Hawai'i \(hicatfriends.org\)](#)

Oahu: Hawai'ian Humane: [Free-Roaming Cat Program : Hawaiian Humane Society](#)

Maui: [Maui Cats \(savemaucats.org\)](#)

Maui: [Feline Foundation of Maui \(maucats.com\)](#)

There are other organizations; this is a representative sampling.

In addition to TNR efforts, there are community efforts on AT LEAST both Kauai and Maui to transport cats and kittens to the mainland, where they can be adopted, as well as finding local families for kittens.

Hawai'i citizens and residents have been making a long-term sustained effort to manage the feral cat population on all the Islands of Hawai'i, and have put in both time and money to this cause.

The State Legislature can make the most cost-effective move by supporting and encouraging these ongoing efforts.

Thank you.

Alianna J. Maren, Ph.D.

Resident of South Kona, the Big Island

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:24:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Darcey Iwashita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. *Toxoplasma gondii* not only kills endangered wildlife, but poses serious health risks to humans, including blindness, encephalitis, schizophrenia, depression, anxiety disorders, cognitive decline, chronic and incurable infections, and death. Recent studies have demonstrated that undetected environmental oocyst transmission is the major route of *T. gondii* transmission presenting a direct public and animal health problem (Tenter et al. 2000, Dabritz and Conrad 2010, Boyer et al. 2011, Hill et al. 2005, 2011, Torrey and Yolken 2013; VanWormer et al. 2016). Managing feral cat populations will reduce contamination of the environment with *T. gondii* oocysts and therefore reduce the number of people who become infected, severely sickened, and even killed by *T. gondii*.

Below is a summary of the human health problems caused by *T. gondii* (from [Aguirre, A.A., Longcore, T., Barbieri, M. et al. The One Health Approach to Toxoplasmosis: Epidemiology, Control, and Prevention Strategies. *EcoHealth* 16, 378–390 \(2019\). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10393-019-01405-7>\). Thank you for your time.](#)

Initial infection acquired by pregnant women may cross the placenta and reach the fetus (McLeod et al. 2014). **This congenital infection may be systemic and result in fetal death, premature birth, intrauterine growth retardation, fever, pneumonia, hepatosplenomegaly, thrombocytopenia, or involve the eyes and brain** (McAuley et al. 1994; Peyron et al. 2016). Manifestations of **ocular or encephalic disease in the fetus** may include chorioretinitis, meningoencephalitis, hydrocephaly, microcephaly, or calcifications of previous areas of necrosis; however, infants generally do not show clinical signs at birth and instead **may become deaf later in life**. Although preventable and treatable, congenital, ocular, and **postnatal *T. gondii* infection is not curable and persists in all infected persons** (Ortiz et al. 2013; Peyron et al. 2016; Ngo et al. 2017). Latent or primary toxoplasmosis can be **particularly dangerous in individuals with compromised immune systems, including those treated with corticosteroids, cytotoxic medicines, and antibody to tumor necrosis factor alpha** (Lykins et al. 2016; Wang et al. 2017). **Approximately one third of HIV-infected individuals with *T. gondii* infection develop encephalitis** (Walker and Zunt 2005).

Retinal toxoplasmosis (Kianersi et al. 2012) is recognized as a major cause of blindness in many parts of the world (Balasundaram et al. 2010). About 5000 people develop ocular toxoplasmosis in the USA annually (Jones and

Holland [2010](#)). Chronic infections, previously believed to be benign, are now a source of increasing concern. **Evidence of exposure to *T. gondii* has been associated with cognitive decline in older individuals (Gajewski et al. [2014](#)) and increased disease overall (Flegr et al. [2014](#)).** Furthermore, such serological evidence of *T. gondii* is associated with a range of neuropsychiatric disorders including schizophrenia (Torrey and Yolken [2003](#); Yolken et al. [2009](#)), depression, suicide attempts (Arling et al. [2009](#); Flegr et al. [2014](#)), and anxiety disorders.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:28:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yumi Kato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a citizen of the Waiialae-Kahala area and a cat owner for many years, "reducing" the feral cat population by poisoned bait is both inhumane and what I think is a "easy way out". Other animals and/or wildlife could easy be effected by this "option". If we had better resources to help the animal organizations throughout the state, it will be beneficial for everyone in the long run. If Washington, D.C. can do a cat count, so can we.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:28:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kate Alimpiyeva	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1987 for the following reasons: 1) there are proven and humane solutions that are much more efficient (TNR and low-cost/free spay/neuter services) and much better use of taxpayer money; 2) it's a cruel short-term approach; 3) it'll kill other innocent pets and wildlife; 4) killing feral cats will increase the population of rats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:28:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Edmunds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass HB1987. This is an extremely cruel and inhumane method to control the feral cat population who are on the street at no fault of their own. Instead, we need to crack down on irresponsible owners who refuse to spay or neuter their cats, and crack down on breeders and pet stores to spay and neuter before adopting or selling an animal. Please consider passing legislation that mandates the spay and neuter of cats, and issues harsher punishment for those who abandon cats. Please do not pass this awful, cruel and inhumane bill. It is one thing to maintain a population of wild animals (pigs) but it is another to ruthlessly murder a domesticated animal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:29:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Arlene Mckinnon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Having lived in Hawaii 15 years I always found the feral cat population to be an endearing and useful part of the flora and fauna. People complain that the feral cats kill flightless birds but in reality the rampant rat population eating both eggs and some birds probably does more damage to that population, and the cats play an important role in controlling the rat population. The rats carry more disease and cause far more property damage than the cat population does. Just like introducing the mongoose to reduce rats and then realizing that mongooses are diurnal while rats are nocturnal, anytime we interfere and change the balance we have unforeseen consequences. I also by the way believe the mongoose has likely prevented the brown tree snake from getting a hold in Hawaii when a stray lands from Guam but that is another tale. My overall opinion is that the status quo is a balance, both the cats and the mongoose are charming in their way and should for the most part be left alone. Now if we could only find a way to control the main invader and problem, the people and traffic I would support that. I support Advocats who trap spay and release ferals to try to control the population and keep in healthy but further than that I do not support "population reduction" measures. Thank you for your time. Arlene Mckinnon

PS I adopted a Hawaiian cat found stray or feral in Kona heights on Hawaii and I can vouch that she was a marvelous ratter, remember they think the plague was preceded by an eradication of cats due to fear of witchcraft. Thanks again for considering my opinion.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:31:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Igor Komir	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987 for the following reasons: 1) there are proven and humane solutions that are much more efficient (TNR and low-cost/free spay/neuter services) and much better use of taxpayer money; 2) it's a cruel short-term approach; 3) it'll kill other innocent pets and wildlife; 4) killing feral cats will increase the population of rats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:31:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Grace Himenes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a colony caretaker and we all trap,neuter, & release to reduce the population. When the cats are spayed/neutered they are also microchipped & vaccinated to help control disease. Sterilized cats that are fed don't have to hunt & are more like household pets & sleep and are less likely to wander & contaminate water sources.

Perhaps a campaign discouraging people from dumping and abandoning animals would be helpful and help curtail the population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:32:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
James Donnelly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not allow into legislature the inhumane killing of feral cats when we continue to make so much progress with trap-neuter-return. It is, in fact, the only effective method of controlling the feral cat population.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:32:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patricia Johnson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As an animal lover and a Hawaii citizen deeply concerned with the success of the Trap, Neuter and Release method of dealing with the overpopulation of cats on Hawaii Island and the other islands, I find this bill morally reprehensible, and a slap in the face to all those compassionate persons who constantly battle against the indifference and downright cruelty and laziness of the attitude of many here. I question the leadership of people who would propose and support such a bill of cruelty, as this is. Have any of these proponents of this bill ever witnessed a cat dying by poisoning? It's not pretty! This bill is shameful!

Our efforts should be going into the education of the responsibility of pet owners to neuter their cats and dogs and in fact, a better bill would be to require pet owners to be licensed to even own a pet. The throw-a-way mentality regarding cats and dogs is the problem. Instead of all the private citizens who are funding TNR, and dedicating many hours of their lives to solving a problem created by the lack of consciousness of others, our State should be funding TNR, instead of a proposed wholesale killing program!

I add my voice to the many in my community who, like me, are horrified by this proposal. I really think these Reps who introduced and support this bill--Llagan, Lowen, Tarnas, Marten, Morikawa, Ohno, Sayama, Yamashita et. all not mentioned--should examine their heart strings!

I furthermore think that people who could come up with a plan like this should not be re-elected! I for one respect leaders of wisdom and compassion.

I fully agree with the following eloquent and factual letter written and submitted by Kristen McCardel Ware:

"I am submitting this testimony in opposition to proposed House Bill 1987 relating to feral cats as invasive species. As proposed, the Bill is riddled with unproven assumptions and logical inaccuracies and represents a waste of state funds and time with questionable return-on-investment.

Regarding predation on native birds: No doubt that feral and domestic cats have been the demise of a number of endangered birds in the islands. However, rats, pigs, mongoose, and mosquitoes have also contributed—perhaps more than cats—to the decline in populations of these endangered organisms, not to mention the role of human development and encroachment on the native species. However, a few dramatic examples of feline predation of protected native species

are used in the draft Bill as evidence to justify extermination of only one of those threats: cats. In fact, the Bill admits that the actual effects of feral cats on native bird population is unknown, and there is no evidence provided to suggest that any systematic study of the effects of cats on bird populations has been conducted within Hawaii, let alone a comparison of the relative danger posed by cats versus any of the other invasive species or human activities. The state should consider better quantifying these dangers and the costs to address each threat through cost-benefit analysis before committing significant resources to eradicating a single component in the system. In addition, most of the areas where feral cats originate and congregate are in areas that have been extensively developed and inhabited by people, so the populations of native birds, and the birds' natural habitats, have already been destroyed in those locations. Therefore, eliminating feral cats in those areas will cost a lot of money but will have minimal impact on protecting and restoring native bird populations.

Regarding toxoplasmosis: Although studies show that feral cats can have a significant seroprevalence of *T. gondii*, that percentage ranges from as little as 18% to up to 82%, depending largely on how much the local environment has been developed by humans (greater human presence and development is associated with higher prevalence of toxoplasma antibodies in cats). While those numbers may seem alarming, one must account for the life cycle of the parasite when parsing the overall effect that adult feral cats have on the spread of *T. gondii*.

Cats are only one part of the life cycle of *T. gondii*. Wild rats and mice that are rampant on the islands are a major reservoir for the parasite and likely account for most infections of feral and free-roaming cats in the islands. In studies in Europe, the control of rodents in the area was considered a protective factor limiting infections.

Once infected, kittens and cats shed potentially infectious oocysts for only about 1–3 weeks. Most *T. gondii* infections are likely in cats within the first 6 months of life. Therefore, most adult feral cats are not likely to be ongoing sources of *T. gondii* oocysts. A dedicated sterilization/TNRM program would significantly decrease the number of newly infected and infectious animals by reducing the number of potential infectible hosts (kittens). However, eliminating populations of adult cats will likely have minimal effect on the transmission of toxoplasmosis.

Studies in Europe indicate that feeding of cats by people reduces the predation on infected rodents, which acted as a protective factor limiting infections of cats by *T. gondii*. While cats are still likely to hunt and kill the rodents, they are less likely to eat them. Thus, the feeding of sterilized and managed cat colonies by human caretakers plays an important role in the reduction of the prevalence of *T. gondii*.

The Bill states that toxoplasmosis is considered a leading cause of death by foodborne illness in the United States. However, it neglects to point out that toxoplasmosis as a foodborne infection is primarily caused by consuming contaminated meat, largely pork. Considering the percentage of Hawaii's food that is shipped in from the mainland and originates in various countries around the world, this argument would appear to be a red herring, and establishing a food-safety education program about how to properly cook meat would better address this concern. Furthermore, the threat to pregnant women, developing fetuses, and immune compromised

people is largely connected with the handling of feces from litter boxes (and subsequent poor hand-washing hygiene) of indoor cats, and therefore has little relevance, if any, to feral cat populations.

To my knowledge, few, if any, systematic TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Release-Manage) studies have ever been conducted by state or federal agencies, so how can the HISC state with any credibility that TNRM programs are not effective means of population control? Several TNRM programs have been conducted whose outcomes indicate that TNRM stabilizes and eventually reduces feral cat populations. See <https://www.alleycat.org/.../trap-neuter-return-research.../> for examples. The Hawaiian Islands are a unique crucible in which a comprehensive, systematic, and state-sponsored TNRM and population control protocol could be developed. TNRM isn't a "quick fix" like eradication, but it is far more likely to be successful and sustainable.

Hawaii has well-known food-security issues, and the success of small farms and private gardens are essential to the sustainability of Hawaii's food systems. With my husband, I operate a small farm in the Mountain View area of the Big Island. We "employ" two free-roaming cats, who keep our gardens and home free of rats and mice. Both cats are sterilized and microchipped, and we provide medical care and feed these cats. In turn, they are integral to the success of our farm by minimizing rodent incursions and discouraging visits by mongoose that threaten our chickens. As written, the Bill does not adequately address the difference between truly feral cats that have invaded wildlife sanctuaries and free-roaming but "owned" pets or working cats who are part of our 'ohana.

As written, the Bill does not address the ongoing source of feral cats: humans who treat cats and kittens irresponsibly. Even if the state were to be successful in eradicating feral and free-roaming cats by the end of 2025, the problem will not be fixed unless the state also institutes and enforces a spay/neuter requirement for all feline pets on the islands. Otherwise, irresponsible or disadvantaged owners will continue to allow pet cats to breed, some will escape or be dumped by people who just don't want to deal with them, and new, *T. gondii*-infectious, native-bird-hunting populations will explode in the newly vacated habitats. The money earmarked for the proposed plan would be better spent making TNRM programs and free spay/neuter options available on all islands and requiring that all felines "owned" or managed by people be sterilized and registered.

In closing, I support the conduct of a point-in-time census of feral cats in the islands. Knowing this information is essential to developing a plan that has any chance of success. However, approving an elimination program without additional data is irresponsible and short-sighted. A few suggestions to consider: Start with protected wildlife areas and sanctuaries and work up to larger scale, such as a single island before approving such a massive undertaking that will cost several million dollars and has very questionable ROI. Also consider that there is not a one-size-fits-all solution and that eradication may be necessary in some areas but that TNRM would work better in other areas.

I hope you people do what is right! Wholesale killing of cats is not right!

Patricia Johnson

Volcano

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:32:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ran Morimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

TNR works .No need to Stray cats die horrible deaths foarming in the mouth blood coming from their noses. This is NOT human being action at all.


HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:36:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Risa Togashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this because people shouldn't kill cats. If you kill ONE cat, I'll be sad for the rest of my life...  I love cats and they are my favorite animal.

Risa Togashi

Age:9

Honolulu 96813

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:37:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rieko Garrison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this inhumane bill. Feral cats are a part of our community and they are not invasive species. They did not choose to be born as feral and they did not choose to live where they do. They are not threat to the community. What we should spend money on is not putting poison bait but conducting a state wide TNR.

Thank you.

Rieko Garrison

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:40:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shawn Slocum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am appalled that our government is trying to pass a bill to mass kill the feral cat population in the islands. There has been great progress in the neutering/ spaying the feral cat population. A mass killing of all feral cats can not be tolerated. They do help control the enormous population of rats, lizards and cockroaches. If all feral cats are executed, the rat population will explode, spreading diseases to our population, mostly the homeless.

the success of the capture neuter and release program, supported by the Humane Society and SPCA is doing very well.

I do hope you can reconsider the passing of this bill. The inhumane execution of these animals is reminiscent of the Hitler era.

let us be decent humans and do the right, humane thing. Kill the bill, not the cats.

mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:40:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Korey Satterlee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dearest Board Members,

I, Korey Satterlee, whom resides at 2562 Waianae Uka Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786, strongly oppose this bill. First, there are numerous organizations and individuals that have been caring for the feral or dumped colonies. They have spent a great amount of time and money on feeding them, getting them spayed and neutered, and paying for vet bills when they are injured or sick. I personally have a cat from one of this colonies that a care taker deemed to be unfit for outdoor life and she made the decision when she trapped him to find a foster for him. I was that foster and I am a foster fail as we lovingly call it when we decide to keep the animal for our pet. There are also a lot of pets that get dumped and it's not their fault. Care givers try to identify these pets and turn them over to one of the many adoption organizations to find them a home. I believe this is a more humane way to help cut down on the cat population along with many of the trapping, neutering, and release (TNR) programs.

Secondly, I think money being proposed to kill these feral cats by poison would be better spent on the programs listed above instead of using poison that could also kill other beneficial animals along with people's pets coming into contact with these poisons as well. In turn this could lead to lawsuits to the state.

I kindly ask that you say no to this Bill.

Sincerely,

Korey Satterlee

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:41:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Annisa Budiman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition of HB1987 as the method of using poisoned bait is cruel and unnecessary. The free-roaming cats live outside through no fault of their own. They should not be faulted for living in an area they treat as their home. Other options should be considered for safely and humanely reducing the population of feral cats. There are many organizations who take action through TNR around the community and are able to help obtain data on the number of free roaming cats. I am testifying as a resident of Mililani.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:43:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Catherine Akau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987. It's proposed plan to eradicate cats in this manner is inhumane and wrong.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:43:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Janas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am vehemently against this bill. Using poison is indiscriminate and could kill pets and other precious animals. I respectfully request this bill not be passed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:47:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jane Filipi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against HB1987. Trap-neuter-release programs provide an alternative , less cruel and more humane way of managing feral cats then eradication.

Thank you,

Jane Filipi

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:50:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tabitha Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition of bill HB1987. This act is cruel and will yield no results. Time and cost should be spent funding trap, neuter, return programs.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:51:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jolene Galaza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. Poisoning free-roaming cats is inhumane PERIOD. Poisoning ANY ANIMAL IS INHUMANE! It causes the animal a slow & painful death. Many of the groups that are out there are working very diligently to contain & control the population of these colonies. TNR DOES WORK! These poor animals don't ask to be born. IRRESPONSIBLE HUMANS have failed them. Irresponsible, by meaning pet owners who have failed to spay & neuter their pets & have chose to dump their animals. Those said animals have them multiplied. Please don't punish & send these poor innocent animals to a death sentence. Use your compassion & allow the groups to alleviate the situation the humane way. Mahalo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:52:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kerre Albertoli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Approving this bill would be a dreadful and misguided decision. The funds allocated towards eliminating the cat population would be a wasteful use of taxpayers funds. As a Hawaii taxpayer, I can assure you that the greater risk is posed by the invasive and prolific mongoose population. Many of the feral cats on the island have now been spayed or neutered thanks to the contributions of many local charitable organizations. Those cats have a limited lifespan and do not reproduce. Additionally, the cats are not the source of the dwindling bird population on the islands - scientific studies have clearly proven that the mosquitoes and the mongoose are the main reasons for the declining bird population. I have personally observed several mongooses attacking birds and have watched the mongoose continue to take over the west side of the Big Island. Please use the funds requested in this bill to make a difference where it is needed most - not with the feral cats that have been largely spayed or neutered, but with the mongoose that are taking over our islands.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:54:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Holly Lutnick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Invasive species run rampant on the islands of Hawaii - and only because humans introduced them. There are so many different ways to try and control a population, but poison is so inhumane and the worst idea! Many people on Maui who love the cats trap and neuter to halt the feel population, yes this method takes time but it is 100% humane and hurts no one in the process. My own cat came from a feel colony, she was trapped by a local caretaker as a baby, neutered, and is now a part of my family. Besides the devastating and painful death these creatures would face from poison, that same poison would put so many pets and other animals at risk for the same fate - however unintentional that may be. People whose cats or dogs get lost from home, or trapped and dumped by horrible neighbors to new locations, would die from poison instead of have the chance to reunite with their family like so many success stories happen through the hard work of colony caretakers, MHS and the family. The solution is never as simple as it sounds - poison is an idea created to solve a problem that already has many workers dedicated to the cause. Please do not disregard the hard work animal lovers of Maui put in to help the cat population. Don't do this to the cats of Maui. Your own pet or child could drink that poison and so much more harm would be done.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:57:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Strommer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill. I have close connections and have donated several times to trap, spay, release programs. I agree that the stray cat population needs to be controlled. But it needs to be done humanely. Most cats in the colonies are friendly and beloved by many. Many cats that are in colonies have been dumped. And by following a lost pet forum on Big Island, I sadly see many people begging for return of their beloved pets after a disgruntled neighbor captures and dumps the cat away from its home. And unfortunately, many cats do get dumped by their families who can no longer keep them. We need better education and resources, not to "just kill" all the feral cats. People need better resources to spay their own house cats and better resources for rehoming cats if needed. Trap, spay, release programs work at reducing cat population. Would the colonies that trap spay release groups have been working to control be the first targets of this bill, being the most accessible and capturable cats? If you can catch them to kill them, you can catch to spay them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:58:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chris shuler	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Invasive feral cats are one of many incredibly impactful threats to our islands' ecosystems, our way of life, and the many culturally significant resources our citizens value. For example, direct evidence has recently been produced linking feral cat populations to increased transmission of toxoplasmosis through cat feces to native endangered monk seals. Not to mention the incredibly negative pressure feral cats put on already threatened and endangered bird species.

I find it disheartening that the primary opponents of this bill are likely to be self-proclaimed animal lovers, yet these wild cats are actually responsible for a significant number of deaths of native animals. And besides, if people love cats that much then they are fully able to go to the humane society and pick one up. I adopted a cat many years ago from the humane society and I care for my cat in the controlled environment of my home. For our islands to become more ecologically sustainable these cats should clearly be removed by any means necessary.

thank you for your time.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 8:59:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daniela Stevenson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a private citizen, animal lover and pet owner. I strongly oppose this bill. It is unrealistic to think that killing all feral cats will help preserve the native birds or monk seals. There are many more threats, on land or in the ocean, posed by humans to the local fauna than by cats. This inhumane and cruel bill will create so much discontent and pain among locals and tourists alike to reverberate to the whole 50 states.

Isn't poison the best way to kill birds and bees? Who is going to count the cats and decide which are feral and which are not? Who will subsidize this killing program instead of helping the Humane Society or other humane organizations to trap, neuter and release them, as not to have younger cats continue to reproduce? How about finding a way to lower the cost of fixing pets, so they don't have kittens that will eventually be abandoned back in the woods ready to have more babies within a year's time. I know lots of people that would chip in for that to happen, instead of buying poison or lethal injections to kill them.

This is a terrible and dangerous idea. Imagine just the impact that this might have on our children's psyche, if they had to witness the "count and kill" program happen under their innocent eyes! Not to mention that some people will liberally interpret this program as a "free for all hunting license", that they will feel entitled to use with acts of cruelty against all cats feral or not.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:00:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Allison Sakae-Kauffman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition of HB1987. The eradication strategy championed by this bill is inhumane and unrealistic.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:01:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paige Hayakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppos HB1987 and urge the committee to reject it! This is inhumane and disgusting.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:04:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose HB1987. This bill reflects a serious lack of understanding and familiarity of the issues "on the ground" regarding supposedly "feral" cats.

A large number of what people like those who wrote this bill refer to as "feral" cats are cats that have been dumped by owners upon leaving the island because there continues to be no enforcement by either the state or the DoD (one of the prime offenders) of existing laws against animal abandonment. Recently a man was filmed by security camera dumping a cat out the car window and driving off. When HPD was called they said there was nothing they could do.

A substantial portion of the rest of these supposed "feral" cats are *currently owned cats* whom "neighbors" have stolen and dumped far away from their homes out of irritation either with the cats themselves or, just as often, and despicably, a gripe they have with the owner. Just yesterday a woman was reunited with her 7-months' missing cat . Her cat was found in a colony far away from his home, and this is hardly an unusual tale in the community of people who are working to solve this problem.

Enforce the existing penalties for animal abandonment, please. Provide more funding, and NOT JUST TO HHS, to get animals on this island neutered. There are several organizations that strive to provide spay/neuter services, not just for abandoned cats but also for owned cats. One of the best ideas I've heard is making it mandatory to have pets neutered (and enforce the laws). There are organizations that have been working very hard and very successfully, I might add, to send these supposedly "feral" cats to rescues and shelters on the mainland where they are adopted out, sometimes on the exact same day they arrive, which should indicate just how "feral" they are. Effective solutions come from a complete understanding of the problem, and the biggest problem, by far, is that people here adopt and then abandon. Colonies might vanish if you poison all the existing cats, but they will just reappear again as more cats get dumped.

In addition to the above, if we want to reduce the population, it is always best to stop it at the source, and as we *are* an island state, I suggest legislation which dictates that absolutely no unneutered pets can be brought into the state, in addition to making and enforcing high licensing fees and regular compliance checks with any breeders.

The idea that TNR "isn't working" might just be because such programs are woefully unfunded and limited to one organization, HHS, which currently has a one-month waiting period to get a cat neutered. Seems peculiar to decide it "isn't working" when the odds against the program have been stacked from the beginning. Now we're in a situation where what I suppose you might call "stakeholders" are very dedicated and very busy trying to solve this problem, spending untold

hours of their own time, and quite literally tens of thousands of dollars of their own money to help (so yes, I think they meet the definition of "stakeholders")--yet with all that, HHS and other organizations are booked solid for neutering and mass neutering, so we all have to wait. In addition, there is a shortage of veterinarians to participate in spay/neuter programs. How about funding a program for new veterinary students to come to the islands to help out?

I hope you hear more voices from those of us who have been in the trenches helping out, generally unassisted, for years now. I hope you decide instead to fully fund programs that *are* working, when they're given the chance to work, enforce existing laws, and enact legislation that stops unneutered animals from entering.

Poisoning is a slow, painful, and cruel death. It is not merciful.

Initially, cats do not show signs of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning. After ingesting this type of bait, it takes 1-2 days for vitamin K1 and clotting factors in the body to be used up. Next, it takes 3-7 days before signs of poisoning occur due to blood loss. Bleeding is not always obvious as it often occurs inside the abdomen, chest, lungs, joints, and gastrointestinal tract. In some cases, bleeding may be visible from the mouth, nose, or even ears.

Signs of internal bleeding may include weakness, depression, increased respiratory rate, difficulty breathing, coughing (which may produce blood), pale gums, lack of appetite, enlarged abdomen, vomiting, bloody or dark tarry stools, swelling or pain in the joints and bruising. If bleeding occurs within the brain or spinal cord, cats may have neurologic signs. If bleeding is not recognized and treated, death may occur.”

Please have compassion.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:05:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jake bennette	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This practice is highly barbaric, and a waste of tax payer money. As a Marine stationed here on MCBH, I see the harsh chemicals being used inhumanely against these animals. The chemicals are harsh, and adversely affect native species and climate. These cats are now part of the ecosystem and have been for decades. It's called survival of the species, if other animals and rodents cannot compete against, then that simply sucks. Stop trying to change nature and let it take its course. It's a waste of money, and a terrible travesty to the animals and the environment surrounding. What's the solution? To kill, then what? Leave the Animals for dead and as road kill, to attract other- possibly domesticated animals and pets, to pick up and eat this now infected cats and get THEM killed.. start focusing on tax paying money going to cleaning up this disgusting island of its homeless problems, it's abandoned car problem and the red hill water problem!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:06:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Terri Shishido	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

this bill does not detail how exactly the program to reduce the cat population would work. The suggestions to poison all the cats is completely inhumane. There is no suggestion in the bill to have collaborative programs that include all the relative stakeholders in decision making for programs.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:09:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Deborah Day Emerson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is a sad example of how humans can ignore their own failings and culpability and turn a hard heart to innocent creatures. Major contributing factors to the feral cat population are people who do not spay or neuter their cats and, completely heartbreaking and without any possible justification, people who abandon cats they once offered a home to. But are people held to account for these moral lapses and the consequences of them? Or shall we just kill all of the cats, living as they are through no fault of their own and often as a result of human cruelty or lack of responsibility?

Hawaii can no longer be the land of aloha if such a cruel measure is enacted. I plead guilty to being a passionate cat lover but I feel aloha for all creatures and know there are legitimate concerns about the consequences of our large feral cat population. But respectfully please do not pass out this measure and let us all work to find solutions to this issue rather than heartlessly exterminate innocent creatures.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:13:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gretchen Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is cruel. Use funding to support organizations like Advocats of Hawaii to neuter feral cats instead of killing cats. Help the Humane Society with Adoptions or more humane methods. Right now citizens who want to neuter cats cannot reach these organizations because they are so overwhelmed. You would never propose this for dogs.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:14:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Georgette Dun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987 which unfairly categorizes feral cats as invasive species; they are actually vulnerable animals living outdoors through no fault of their own, many who have been abandoned by careless, fickle humans. The plan to eradicate them by poisoning is cruel and extremely inhumane.

I have spayed and neutered and cared for a small colony of 8 cats in the Hoakalei community in Ewa Beach for the last several years, before many of the newer townhouses were built. I keep the small area that the cats inhabit clean by picking up their poop along the way. They are not vicious; they are more afraid of humans--with good reason.

I ask that Senator Fevella and Representative LoPresti stand with me in opposition to HB1987 which calls for the eradication of of community cats by inhumane poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:14:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren E Russell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing Cats is NOT the answer. It is proven.

For more than a century, the American shelter and animal control system has been relying on catching and killing outdoor cats to control their population. This approach continues to **fail**, and the number of outdoor cats increases despite the fact that millions of vibrant, healthy outdoor cats are killed each year. Taxpayer money that funds shelters and animal control agencies is wasted on an endless cycle of trapping and killing. Increasingly, the public believes that the money spent on killing could and should be re-allocated to programs that help animals.

With catch and kill policies, vaccinated and neutered cats are removed from an area. But that only creates a vacuum in the environment where new cats move in to take advantage of available resources. The new cats breed and the cat population grows. Catch and kill policies aren't just cruel and ineffective, they go against what the public really wants: humane approaches to cats.

The United States spends millions of dollars each year rounding up and killing cats through "catch and kill" schemes. The unfounded hope is that the killing will lead to reduced cat population levels.

The Vacuum Effect ensures it will not.

Scientific evidence proves that lethal cat population control schemes don't work. A large body of research confirms what smart observers have long known: new cats will inevitably fill habitats emptied by cat removal schemes. In other words, the Vacuum Effect occurs, and it makes killing outdoor cats pointless.

Not only does the cat population rebound, it rebounds fast. Before you know it, there are the same number of cats outdoors as there were before. The only result is that many cats are needlessly killed...often over and over again.

What's worse, lethal cat control schemes are as indiscriminate as they are cruel and ineffective. Countless cats, whether unowned or pet cats, are killed in the process. That is part of the reason rounding up and killing cats is massively unpopular with the public. Not only is it morally unsound, catch and kill can also put shelters and municipalities at legal risk.

All of this for an inherently flawed policy that provides *no* long-term cat population control.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the only proven effective solution.

Jon Cicirelli, director of San Jose Animal Care & Services, which has a strong TNR program in place, sums it up nicely. “For the past 50 years, we’ve killed umpteen million cats and we’re no better off,” he says. “That system clearly does not work. We have to try something new.”

TNR programs, rather than removing cats and forcing a vacuum, ends the breeding cycle of the cats altogether. Through TNR, community cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped for identification, and returned to their outdoor homes where they continue to lead full, healthy lives.

Case study from Louisiana:

The Gillis W. Long Hansen’s Disease Center in Carville, Louisiana, once struggled to reduce cat populations. This was not for lack of trying.

The center had continuously attempted to get rid of the community cats on its grounds by trapping and removing them. However, overall numbers were never reduced because of the Vacuum Effect. Any void created by the successful removal of cats was quickly filled back to capacity.

Fed up with failure, the center’s staff decided to try a new approach. They conducted a three-year trial of non-lethal cat population management. The patients at the hospital were informed that instead of eradicating the cats, a Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) program would be put in place. They were assured that the trapped cats would be returned to their outdoor home after they were spayed or neutered. They were grateful to hear it.

The cats who were returned after being spayed and neutered were observed on a weekly basis for six months. A census was compiled after 18 months, and again after 36 months. At the end of the program, the center found that of the 40 cats “known to have been alive when the program was completed, 30 were located and identified 36 months later. New litters could not be located.”

The overall health of the cats improved, and there was a reduction in reproductive or territorial behaviors as well as nocturnal vocalizing (AKA nighttime howling). Not only was the cat population successfully stabilized, but the concerns and complaints about nuisance behaviors also drastically decreased.

TNR proved to have many benefits and gained great support from both the patients and the administration. It was all possible because TNR takes into account the Vacuum Effect. If the original population is allowed to remain in its territory, new individuals won’t arrive and reproduce. The original cats are unable to breed because of spay and neuter, so the area’s cat population naturally decreases. No killing required.

Funding should be spent on help TNR our feral/community cat population. There are so many community members that are committed to this cause yet lack funding & resources to execute this program effectively. If DNLR could put the same amount of time and energy to TNR that they do into figuring out how to murder innocent cats, then we could maybe actually make some headway in mitigating the feral cat population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:18:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Choy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is a serious problem with our society and our elected leaders if this bill is even being considered. All animals still have a brain, heart and a will to live just as humans do. Just because cat's are unable to care for themselves does not give humans the right to slaughter them. No matter the manner in which to kill them it is murder. There are so many caring, kind and generous hearted people out every day and night willing to care for these helpless animals with their own time and money. This includes the only humane way to control the population by trapping cats to spay and neuter. Instead of using resources and money to murder the cats use them to create and fund non-profit organizations to rescue, house, feed and sterilize the cat population. The state spends unprecedented amounts of money for property to support the State of Hawaii Department but cannot even consider purchasing property for the homelessness that unclude our feral cat population. You have a ready, willing and able army of people who would gladly accept the opportunity to help. These cat rescue sanctuaries can even give the homeless population an avenue to help, work and be housed. I pray our leadership convictions are humane and not murderous. That they see and listen to the army of people ready to support a humane decision. Do not disregard a live beating heart of a helpless animal without seeking a suitable solution for everyone. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:18:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sarah haynes	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

This bill again...how many times must it fail? I feed 3 different colonies- about 300 cats. i also TNR (fix) all cats I feed. It is widly known that killing cats doesnt kill the population. Sure it'll reduce it temporarily, but then you wont have colony managers anymore, and the population will surge again - with no one set up to manage it. Maui Humane used to be a killing machine, and the overpopulation was far worse! TNR works. Covid has set us back, as it has most gropus, businesses, etc, but we can catch up. Please FUND TNR. We need MORE APPOINTMENTS, MORE CLINICS. Thank you fo listening!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:18:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Milly Ring	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

February 2, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Committee On Agriculture, Chair and The Honorable Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair

FROM: Milly Ring, District 20

SUBJECT: Opposition to House Bill 1987

I am opposed to HB1987.

HB1987 would indiscriminately kill all outdoor cats by poisoning. This is contrary to the many groups now trapping and neutering animals so that the cats can be managed appropriately here. Poisoning is unacceptable and an inhumane way to treat an innocent sentient being. This is not the way of Aloha.

The Hawaiian Humane has revamped its organization in recent years with a kinder gentler and more transparent approach. They are working closely with the community to help foster kittens and find homes and support trapping and neutering of feral cats. They also find this bill harsh and unacceptable.

More productively the Legislature could certainly support the first ever free roaming cat census that the Hawaiian Humane Society is currently working on. They are collaborating with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking "DC Cat Count".

Many feral cats have become family pets during this pandemic and have provided great comfort to their human families. They have provided unconditional love in a time of unknowing and fear. We have many animal lovers in Hawai'i nei. HB 1987 is not the way of Aloha. HB1987 should be discarded immediately.

Thank you for opposing HR 1987

Sincerely,

Milly Ring
Citizen

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Committee on Agriculture

HB1987

Friday, February 4, 2022

OPPOSE

Michael Parker, Aiea, I oppose this bill.

This bill is only comparable to a concept that would exterminate homeless individuals.

There is program available through Humane organizations, Trap, Neuter, Release, that could help to solve this problem if it was offered to cat owners at no cost. Hawaii State would pay these organizations for their service.

With proper publicity, this effort would result in a suitable reduction of cat births in Hawaii.

Poisoning one cat kills one cat. Birth prevention eliminates the entire future litters.

What about the mongoose?

Michael Parker

98-1560 Akaaka St

Aiea, HI 96701

808-487-1111

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:21:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nada McClellan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Feral cats are becoming a massive threat to our endemic Hawaiian species and roam essentially uncontrolled hunting ground-nesting birds. The toxoplasmosis in their feces is a health hazard and also enters the water and infects marine animals such as monk seals and dolphins. Our endemic seabirds and shorebirds exist nowhere else in the world and already face severe habitat threats from human activity. We cannot allow feral cats, who are non-native and nowhere near endangered, to hunt them to extinction. They need to be controlled effectively and humanely as they are in the rest of the world which values its endemic wildlife.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:22:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danny Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose house bill 1987 for the following reasons

As a native Hawaiian who works at two hotels that have trap neuter return programs in place, along with good colony managers, I have seen our number of cats humanely reduced over the past few years. There are no kittens and our cats are well taken care of. Visiting guests love to interact with the cats and have known them for years and bring them treats when they visit. The native bird population has been decimated by mosquitos, whose bites bring infection and death, along with mass development wiping out the birds habitat. If the DLNR is allowed to poison cats, how many people will take this as a legal and good thing to do? Do you wish to have citizens leaving poison around because they believe its ok? How many other native species will be harmed? how many pets accidentally poisoned? How many children? This is an absolutely ill thought out and inhumane plan to kill innocent animals. I would also like to add that the cats are great rodent hunters and I would rather have cats than a rat infestation. Reducing the numbers through humane trap neuter release programs are proven to work, Ive seen them work, and are the only acceptable solution. Thank you, Danny Medeiros

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Committee on Agriculture

HB1987

Friday, February 4, 2022

Support

My name is Joanne Parker. I do not support this bill.

The use of poison is NOT humane!

Why should we use a practice used in a country that allows shooting kangaroos (their national symbol) from helicopters?

I understand that our cat population must be controlled but the use of poison bait is NOT the answer. It is not the cats' fault that we have this problem, it is humans who release their "pets" with no regard. Our TNR program can work with education, outreach programs and our governments' support.

Please do not support this bill.

Mahalo,

Joanne Parker

98-1560 Akaaka St

Aiea, HI 96701

808-753-2416

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:25:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kat Mashima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Members of House Committee on Agriculture,

I adamantly oppose this bill for many reasons, but will try to keep my written testimony as short and concise as possible.

1. Even if I was okay with DLNR killing feral cat populations via lethal injection, what about people's cats that accidentally escaped from their homes and wandered over and got caught? Will DLNR be scanning each cat thoroughly for a microchip? Will they be trained to search as microchips often migrate? Will there be a log kept of such scanning? What is the procedure when DLNR finds a chipped cat? How can we the public trust that they won't just pretend it wasn't chipped and kill the cat regardless?
2. Curiosity bait for feral cats is NOT humane as it says on the Australian government's own website that "death takes minutes to hours." How is oxygen starvation to the brain over a matter of hours HUMANE?
3. What happens if an indoor cat escapes (as it does happen with door dashers), maybe it doesn't have a chip because it's indoor all the time, or maybe it's a semi-feral that someone cares for that IS chipped and it got trapped and dumped by someone else, which happens often. If those cats accidentally eat the Curiosity bait, is DLNR and the legislature okay with those cats being poisoned to death for the greater good of the native species and fauna? What if someone's pet dog gets loose and finds it and eats it? What then? So sorry, your dog shouldn't have been there?
4. Some in DLNR have acknowledged unofficially that they are giving a slanted viewpoint regarding cats and their role in toxoplasmosis. It seems misleading on the part of DLNR and is used to advance their own agenda to kill all the feral cats it can. Hawaii is a very unforgiving place for feral cats. It's not their fault humans have been irresponsible regarding pet ownership and have created this mess, but to kill all the cats they can does not make it right.
5. TNR WORKS - many of us have TNRed cats, many people devote countless hours and time and energy and their own money to do this for the community and they never get recognized for it. These are individuals, not the charities out there. And even the charities struggle to help people with TNR because entities like DLNR are too biased to give it an actual chance to make it work. As re-releasing back in the areas they are trying to save isn't an option, the least they could do is attempt to work with the many TNR advocates on island to find a way of first stopping the population from exploding and then also

relocating them to a different area where they would not have such an impact on native birds and fauna.

6. SLIPPERY SLOPE - Feral cats are not the only predators to native Hawaiian birds and fauna. Why doesn't DLNR hunt down the Madagascar Giant Day gecko with such vigor? What about the rose-ringed parakeets? That's a problem too - they have been doing terrible damage to farms and native plants, especially on Kauai. Is DLNR going to cull them next? I don't see anything about that or is that just next on the list? What else shall we kill in order to save something else?

I RESPECTFULLY OPPOSE THIS BILL for all those reasons and more. I agree that saving our native plants and creatures is a very important issue that needs further discussion. But if the Legislature gives DLNR a license to kill innocent animals (feral and not feral - because there will be other unintentional animal deaths that DLNR will just consider collateral damage or cover up), it would be completely inhumane no matter how DLNR wants to justify it.

Thank you very much for your time.

Kat Mashima

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:28:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Delia Cortez	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

cats are deserving of respect and kindness from humanity. We have bred them to who they are today. They can't help themselves, we need to step up and protect them. It's a very sad time, when people get together, to come up with horrifying ideas to do to innocent animals. It's shameful to hear that our human race has fallen this far. Where is your compassion, where is your heart, when did you lose your soul to become this heartless? Please reconsider and let's all find a better solution to help our fellow cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:28:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suyin Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The eradication strategy proposed in this bill is terribly inhumane and unrealistic. Cats are lovable animals, that many Hawaii residents care about. They are not like cockroaches that you just blast with poison. What is the matter with the individuals who even proposed this bill? I strongly oppose HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:29:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ron Yuen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a resident of Launani Valley in Mililani and am a TNR volunteer. I am opposed to HB1987 because of the offensive manner in which the feral cats are planning to be eradicated. Death by poisoning is a very cruel and inhumane way to deal with the problem and should be reconsidered! Instead I propose that more veterinarian clinics and hospitals be compensated via tax breaks for participating in assisting TNR volunteers who trap feral cats to get sterilized. Please feel free to contact me directly at ronyuen@hawaii.rr.com to obtain any more testimony against this HB1987. Mahalo.

Ron Yuen

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:30:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Camilla Von Lortz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this inhumane Bill. The community is working hard to spay/neuter, and vaccinate the strays and ferals to keep the numbers and diseased rate down. We will also continue to rescue, foster, re-home and or adopt as many as we can. Many success in transferring to the Mainland for adoption as well. My inside/outside cats have the rat problem under control. Please, lets continue to do our work and take care of it the kind and loving way. My heart and home is full because of all my rescues and the joy they bring especially during these hard times. I depend on them as much as they depend on me. Please drop this insane Bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:30:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Stiehr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on HB1987. I strongly oppose this bill as the feral cats do a service in helping to control rats and other vermin on the islands. A better use of the monies that would be allocated to this piece of legislation would be to provide grant monies to organizations like AdvoCats, who care and feed the cats and also spay and neuter the animals. They help ensure the colonies of cats are healthy and unable to breed. I am pleased to personally support this non-profit.

I find this legislation shockingly inhumane, particularly for a state that loves and protects nature and animals.

I request your vote of opposition to HB1987.

Thank you.

Carol Stiehr

Kamuela, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:31:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Ben-Dayan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Jennifer Ben-Dayan and I reside in Makawao on the island of Maui. I am very aware of the feral cat overpopulation situation and have been an active part of trap and release in my neighborhood having gotten 20 cats fixed in the last 4 months. My part has been small, but consistent and I continue to trap 2 cats at a time with my own personal traps to help stop the continuing growth of the cat population on my street.

i am completely sickened to hear the proposal of killing the entire feral cat population for several reasons.

- 1) The poisoning of animals as proposed is INHUMANE and CRUEL and I honestly can't believe I'm having to say that to an official government body.
- 2) MANY pets and yes I mean PETS have been stolen recently on Maui and have been found dumped in our colonies. We are working hard to identify these loved pets and reunite them with their families. Your proposal will KILL those pets as well as the ferals. Other animals who come through those areas will likely also drink the poison and die. This is NOT the answer.
- 3) Colonies that are being maintained by volunteers are fed, given water and watched after to deal with medical emergencies. Fed cats are not hunting for food. They are also being HUMANELY treated. Trap, Fix and Realese to the colony they came from is also being handled in most colonies and we are working to locate and spread that same process in smaller not as well known colonies as well.

I am hopeful that this message falls on your ears as well as your hearts. Caring for ALL animals, not just the ones we pick and choose to care for, is not only possible but simply the right thing to do.

I will continue my own volunteer time and energy to help all I can, and pray you find a better way. For all of our sakes.

Mahalo for your time,

Jennifer Ben-Dayan

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:34:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JoAnna Tomuro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987 and urge the committee to reject it. Irradiating the islands cats is unreasonable, do your research on mistakes and successes! Using poison will kill other species of animals, killing the cats will allow rodent populations to boom! Find another way!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:34:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Katelynn Thibodeau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is very disheartening to read this proposed plan to MURDER thousands of cats.

Instead of creating a barbaric plan like the one proposed, please consider taking action that is humane. Please support plans that involves TNR. TNR would be more effective if a greater amount of funding is provided to clinics and shelters.

Poisoning cats is an absolutely horrific solution. I am in disbelief that this plan was even proposed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:35:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Juria Ito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am one of many volunteers that have been actively participating in TNR (trap, neuter and release) as well as fostering and adopting out sociable stray (feral) cats and taking them off the streets of the island of Oahu. I strongly oppose this cruel, unethical and unrealistic way of reducing the stray(feral) cat population. Throughout the years, I have been educated and become knowledgeable about the issue of overpopulation of stray(feral) cats in our neighborhoods and community. I can tell you from my first hand experience that spaying and neutering along with fostering and adopting out fixed cats decreases the population of stray(feral) cats significantly. Just in my neighborhood of Kaimuki alone, I have fixed about 20-30 cats, adopted out about 15 and at least 4 passed away in the last year or so without reproducing (because of TNR). Cats are induced ovulators, making it so much easier for them to bear offspring, but spaying and neutering ensures that whatever happens to the cat, whether dumped/abandoned or escaped from one's home, that they will never reproduce. Unfortunately, people will keep dumping/abandoning cats on the streets, there's also tons of outdoor cats that are people's pets and therefore this bill is unrealistic and may in turn cause more problematic issues such as rats and rodent problems and diseases. I believe that pushing forth the education, accessibility and perhaps mandatory of spaying and neutering one's pets will positively impact the overpopulation of stray (feral) cats on Hawaii significantly which then will overtime fade the stray (feral) cat population to a manageable numbers.

Thank you for reading my testimony.

Juria Ito (808)381-6241

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:37:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Ogle	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB 1987. The feral cat population is a public health threat (in the form of fecal matter and toxoplasma) and a serious threat to our endemic sea bird population. I have never written public testimony before but compelled because I know this is an emotional topic with a small but very vocal and outspoken group. I do not understand how their love for feral cats outweighs their conscience. We created this feral cat problem and it is our kuleana to cull the population. Spay/neuter and release does not work. These cats still have long life spans. Feeding them will not help. Cats are unusual in the animal kingdom in that they are highly opportunistic and hunt for "practice" and "fun" even when they are not hungry. We must cull this population before our endemic and endangered sea birds disappear. In addition, new research is showing that endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals are being infected, sickened and dying from toxoplasma as a result of cat feces. Furthermore, feral cats are a public health threat. Pregnant women are told explicitly never to clean a litter box or touch cat feces (or even inhale dried cat feces) because of the deadly threat to the fetus of toxoplasma. Feral cats use the beaches and public beach parks as their "litter box." When it rains, these feces go into the ocean where animals live and people swim. Please use strong scientific and logical judgement and pass HB1987.

Mahalo!

Megan Ogle

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:38:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to the measures introduced in HB1987 to control the feral cat population.

Carolyn Adams

Honolulu

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:40:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Clark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The language is very vague. Can DNLR poison any stray cat that they find regardless of where it is located? Will DNLR be responsible if their actions harm any domestic animals? What is the operative definition of humane? How will DNLR employees be trained to handle this task?

I oppose any legislation that directs government employees to indiscriminately kill any animals!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:40:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stefanie A Delmont	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Mr Chairperson-Rep Mark Hashem and members of the House Agriculture Committee. I am writing to strongly oppose HB1987. I live in Holualoa on the Big Island and as a farmer and conservationist have no hesitancy in putting feral PIGS in this bill in place of cats as pigs do far more damage and cost me far more money, time and supplies than any other invasive animal. I am not sure how a point in time count of all "feral" cats could be set up to include the community cats we mostly see around who while not owned by anyone live in and among people and are seen. How count all the rest of the cats-the real ferals who live outside of human contact as much as possible and have no desire to associate with people? What's the point of counting unless it's to know how many cats to plan to try to kill and then put a price tag on each cat?This is just business calculations. How about checking some real peer reviewed studies and experiments and the reality of places that have tried something more humane such as TNRManage-make sure they're fed, watered and have medical problems taken care of?. How does one **Humanely** kill an entire population that has been domesticated and living among human populations for well over five thousand years without crossing some really serious moral and legal boundaries? How does one go from a nonspecified "survey" of some people who would like to have fewer cats around to removing and exterminating the entire feline population? Truthfully the species that is and has been the most destructive to the environment, to the indigenous plants and animals in Hawaii is homo sapiens. I strongly urge this committee to reject HB1987. As a side note, if the state of Hawaii should ever pass something as wasteful, stupid and inhumane as this bill - we would not have to worry anymore about too much tourism ruining the state.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:41:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Feral cat control is essential to the survival and recovery of Hawaii's native wildlife. This bill is long overdue and should be passed regardless of the protests of those who value feral domesticated animals above the welfare of Hawaii's unique natural legacy. As stewards of this legacy it is our kuleana to protect it even at the cost of offending the sensibilities of people who equate the feral animals with their own pets, and are largely unaware of the magnificence and the struggles of Hawaii's native animals - many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:42:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shawne Mateo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I find the proposal to completely eliminate and dramatically reduce the populations of the feral cats an unreasonable solution to the problems listed. To think that these animals lives are meaningless and can be discarded like nothing is cruel and inhumane. We have to do better. Please reconsider and come up with a better way, these cats don't deserve this. There are many people working to make changes, they need better support - more time and funds. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:43:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
claudia quan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is outrageous; people leave cats everywhere...people are responsible for these feral cats!! It is horrible to think of what you want to do with these cats !! Why not help trap them, neuter them and let them go!!! Killing them the way you want to will not stop the situation...we have to educate people not to adopt/buy cats unless they are willing to care for them and take responsibility for them !!

Please it's against this bill!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:43:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kurt Shanaman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are writing in opposition to HB1987.

We are Democrat donors and voters who are Registered Nurses and owners of several cats and dogs, we are appalled by the distortion of "facts" about the incidence of toxoplasmosis. Here in Hawaii, toxoplasmosis is not nearly the problem it is made out to be. There is much misinformation and disinformation making the cats the absolute problem.

The problem with HB1987 is that it is scientifically flawed and doesn't address the real issues. One is indiscriminate killing of cats without verification if these are someone's pet who escaped. It would be nearly impossible to cull these felines without killing indiscriminately many stray dogs, as well as other wildlife, including endangered birds also especially with baited poisons. This is a barbaric act that will only cause harm and not solve the problem you seek to remedy. This method was used in history to cull wolves, coyotes, and others with drastic consequences and failed miserably.

The major problem exists with people who abandon animals as worthless items and many dispose of family pets without the slightest regard for the animal. Pet dumping is the number one cause of increased feral colonies.

I would support stronger legislation with teeth in it to prosecute and convict individuals who abandon pets. It is the root of the problem and the only way to keep feral communities down along with TNR, Prosecute the offenders, cats didn't ask to be abandoned. Unfortunately, pet dumping is hard to police and more animals will suffer.

This bill is doomed to fail as the residents of Hawaii are the problem with their actions of abandonment, abuse, and ignorance keeping cats as pets and disposing of them and this will only continue as people's behaviors are unlikely to change.

We are responsible pet owners who get regular vet checks, immunizations, and they are all microchipped. We keep our animals inside.

We ask you to kill this bill at the expense of enforcement, the brutality required, and the absolute outcome as failure will ensue. Pet owners need to be held responsible for their actions as if pets, dogs, and cats included were not disposed of by irresponsible persons, this would not be a problem. Suzanne Case and others do not seem to be able to grasp or comprehend this concept! I hope most of our legislators will!

I am enclosing a link and a copy from Alley Cat Allies that discusses the issues with cats and the fallacies surrounding them. I encourage you to read it.

Thank you for your support.

Kurt Shanaman RN.MSN

Teresa Evangelista RN.BSN

Volcano, HI

808-226-8443

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/junk-science-gets-cats-killed/>



Junk Science Gets Cats Killed



Research | Cats and Wildlife Share: Lately, scientific research is being exploited by fringe interests to promote the absurd notion that outdoor cats are the leading cause of bird species declines in the

The United States.

The most commonly cited was published in the online journal Nature Communications and funded by the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (“The impact of free-ranging domestic cats on wildlife of the United States,” January 29, 2013, by Scott R. Loss, Tom Will, and Peter P. Marra).

News outlets have sensationalized coverage of this and similar “studies” by labeling cats as “serial killers” and using other exaggerated metaphors to manufacture a fake debate about outdoor cats and species decline that plays right into the fringe interests and bolsters their flawed arguments.

The common-sense and seldom-reported facts, however, are that habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change are far and away from the greatest threats to birds and wildlife. Bogus reports, propagated by the mass media, sidestep serious discussion on the real threats to birds and wildlife and end up scapegoating cats.

The Smithsonian-funded study published in Nature Communications is not rigorous science. It is a literature review that surveys a variety of unrelated, older studies and concocts a highly speculative conclusion that suits the researchers’ seemingly desperate anti-cat agenda. This speculative research is highly dangerous—it is being used by opponents of outdoor cats and Trap-Neuter-Return (including the authors) to further an agenda to kill more cats and roll back decades of progress on TNR. And it is being spread unchecked by the media. Only a handful of reporters, including CNN’s Erin Burnett, have questioned the Nature Communications research. Burnett noted the ridiculously large margin of error the authors employed, deemed it “unacceptable,” and told her viewers, “When it comes to the danger of cats, it seems like they’re just telling tales.”

To assess the integrity of the Smithsonian study, Alley Cat Allies commissioned a respected, independent statistician, Gregory J. Matthews, Ph.D., of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

Dr. Matthews conducted a thorough review of the statistics and methodology used in the study and found major flaws that should have made the authors’ research unacceptable for publication. Some key insights from Dr. Matthews’ assessment:

The authors looked at a number of previously published studies to make their case. The studies have a huge range in size, scope, and geography. Some were not peer-reviewed. Some were decades-old—one of the studies the authors used was published in 1930. They counted one study twice—a major error that was not picked up by peer reviewers.

There was no use of a meta-analysis to normalize across all these very dissimilar studies. The use of a meta-analysis is common, and the authors failed to address why they did not use one. They also failed to acknowledge that each individual estimate itself has errors.

The authors used extrapolation where it was not warranted—often. They failed to account for variations in season, geography, or predation opportunity. “If a student turned something like this in for a freshman statistics class, he would have failed the assignment,” Dr. Matthews relayed to Alley Cat Allies in an interview.

No one should be swayed by this junk science.

But such misinformation does confuse the issue about outdoor cats, and the authors know it. Indeed, they are doing nothing more than promoting cleverly veiled propaganda to promote their true agenda, which is the mass extermination of the millions of outdoor cats in the United States.

Here’s the real story: Trap-Neuter-Return remains the only effective approach for feral cats.

Animal protection experts, individual caregivers, mayors, city councils, and county commissioners across the country are turning to TNR as the best response to feral cats. By humanely trapping, neutering, vaccinating, and then returning outdoor cats to their natural environment, communities can end the breeding cycle, protect cats, and save taxpayer dollars.

Studies clearly show that TNR policies effectively reduce the size of outdoor cat colonies both immediately (with the removal and adoption of kittens and socialized cats) and over time (as the population stabilizes and the breeding cycle ends).

Supporters of catch and kill programs have spread misinformation in an effort to slow down the adoption of TNR policies. They have spread myths about outdoor cats’ health and their impact on the environment. They are desperately clinging to these myths in an attempt to cover up the truth—that catch and kill is extremely cruel, ineffective, and wasteful. Decades of failed catch and kill policies prove that it does not even permanently reduce outdoor cat colonies, and it wastes taxpayer dollars that should be used to protect animals.

Trap-Neuter-Return is safe for our communities. It’s humane. And it’s effective.

Because TNR is proven to stabilize and reduce cat populations over time, it is now the gold standard for feral cat management in the United States. More than 300 communities have passed laws or enacted policies supporting the practice of TNR. Major cities including San Francisco, New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Washington, D.C., and dozens more have embraced TNR. Animal control and public health officials have endorsed it, calling it common-sense and

effective. Trap-Neuter-Return reduces calls into municipal agencies, keeps cats out of shelters, encourages spay/neuter practices, and saves tax dollars.

Junk science gets cats killed.

It's time for the national media to start reporting on the thinly veiled agenda of anti-cat researchers: their proposed "solution" really endorses the continued mass killing of cats

© 2022 Alley Cat Allies. All rights reserved. Alley Cat Allies is a 501(c)3 organization.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:46:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jax Graves	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am so dissappointed that the state are calling cats and invasive species. Now they want to eradicate them by inhumane measures.

Feral cats started by irresponsible owners who dump their cats that are not fixed. Giving them a chance to reproduce in the environment. This is not a Feral cat problem, but rather, an on going HUMAN PROBLEM. Humans created this problem, not the cats.

Feral Cat Colony caretakers are the only ones helping to TRY to contain this ongoing problem of people dumping cats. They spend effortless amount of time and their own money to make sure that every cat in their colony are cared for and looked after. They know their cats and when a new one shows up, they trap, scan, fix them if they are not and depending on how friendly they are, they pull them and try to find homes for them. Its a never ending battle for colony caretakers who help control the problem and the population.

Why can't Oahu build a sancutary like Lanai and Molokai and help in a humane way to control the feral problem, why not make stiffer penalties to those who dump animals and make the owner responsible for their actions. Hawaii has the worst animal laws compared to the mainland. Why is this?

I am against this bill and calling feral cats an invasive species is hidious. They were all once a pet to someone who was irresponsible and dumped them out in the environment.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:47:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
janet wakatsuki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

iam appalled and saddened to hear about this!..i dont think those introducing this bill are at all connected to the public they are suppose to represent! has Kyle Yamashita talked to the people he represents?..i think NOT!..there are over a thousand members on maui that care about feral cats and have been doing TNR(trap, neuter, release)..we feed and seek medical attention if possible..socialize as many as possible, so they can be adopted out to loving homes, they are fixed and vetted too..those not deemed adoptable are released back to their known colonies...there is a new non profit that has been sending socialized, healthy, fixed cats to the mainland and get adopted out with days of arrival.. we help and support each other to trap, feed, scan trapped and dumped cats get back to their families..the issue of trapping and the ILLEGAL DUMPING is where you should be putting your energy to..colony caretakers are finding family pets dumped in isolated places and in noted managed cared for colonies.. the public are the ones doing the ground work with some support from the humane society.. grateful they offer free spay/neuter to feral cats..we are working together to quell the cat population.. your BILL HB1987 slaps us all in the face, weve worked hard to remedy this islands wide problem..your bill is cruel and inhumane! think about if your family pet was trapped by a cat hating neighbor and dumped somewhere only to be trapped and killed as feral as your bill proposes..THINK ABOUT THAT! have some compassion please

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:47:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
???	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't jump the gun.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:48:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
AI HOSHINA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The life of the cat should also be respected. We should be a kind world that respects all life.

Cats are very smart, friendly and live hard. We humans should protect cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:48:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marissa Treskon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Strongly oppose. TNR is a more humane method.

TESTIMONY REGARDING HB1987

By Sara Malia Wisch

Please accept this testimony STRONGLY OPPOSING HB1987.

I'm disappointed to see that my representative Lisa Marten is among those introducing this bill. I see those supporting this bill choosing the "fast, cheap" option over the "right" way – devise and invest in a long-term solution that is strategic and multi-pronged, so as to be both humane and *effective*.

Cats are an easy scapegoat for a problem that was 99% caused by humans through destruction of habitat. I recognize this is a huge challenge. I care deeply about ALL animals, especially our native wildlife and I, too, want to protect them from feral cats.

I have seen the complexity and breadth of this problem play put in a hundred ways, a hundred times. I am actively involved with no fewer than a dozen local non-profit organizations specializing in controlling the cat population by humane means (most without any government support.)

This bill is the "easy and lazy" fast, cheap, *ineffective* option:

1. Drop massive amounts of poison to "kill all the cats"
2. At best, kill 15-20% of the cats (and hopefully nothing else)
 - Fortescue Marsh Study had the best results of the 3 studies summarized in this article¹: "Random models detected decline in occupancy of approximately 20% and spatial models detected a decline of 15%. (Clausen et al. 2015 p 5)."
 - Only to have it not make a difference:
 - "Captures of feral cats in 2015 were similar to those in previous years, with a 2.12% capture success rate, so, given baiting programs occurred in 2012, 2013 and 2014, these data might suggest the baiting programs were having limited impact on reducing the cat population."
3. At worst, kill 0% of the cats despite spreading \$___ of poison into our ecosystem
 - Karijini National Park Study: "An analysis of site occupancy data showed that there was no significant reduction in the feral cat population after baiting."
 - "Perhaps we need to rethink how best these funds might be spent in conserving threatened species. Other programs including top-predator conservation and release, maintaining and restoring habitat complexity and ecological refuges, exclusion fences and assisted behavioural and evolutionary ecology may be viable alternatives (Doherty and Ritchie 2016)."

¹ <https://terrestrialecosystems.com/cat-baiting-using-eradicat-and-curiosity-is-it-working/>

Culling has been proven not to work over time at reducing feral cat populations. We just can't get them all. We need a multi-faceted, concerted effort that is ongoing and involves the entire community.

We need to instead employ the “harder but ethical” strategic, multi-faceted, long-term option:

Given my experience with local nonprofits, here are some ideas just off the top of my head:

- Properly fund existing groups (Hawaiian Humane Society, Cat Friends) to meet the TNR demand (they need vets as well as dedicated staff to conduct 5-days-per-week targeted, systematic trapping rather than relying on volunteers to bring cats in one at a time (maxing out at 10 per day).
- Invest in an education campaign Involve cat owners with messaging that all of the following are a means to protecting both their cats and our precious, native wildlife
 - Drive home the importance of spay/neuter
 - Encourage cat owners to keep pet cats indoors
 - Discourage the abandonment of pets
- Support cat sanctuaries and prioritize the relocation of cats out of critical wildlife habitat
- Maintain and restore native habitat complexity and ecological refuges
- Invest in better exclusion fences
- Support and invest in assisted behavioral and evolutionary ecology
- Incentivise landlords to make rentals pet-friendly, which would reduce the abandonment of pet cats and the prevalence of free-roaming pet cats

So, which will it be?

What kind of community do we want to be? What kind of headlines do you want to make, nationwide?

Do you want to be the ones quoted in articles about your plan to air-drop tons of poison (literally rat poison) over remote and critical Hawaiian natural landscape? Only to experience little to no reduction in the feral cat population? And maybe even accidentally poison something – or someone – else?

Please instead compel DLNR to partner with existing groups to tackle this problem *the right way* – the way an intelligent, modern, civil society would.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:54:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzi Omori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We should not have right to kill animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:54:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jane Rodgers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning to eradicate the feral cat problem is NOT the solution. The problem is the lack of free spay/neuter clinics as well as a lack of programs educating the public and promoting spay/neuter/microchip. This island of Hawaii lost the "animal control" function that Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS) once filled. Animal Control is currently being handled by an already overburdened police department. Animal Control is not accepting unwanted cats/kittens so unwanted pets are being abandoned or dumped. The problem is that a more active Humane Society is needed. Do the legislators even know that Hawaii Island Animal Control does not accept cats? Without education of the public and a comprehensive public relations campaign encouraging spay/neuter, this very sad problem will continue to repeat.

This is not a humane solution, just imagine dead and dying cats as well as other pets littering parks and roads. The only humane solution is free and easily available spay/neuter clinics. plus a much stronger presence of a real Humane Society. Many smaller non-profits on shoe string budgets are stretched to the max trying to fill the void left when our Hawaii Island Humane Society (HIHS) stopped contracting with the county for animal control, adoptions, lost/found pets, and spay/neuter clinics.

The very idea of a large scale poisoning campaign is shameful, barbaric, and completely lacking in concern for animal suffering. Please help with the real solution of providing low cost (or free) access to spay/neuter clinics, outreach to educate the public, and helping Hawaii Island regain a real Humane Society. The solution is not to cause animals horrible suffering but instead start at the source of the problem which is easily accessible low cost spay/neuter clinics and an adequately funded Humane Society with strong outreach to educate the public.

Thank you,

Jane Rodgers, CPA

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:55:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alyssa Mendiola	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Alyssa Mendiola and I oppose this bill, not only because it is inhumane but because trap-neuter-release (TNR) works. I have lived on the island of O'ahu for over 5 years and have participated in TNR efforts for over 3 years with the help of CatFriends HI, Kat Charities, and the Hawaiian Humane Society. The solution this bill is proposing would put people's personal pets in danger as well as the endangered animals it is trying to protect in the first place. I think a humane and regulated way of getting the population under control would be to continue TNR efforts and to weigh the possibility of limiting or banning the bringing of pet cats to the islands much like the state has already done for pet snakes, hamsters, and ferrets. This problem has been exacerbated by irresponsible pet ownership. The animals should not have to suffer because of it. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:56:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ginger edmunds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I am very much opposed to the killing of feral cats! What I do not understand is why the organization that receives the most money (HHS) barley makes an impact on the feral cat and dog population here on Oahu. There are other rescue groups and independent rescuers that charge way less for spay and nueter, or pay for spay/nueter from their own funds. Many people cannot afford HHS spay and neuter even with the coupons it is still cheaper to go to other rescue organizations. WHY is that? It reminds me so much of our prisons, why do they want to build more prisons rather than fix the issue, provide better education. Same with HHS they build more facilities rather than solving the problem, if they took all that money for building and focused on spay and neuter they would not have to build more facilites. The problem we have on Oahu is we are not doing enough to solve the over population of animals - killing feral cats is just putting on a bandaid and it is INHUMANE, FIX the problem! Give HHS a mandate to fix the over population of animals by drastic numbers by increasing spay/nuetering and NOT by EUTHANASIA or cut their funding !! Give the funds to another group and see if they can do a better job, make them compete to spay and nueter the most animals in order to get funding. IF YOU ALWAYS DO WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS DONE, YOU'LL ALWAYS GET WHAT YOU'VE ALWAYS GOT!!

Please do not kill the animals make spay and neuter really affordable and accessible, currently it is not and this is a huge reason we have this problem, it's not the cats fault, it's the humans.

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:58:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tamara tavernier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am shocked to see that the public gets noticed two days before a bill can be passed.

almost impossible to react on a very inhumane bill that goes against the federal law of animal cruelty.

I have been part of an organization on bigisland that's called AdvoCATS who has spayed and neutered over 25000 cats since 1999. The cats all get fed by volunteers.

I think you forgot that the humans brought in the mongoose to kill the rats with devastating results for the bird population. We all

know that they are mostly responsible for the killing of the native birds.

humans are the cause of the destruction of this planet. Greed is.

allowing big cruise ships with their impact on the environment etc...

The poison of all our golf courses that run into our oceans...

and I can go on and on.

you are targeting the feral cats while people like AdvoCATS and other organizations are for years already working on the problem. You should fund these organizations and let them spay And neuter.the only thing that works.

it is upsetting that you give the public such a short notice.

there is a need of postponing this bill so you can allow people their voice.

this is the United States of America, a democracy!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 9:58:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rodney P Crusat	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill#1987. This would be genocide and make Hawaii look like Hitler in WW2.

This will not solve the problem and the horrible torture of innocent, intelligent animals will have to go on for years and years.

Homeless cats are like homeless people; they are cast out by the society that created them.

Homeless cats are created by people who abandon them, killing the cats will not solve the problem of people abandoning their animals. This is the problem, not the cats!

Please refer to your own bill#409 in the year 2021.

You have already passed laws forbidding cruelty to animals, and homeless cats are animals. So you are contradicting your own law?

Here are a few pertinent quotes from intelligent caring people:

In his total commitment to nonviolence, Mahatma Gandhi always included the animals, stating, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

Paul McCartney — 'You can judge a man's true character by the way he treats his fellow animals.'

Emmanuel Kant — 'He who is cruel to animals becomes hard also in his dealings with men. We can judge the heart of a man by his treatment of animals.'

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:01:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Weatherford	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

This is barbaric. I am heart sick that the goverment will encourage people to kill cats.

I have already lost cats that people shot. I was accosted by a man telling me the government wants him to shot cats. He shouted out at me and told me he shoots cats. That the government told him to.

Do you not realize the cats keep the rats away? The rats will overrun the state. You would rather have cats than rats.

We work onstop to get feral cats fixed so there will not be more. Instead of encouraging ppl to kill Gods creatures you could encourage ppl to help trap and release

I want to have a cat sanctuary but land costs so much. I will work on it but I am not rich.

Please do not put out this death warrant to kill the babies.

Ppl will kill the cats n leave the carcasses out. It is terrible that you r considering this horrible Holocaust. Unbelievable that the state will encourage death of these creatures. I love Hawaii but I am totally in shock that the Hawaii State Government would put at death warrant on these innocent babies.

Please please please stop this Please do not kill the babies.

.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:04:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shauna Zeigler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Shauna Zeigler and I am a resident in California. I was advised about this bill through some of the animal rescue groups I am a part of.

First, I want to thank the council for allowing this dialogue. I am a fervent supporter of Trap-Neuter-Return (or TNR) because it is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. I'd like to use this time to briefly explain who community cats are and why TNR needs to be supported in the community.

Community cats, also called feral cats, are unowned cats who live outdoors. Animal control's outdated approach to community cats has been to catch cats and bring them to a shelter where they will be killed because they are not socialized to people and therefore unadoptable.

Catching and killing cats creates an endless, expensive cycle of cruelty that wastes taxpayers' money. Removing cats from an area is futile because it results in population increases as an influx of new, unsterilized cats move into the same area to take advantage of available resources and reproduce. This well-documented natural phenomenon is known as the "vacuum effect." Rather than continue to kill healthy animals year after year at *YOUR OWN* expense, it's time to consider Trap-Neuter-Return.

TNR effectively stabilizes the community cat population because it stops the breeding cycle. During TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (which shows they've been part of a TNR program), and returned to their outdoor homes. TNR makes community cats healthier because they are vaccinated, and the stresses and behaviors associated with mating stop.

Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. It's time for the cats and residents to experience the long-term benefits of TNR firsthand.

I urge you to support TNR in the community rather than the cruel and unnecessary, and even more importantly, highly ineffective process of attempting to simply kill feral cats. We as humans can and should do better.

Thank you.

-Shauna Zeigler

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:05:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jill Ami Meyers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This Bill is brutal and inhumane;

The Big Island of Hawaii has been taking care of their feral cats for many years. The spay/neuter program here has been very effective in dealing with the cat population. We care for the cats, feed the cats and AdvoCATS, Inc has been taking care of the situation. I have contributed to the program monitarily.

I do not want to see anyone round up the cats up to kill them!

Would you round up the homeless population and kill all of them?

Would you show this to your child?

Cats have minds too!

Cats take care of the rat problems.

What about the mongoose?

Restaurants throw tons of food away daily that could be used to feed the cat population.

Once they are neutered, they will live their life, then there will be less cats.

This is a horrorifying, disgusting way to handle a small issue.

Please do not allow this bill to be passed.

Sincerely,

The cat population representative

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:06:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Helene Navaro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this HB 1987 and ask that you consider other Humane option such as Trap Neuter Return Manage. The Pandemic 2020, 2021 and still going in 2022 caused such a hardship to most of our community members. Life here in Hawaii becomes such a challenge not much Aloha, more crime, more homeless, more cruelty, more expensive and very little kindness.

This Bill HB1987 is another example of No Aloha and more cruelty. Using poison as baits is unacceptable since there will be other non intended animals, children and people who may get poisoned accidentally not to mention the poison will end up in our ocean. Once the poison entered our ocean the fish will eat the poison and in turn we will eat the fish. Our ocean is filled of drug, debris and eventually poison. How Horrific this will be.

How about offering landlords tax credit for allowing pets in their rentals. How about setting up cameras to catch all the pet abandonments and hefty fine for pet abandonments. How about more affordable pet friendly rentals? How about programs to help family pets during family crisis? How about programs to help military family take their pets with them upon leaving our State. If we can work and achieve some of these programs together with Trap Neuter Return there should be fewer cats labeled "ferals" on the street. Just a reminder, Cats still breed even if they were not fed such ban feeding. Cats still breed even if they were poisoned since there is no guarantee that the poison will get to all of them. I hope that our tax dollars will go to more Humane options.

Thank you so much for reading my testimony! Please oppose this bill HB 1987 and show some Aloha to the animals. Mahalo Nui Loa!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:10:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber Hudnall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I humbly ask that you let the organizations working hard to control the cat population continue and not pass this bill. If these organizations and residents like me, perhaps had access to funding we could do so much more and there would be no need to kill.

Mahalo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:10:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cullen Tanoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the consideration of using baits like Eradicat as a method for culling the feral cat population in Hawaii. Sodium monofluoroacetate, or 1080, is the poison used in Eradicat, and is a slow killer, with targets suffering for up to 2 days before dying (depending on target's metabolic rate). 1080 is an indiscriminate killer and could harm the surrounding wildlife of our islands as a result of uptake from non-target species, or carnivores/scavengers that feed upon unrecovered carcasses infected with 1080.

What we should really be focusing on when we talk about managing invasive species like feral cats in Hawaii is reducing their impact. It is important that we recognize that you don't always reduce impact by reducing numbers, as a small percentage may be responsible for the bulk of the damage. Using fences in areas with endangered species or increasing the number of hiding places (like log piles), for example, may be more effective strategies for protecting the endangered wildlife from feral cats on our islands.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:11:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Corinne Kaufman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, Respectfully Iam APPALED and Deeply Disturbed by The Proposal of HB1987 !!!

Any Human Being Who Could Conceive of or Support Such a Measure to Perpetrate on The Inocent Managed Cat Colonies in Hawaii Has NO Business Being a Member of any branch of Government in The Kingdom and State of Hawaii !!! The Cat Sactuary on The island of Lanai is a Perfect Example of ways in which Feral Cats Can be Lovingly Cared For as Well as Expanding resourses for The Humane Societies TNR Trap Neutar Release Program . Cat adoptions out of State is another Current Program That Could be Expanded.

Mahalo, Corinne C Kaufman

(Maui)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:18:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Schiltz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Not only is this bill inhumane but is not possible to achieve. You cannot eradicate all free roaming cats on the Hawaiian islands while you still:

- Permit people / organizations to breed cats (and dogs)
- Permit people to bring cats (and dogs) to the islands while they are not spayed or neutered
- Have no legislation that pet owners must their animals in their house or fenced in yards.

How can you possibly achieve this if cruel people get an animal, let them roam and do not get them fixed? They will continue to breed.

Additionally, the only proven method to decrease the number of free roaming cats is to TNR which is to trap, neuter and return to where they live. You can never remove them all and when you only remove some, the remaining cats will breed off season and will multiply faster to try and save their colony. You are creating more of a problem by trying to remove them. You will only see a huge increase in the number of free roaming cats.

1. Why isn't there legislation to require pet owners to keep their cats inside or behind outside enclosures?
2. Why isn't there legislation like you have for rabies to ensure people that move here have their animals spayed/neutered?
3. Why isn't there legislation to prohibit the breeding of animals?
4. Why not provide grant money to organizations that are trying to humanely help this problem?
5. How about providing the necessary funds and resources to create sanctuaries like Lanai has to keep the free roaming cats enclosed while increasing public interest and tourism to the islands? There are thousands of cat lovers on the islands that would take on the work to make something like this happen. The Lanai cat sanctuary is proof of concept that solution actually works.

This bill is very upsetting and impossible to enforce.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY: HB1987

House of Representatives
Thirty-First Legislature, 2022
State of Hawaii

HB 1987 proposes to reduce the ecological disruption in Hawaii caused by feral cats. The proposed plan includes counting the number of feral cats on each island in the state and implementing a humane method, supported by scientific evidence, to completely eliminate all of the feral cats on Maui, Kauai and Hawaii, and reducing the number on Oahu by 50% by 12/31/2025. The proposed method is to utilize poison baits (Curiosity and Eradicat) to kill the cats.

First of all, the use of lethal, poison bait is not humane. The term humane is defined as having or showing compassion or benevolence. Killing cats using poison is neither compassionate nor benevolent.

With regard to scientific evidence, published reports indicate that this method is not very effective at reducing the number of feral cats, and importantly may have a significant, negative impact on non-targeted species. One study reported that non-targeted species accounted for 99% of identifiable bait takes, including birds.¹ Furthermore, this method has primarily been used in Australia (the bait contains Kangaroo meat). Study conclusions emphasize that non-targeted species vary across geographic locations² and that the impact on non-targeted species may be high. The impact of this method upon non-targeted species in Hawaii is unknown, unpredictable, and potentially high.

The impact of feral cats upon endangered species in Hawaii is a major concern. While TNR may not be a perfect method for reducing cat populations, it is humane. A critical, but often overlooked, aspect of TNR involves public education. Humans play a role in supporting the feral cat populations in Hawaii by feeding and failing to spay and neuter. In the past there have been PSAs and other efforts to educate the public about spaying and neutering feral cats, including offering assistance with TNR and free, or low cost spay and neuter services. This low-cost intervention would certainly help. In addition, the proposed bill includes counting all of the feral cats on each of the islands in the state. This would be a major undertaking. Adding TNR of these cats at the same time would require a minimal amount of additional funds and significantly help to reduce the problem, instead of just counting.

The proposed bill is advocating a cruel and ineffective method to address problems associated with feral cats. Importantly, the proposed method has an unpredictable and potentially huge negative impact on other, non-targeted species in Hawaii – possibly the same animals this bill purports to protect. Recognizing the need to protect endangered species in Hawaii, available humane and effective approaches to reducing feral cat populations should be thoroughly explored and a careful implementation plan developed.

Thank you for your consideration,

Beth Waitzfelder
41-670 Kaaumana Pl
Waimanalo, HI 96795

1. Rosemary Hohnen, Brett P. Murphy, Sarah M. Legge, Chris R. Dickman, and John C. Z. Woinarski "Uptake of 'Eradicat' feral cat baits by non-target species on Kangaroo Island," *Wildlife Research* 47(7-8), 547-556, (5 December 2019). <https://doi.org/10.1071/WR19056>
2. Fancourt, B.A., Harry, G., Speed, J. *et al.* Efficacy and safety of Eradicat® feral cat baits in eastern Australia: population impacts of baiting programmes on feral cats and non-target mammals and birds. *J Pest Sci* 95, 505–522 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10340-021-01433-9>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:23:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Summer Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Killing the cats is not a long term solution and all but gives permission to cat haters to steal, torture, and kill these innocent animals and people's pets. A true solution would be to trap and neuter them all and relocate to a large cat sanctuary on Maui. It could become a money making tourist destination. Similar to the one on Lanai. It would solve the problem and create opportunity at the same time. It is a win win on all sides and would end the feral cat problem. It is worth the investment and everyone could sleep at night with this positive solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:24:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathleen Roberts	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I believe killing the feral cat population is in humane. I support the continuation of the spay/ neuter program and education for the public.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:29:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alice Saul	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Testimony on HB1987

It is not an overstatement to say that I am outraged at the proposal to slaughter cats using poisoned bait.

Yes, native species need to be protected. I myself profoundly appreciate the beauty and grace birds bring to our lives, and support efforts to conserve all endangered animals.

The stone-cold language of the proposed bill leaves such a bitter taste, mere wordsmithing may not be enough to result in a half-way palatable result.

I am also very disappointed at the apparent lack of imagination displayed in the proposed bill by the inability to fashion a plan that could truly qualify as 'humane' other than having a living animal explode from the inside out.

Surely, better options exist to achieve the desired protections for the populations mentioned.

I urge that you do NOT support passage of this bill, or any version of it, or any other vehicle that includes consideration of such grisly measures.

Alice Saul
Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:31:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Candace Souza	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can't believe this was even thought of, to cruelly end an animals life. This won't end just one species, it will end others as well. You all should be ashamed of yourselves! Do better!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:35:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Y Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a horrible bill without Aloha.

You will see crimes against humans increase by enacting such a cruel rule.

Our land will be filled with poisons poisons poisons death death death with evil spirits.

What if accidentally kill pets? Lots of law suits will be brought vs Hawaii after

this stupid bills with no mercy.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:36:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
alicia morrier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alicia Morrier and I am a current resident of Kailua Kona. I am writing today to let you know I am in opposition to hb1987.

This can be handled in a much smarter way than the killing of so many cats. Studies have shown that trap and release programs are, by far, much more successful in controlling feral cat populations with very little risk involved. The use of poison is a sloppy, idiotic way of poisoning not just cats but other species as well.

We need to be educating the public on how to properly care for their pets and increasing the numbers of spay and neuter programs for all.

Since the pandemic, services have been drastically reduced which has caused an increase in the feral cat population, in combination with families who've abandoned animals due to financial hardship.

The use of poison will only add to more stress on our precious native species and is not the appropriate, intelligent answer to the plight our island cats are in.

Nicole Lowen can do better than this. I am not in favor of this bill.

Mahalo,

Alicia Morrier

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:41:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
marci dickey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose. TNR is working and humane. So many of these animals have become family pets and are in loving homes.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:43:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emily E Czudak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The only humane and effective method to control and reduce a feral cat population is TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release). All resources regarding the matter should go towards a strong TNR program as well as community engagement and education. The most significant contributor to feral cat overpopulation is the owners who dump and abandon their pets, or who do not neuter them and allow them to roam outside and produce multiple litters of kittens every year. Many people do not realize the issues this causes for the community, the environment, and the animals. Mass torture and killing of animals is not an acceptable solution. Thank you for your attention to my testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:43:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruiko Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a terrible idea. Killing wild animal is wrong. Instead stick with trap, spay and neuter programs.

Thank you.

To Whom it May Concern,

I'm writing to express my disagreement with the program proposed in HB1987. While I appreciate the need to protect Hawai'i's native and endangered wildlife, the proposed measure does not offer anything more than a temporary solution, at the cost of significant suffering to the animals subject to its provisions. There are several shortcomings to the bill. To begin with, the widespread practice of dumping cats, particularly by members of the military when they are stationed elsewhere, means that any reduction in the number of free-roaming cats achieved by the program would be temporary at best. So long as policies against such dumping are not enforced, it will be impossible to keep the populations of colonies around the islands down. TNR, and more broadly, effective programs requiring that any cats brought to or living in the islands be spayed or neutered, will achieve the same goal of reducing the feral and free-roaming cat population in a sustainable, long-term, and less-cruel manner. Make no mistake: whatever the manufacturers of Curiosity and Eradicat may claim, a death that includes headache, disorientation, nausea, and rapid heart rate cannot be considered humane. There is, of course, also the risk to domestic cats posed by the baiting regimes identified in the measure. Furthermore, as the proposed solution will have only a temporary effect, the expense of first conducting the survey and then implementing a poisoning program will be a recurring one, as the populations of feral and free-roaming cats on the islands rebound or are replenished through the actions of cat owners who either discard their animals when they become inconvenient or allow them to breed unchecked. Far better to address the problem at the source, which is to say by keeping the populations of cats on the islands from growing through sustained and enforced spay/neuter programs and requirements.

Finally, I would like to point out that despite identifying three sources of pressure on the endangered wildlife of the islands (predation, habitat loss and disease), the bill makes no mention of mitigating or addressing the latter two, with the exception of a reduction in toxoplasmosis associated with cats. A cursory search of the NOAA website reveals that of 9 seals that died on Molokai in 2021, one was shot and two died of "blunt force trauma," while none were identified as succumbing to toxoplasmosis. This certainly suggests that human action is at least as much of a risk to monk seals as cats; the same can almost certainly be said to be true of other endangered species. Effective protection of Hawai'i's wildlife, both endangered and otherwise, requires a clear-headed recognition of the true sources of the risks it faces, which, I would submit, is to a great extent human activity.

Thank you for your time and attention,

David Viehl

This is regards to HB1987. I am so disgusted that this bill is even a thought in someone's sick mind. Wind Mills kill many more birds than innocent cats. The only humane way to control the population is to spade/neuter and release. These are beautiful God made animals that got dealt a rough hand to begin with and all they want is to have food and be loved. What you are proposing to do is not only evil but inhumane. Have you not read the studies THE VACUUM EFFECT: WHY CATCH AND KILL DOESN'T WORK.

I certainly hope that you take heed in the many testimonies coming over and do not allow such an evil bill to even be on the table. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves for even entertaining it.

Carol Cobia

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:46:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ben mayer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Benjamin Mayer and I live on the Big Island strongly oppose this bill being proposed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:48:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Corey Lacey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Corey Lacey and I oppose this bill. My wife and I have lived on O'ahu for over 6 years and have volunteered our own time to participate in trap neuter release programs and have managed to get the population in our neighborhood under control.

Trap neuter release programs do work and more money should be allotted to these programs to include the Hawaiian Humane Society on O'ahu that is only able to do TNR for community cats 2 days a week, by appointment, because of limited staff and high demand. People want to help these animals by getting their population under control but, what we need is more resources. The volunteers who dedicate their time and efforts have day jobs too.

This bill is proposing the use of Curiosity bait for feral cats which claims to be a humane way to euthanize them. According to the Australian Government's Department of Agriculture, Water, and the Environment, which this bill is proposing to follow in the footsteps of, "the toxicant, PAPP, converts the animal's red blood cells to a form that cannot carry oxygen, causing death through oxygen starvation to the brain and other vital organs. It is considered to be humane and death takes minutes to hours." It could take HOURS for these animals to die after ingesting the toxicant. This is NOT humane and should be reconsidered as a long term solution for controlling the population of feral cats. Our pets and other wildlife could ingest these toxicants. What measures will be taken to ensure that other animals won't be harmed in the process?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:48:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuri Lang	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is NOT right things to do as human.

TO: House Committee on Agriculture
RE: HB 1987

Hearing Feb 4, 2022 10 a.m. Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice-Chair Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

I am Nancy Aleck, retired after many years serving the community through nonprofit and educational work and advocacy.

I am strongly **opposed to HB 1987**. It calls for, first, a *point in time count*. Sound familiar? After the count, it calls for poison. Some are calling this the “count and kill” bill.

I love birds, monk seals, many animals including cats. As we begin the year of the tiger, shall we enact the murder of all felines?

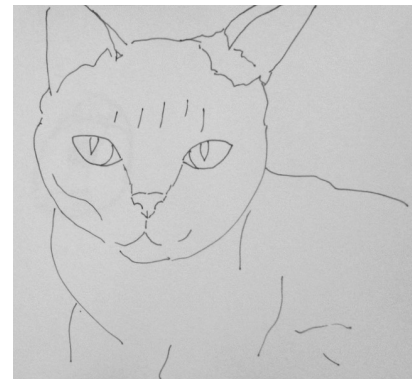
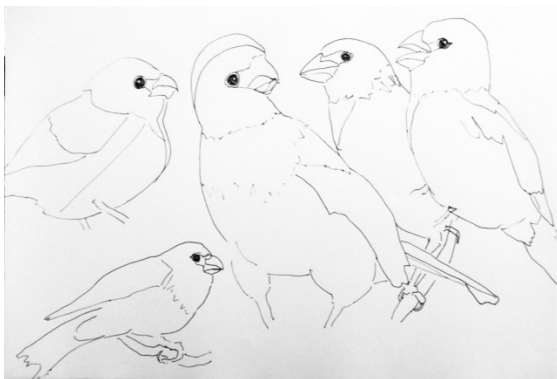
Trap, neuter, release (TNR) works as an effective management to feral cat populations. This program needs greater support to be even more successful. A majority of those who practice TNR do so as volunteers, spending much time and resources to trap and fix the cats.

To count and kill a population that is found by some to be annoying, detrimental, even threatening (cats or otherwise) is at the very least inhumane.

Please don't send HB 1987 to any further hearings. The one thing that should be killed is this bill.

Mahalo,

Nancy Aleck
Manoa



My name is Janice Kato, a resident on Oahu. I am testifying as a private citizen in strong opposition of HB1987 that seeks to eradicate entire populations of feral cats across the islands for the purpose of protecting endangered bird populations.

Firstly, baiting and poisoning feral cats as modeled after Australia's program, as recommended in this bill, is seriously inhumane. In addition to causing thousands of painful deaths, the use of poison will have other unintended consequences as other animals, pets, wildlife, and even people can easily ingest the poison baits. Another consequence of eradicating cat populations is a population explosion of other pests that are natural prey to cats. Currently in Australia, certain areas are experiencing plagues of mice, and now there are few cats to keep the mice population controlled. Ironically, their government has issued more poison to farmers to control their new mice problem.

I greatly urge legislature to support the humane trap - spay/neuter – release programs. There are such programs on Oahu that are making very good progress in spaying/neutering thousands of cats and releasing them to their original colony or away from sanctioned areas, to live out their natural lives.

I also advocate for the education of cat owners to responsibly spay/neuter their pets. The large populations of feral cat colonies is a problem mostly created by irresponsible cat owners that allow their unneutered/unspayed pets to roam and breed. We have created the cat over-population problem; we should humanely fix the problem rather than supporting the wholesale slaughter of animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide my voice in opposition to this terrible bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:55:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lyudmyla Ivanovych	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the killing of the cats in Hawaii, as it is a very inhuman thing to do. But I support the practice of neutering of feral cats. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:55:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Akemi N Bischoff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There has be a better way to control this. So many organization and indiviauls are working to try make difference. This bill is too cruel.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:56:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Monies could be used on spay and neuter to controll population. there are numerous groups and people on their own with their own time and money doing this. with funding the population would decrease. also education in spay and neuter our pets. no dumping of live animals. no bringing in animals into state not spayed or neutered. Chicago has praised the cats in rodent control. Hawaii has a big problem with rats and would get worse. we have no snakes. Hawaii needs to step up and assist in spay and neuter programs and sanctuary dedicated like Lanai.

Controlling population not killing.

thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:58:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
dawn Yoshimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aūe!

This is a ruthless and unwise bill! If there is a problem with the amount of feral cats, there are successful programs that address this and there should be additional legislation and enforcement of existing laws to prevent HUMANS from abandoning cats and current pet owners that let their pets run loose on trails, in parks, and around their neighborhoods. If it really is that acute that the cats be stopped immediately with ‘culling‘ why not call it what is is--Cat Apocalypse?? then all cat owners should not be allowed to let their cats run loose outside the house.

The Paepae o He‘eia project saw the discovery of a large feral cat population when they started to clear and burn habitat and through the cooperation of Kamaaina Kids, the local ‘cat‘ ladies and the Humane Society, a catch and release program was initiated and the population was greatly reduced.

What will happen to the rat population, Hawaii has not eradicated them since the 1700s, if we can eradicate cats, why not the rats, which carry far more dangerous disease to humans as well as other animals? What about the deer that destroy vegetation and cause erosion problems? Why is no one clamoring for their extermination?

I am appalled that a proposed bill could come so far by cat haters. This does not seem grounded in science or fair treatment of living creatures.

A‘ole makemake au.

I do not support this, please kill this bill, not the pōpoki

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:59:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kurt & Nancy Zachmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We oppose bill HB1987. Great progress is being made through the TNR program. Proposed Bill HB1987 is inhumane, disgusting & criminal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 10:59:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Adriana Manzer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hi, I wanted to say that I oppose this bill. I feel it is inhumane to cull the feral cats. The cats did not choose to be irresponsibly abandoned by their owners- unfixed. In terms of reproduction, cats should not be blamed for simply doing what is natural to them. The feral cat overpopulation is a human caused problem and as a human we must ethically, humanely, and responsibly address this issue. Luckily for us all, there is already a way, there is already a humane solution. It's called TRN. TNR humanely decreases feral cat overpopulation.

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:00:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stacy Martin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Curiosity and Eradicate feral cat baits have been deemed a cruel and inhuman method by many organizations. They have also proven to attract personal pets and untargeted species. Conversely, feral cat populations have proven to exponentially decline when spay/neuter and release efforts are supported by local governments

Further options should be researched before any mass kill legislation is allowed to pass
Thank you

To: Mark J. Hashem

Chair of the House Committee on Agriculture

House Bill 1987, Relating to Invasive Species

Friday, February 4 2022

10:00 a.m.

IN OPPOSITION

I am Rich Thompson a resident of Kaimuki (Honolulu). I am testifying against HB 1987.

I am afraid the use of poisons to kill cats would endanger our keiki and pets. The Bill discusses the activity in Australia, but the population is spread out there. Here in the islands there is almost no place where children don't play and elders walk their dogs. I will not believe poison put out to kill cats will not affect people and pets in the area. Will the poison, if left out, get into our water?

I also believe all of our tax resources should be applied to:

First, recovering from the pandemic crises. So many small businesses have had to close their doors because disruption of revenue. Several of my favorite small restaurants are no longer in business.

Second, finding a solution to the homeless problem. There are so many tents set up on the sidewalks, lets spend the money helping them, not killing cats.

In summary, I am very much against HB 1987.

Rich Thompson

rlt@moolele.com

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:00:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth E Gewalt	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a former resident of Maui County with immediate family members and friends who reside there currently. I became aware of the pending hearing for this bill via former coworkers and concerned individuals involved in the veterinary and animal industry on Maui. I, myself, am a former veterinary technician with several years experience on island.

I simply want to state my concern regarding ethical treatment of living beings. The pace at which this bill outlines eradication of cat populations has me worried that animals will be killed in, for lack of a better term, barbaric ways. Namely, the use of poisons as a means to end lives is my main concern. I understand the need to control populations and reduce impacts the cats impose on the land, native species, et al. I do not, however, believe this is the only feasible way to get the results you desire. I may be totally misinformed in the matter, but my sources are reputable, professional, and long standing citizens of Maui County. Therefore, I am writing to voice concern that is shared with several individuals who were sent the same information.

I would greatly appreciate some notification of receipt and submission of this testimony if at all possible. I would also like to mention, in light of the last minute nature of this bill hearing being passed through my circle of people, that I am speaking (formally or informally) on behalf of several veterinary doctors, a handful of animal rescues (domestic and DLNR), my husband (also a former resident), and many residents of Maui County who may not have received the same information in time to submit testimony.

In closing, please consider more deeply the consequences these actions will have on living beings as well as the possible decrease in support from a large portion of residents, and tourists alike, who may assume the same things I have just described and believe them to be unethical.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Elizabeth and Matthew Gewalt

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:01:10 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nagisa Funabashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are not ours(human's). So we don't kill that.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:01:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yurie Igarashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is unethical to kill cats for the benefit of humankind. The population of animals should not be reduced or controlled based on human needs, values, and goals. It is important to reflect on what humans have been doing to the earth and animals as it is creating significant negative impacts for many species. I strongly disagree with any implementation of this type of solution, please stop this initiative immediately.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:02:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carrie Fuentes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whome it may concern,

My name is Carrie Fuentes and I oppose this bill because not only is it inhumane, but because trap-neuter-release (TNR) works. I have actively participated in TNR efforts in my community for over 3 years with the help of the Hawaiian Humane Society and with the help of Kat Charities.

The solution this bill is proposing would not only put people's personal pets in danger, but as well as the danger to our endangered species it is trying to protect in the first place.

I personally think a regulated and humane way of getting the feral cat population under control wold to continue the TNR efforts. Another effort to look at is limiting or banning of bringing pet cats to the islands much like the state has done so in regards to snake, hamsters, and ferrets.

This problem has been exacerbated by irresponsible pet owners, and these animals should not have to suffer as a result of it.

There should be stricter laws for people who abandon their pets. The solution should not be by killing / eradicating cats because of such irresponsible people.

Thank You

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:03:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
REIKO HIRA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are innocent.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:03:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rei Nakae	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against slaughter by poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:06:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Uriel Radona	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I get the feral cat community is large and invasive but there are lots of us on the islands that use the TNR Method (trap and release), we are able to provide them with spay/neuter from the humane society so the population no longer rises. We have Facebook pages/ groups with so much of us helping. If you put funding into trapping and releasing, you'd see the benefits. Poisoning them is beyond inhumane! TNR is the only humane way to go.

we're making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

Please! This is serious.

mahalo,

Uriel Radona

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:07:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christian K Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is immoral.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:07:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Iyo Moon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is immoral.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:10:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Selene Mersereau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The Humane Society needs to be in charge of getting an accurate count of homeless cats. Viewing them as an invasive species nullifies the issues of abandonment and irresponsibility of humans that created this dilemma. There are positive solutions. I am opposed to this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:10:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
natsumi matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

ハワイが大好きな日本人です。

猫を殺さないで。

ハワイは良い場所です。

動物にも優しく、法令を改正してください。

じゃないと、地球と人間は悲しい最後を迎えると思います。

日本では、避妊手術をボランティアでしている団体があります！

猫は減りましたよ。

殺す選択はしないで。

今ある命を生かし、ハワイの為にすべきことを選択してください。

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lillian Smith	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposal is inhumane and unjust. Hawaii has already made progress reducing the amount of feral cats by the humane process of trapping, spaying/neutering, and then releasing. Feral cats are by no means the leading cause of the extinction of native species. If that is the main concern, is the state willing to put an end to building new resorts and businesses that disrupt Hawaii's ecosystem? Is the state willing to put an end to stealing, or "redirecting," water from the species which need it to survive? Those and many other pressing factors contribute far more to native extinction than feral cats. This bill is shameful and full of misinformation. Not only would the actions proposed in this bill harm feral cats, but also our pets and children. If bait with poison is used, what happens if one of our pets or young children accidentally ingests this? They could be injured or die. Putting our Ohana at risk is not okay. We've had success with spaying/neutering and releasing. The state of Hawaii should focus resources towards continuing this humane process and improving it to reach a broader scope. The numbers will continue to go down, without killing innocent beings and putting members of our Ohana at risk.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lareina hu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing is not the answer. Educating people is and getting people involved and supporting those that already do so much to bring down the cat population. Teaching people to see cats as a nuisance is wrong. They feel pain. Also many pet cats will be killed because people don't care. They just see a cat pooping in their yard. What would Jesus do?! Me and my daughter have fixed 13 cats right where we live. What have you done?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keiko Kawakami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I disagree with it

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:12:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sae Sekii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Instead of poisoning the cat, I want you to think of another method, such as catching it and neutering it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:16:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elijah Ominsky	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The eradication strategy championed by this bill is **inhumane** and unrealistic. It is alienating to the only people who are, and have been, actually doing anything to manage free-roaming cats on a large scale, as well as animal welfare groups, and TNR volunteers.

Hawaiian Humane Society is strongly opposed to this piece of legislation. The Hawaiian Humane Society agrees that data is needed to better understand the states free-roaming cat population. Their team is presently coordinating the first ever scientific free-roaming cat census performed in Hawaii. They are working with researchers who conducted the groundbreaking DC Cat Count.

Trap-Neuter-Return eliminates a huge amount of suffering.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:22:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mayuko Awata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

opposition

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:22:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lani Hosaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm not an animal lover by nature, but whether you love cats not, the problem is their cruel ways. Don't you think what a cruel thought it is that we can choose to KILL them in order to deal with the problem quickly and without spending a lot of money? I hope you watching this will take some small action.

We are working to protect stray cats, neuter them, and find homes for them. I know that there are many different opinions about castration, but personally, I think it is better to have them neutered and control their breeding than to have them killed by their continued breeding.

I hope that humans and animals can coexist happily in this Hawaii nei.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:26:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kazue Kamisawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Castrate and contraceptive and return them. The image of Hawaii as a tourist destination gets worse.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:27:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pat Zuckerman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The ONLY humane way of controlling the feral cat population is by spay/neuter. Please do not use a barbaric means of poison. AdvoCATS Hawaii is a Wonderful Organization for people and cats to live together in harmony in Paradise. DO NOT LET THIS BILL PASS!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:27:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koyuki Mitani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't pass it. There are so many other ways to solve this problem.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:27:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jeanette Rutherford	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am respectfully submitting my opposition to the barbaric and brutal proposal to eradicate the feral cat population in the State of Hawaii.

It is my belief that exterminating feral cats from the environment will have major consequences, including unintended poisoning and second-hand poisoning of other species, the necessity of poisoning the rodent population and further poisoning of continued abandonment of cats by the local population. This excessive use of poison could also severely impact the environment.

The so-called "culling" of animals certainly causes a great deal of suffering and is neither a suitable nor effective method of limiting populations. It can often lead to an increase in the number of animals present in a given area, as it creates a more favorable habitat for cats to migrate in and an increase in reproduction, (the vacuum effect).

Torturing and killing animals will never restore balance to the natural environment.

Using chemicals that leave animals to die slowly in agony is not an acceptable practice. If the general public were truly made aware of the suffering and agony of these victims, there may be more support for other more non-lethal and humane solutions to control feral cat populations.

Trap-neuter-return, in conjunction with consistent public education about "Critter Litter" and responsible pet ownership, is a reasonable and ethical solution to control feral cat populations by reducing their fertility. The educational component of T-N-R, with a focus on grade school children, is critical to the long term success of this method. I urge the council to concentrate it's resources on non-lethal methods rather than any harmful and incompassionate manner.

Innocent animals should not have to suffer terribly due to a problem created by people.

Jeanette Rutherford

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:36:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shiloh Francis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear House Committee on Agriculture

I am a member of the Mililani community on Oahu and I strongly oppose this bill. I am aware of the cat problem on Oahu and have volunteered hundreds of hours on programs like T-N-R which implements trapping feral cats and neutering them to prevent them from increasing in numbers. This is proven to work and is the most humane way to handle this issue. This could be sponsored by the state to be more effective instead of relying purely on non-profits to take care of the responsibilities.

Aside from TNR there are other ways to help the cat problem. For one there is almost no pet friendly housing and rentals on the island. This leads to cats getting dumped outside when the owner is unable to find housing in this competitive market. Implementing an incentive or preventing rentals from discriminating against people with pets would also greatly help reduce the tragedy of these pets being separated from their loving families and dumped on the street.

In addition to incentivizing rentals and land lords to accept pets in their leases, implementing stricter punishments for individuals who abandon their animals is suggested to deter people from resorting to such a terrible act.

Aside from all the other reasons I have listed, the inhumane action laid out in this bill is appalling. Death from poisoning is far from humane and is considered animal abuse. This is the wrong approach to the issue and better funding other preventative methods would be better as a whole for the islands. We should be practicing the Aloha we say we stand for.

I request the House Committee on Agriculture to vote against HB 1987.

Thank you for reading my testimony,

Shiloh Francis

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:37:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christopher Mancuso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of HB197. I object to the reckless slaughter of the stray/feline feline population. Spay/neuter is the only humane method of controlling the feral cat population. This problem was caused by careless humans. I implore you to not try to solve it in an equally careless an inhumane manner. I have worked at and volunteered with local animal rescues for the last seven years, and my wife and I have personally fostered over 200 cats/kittens during that time. These are great animals that deserve better treatment than to be poisoned and eradicated. Sterilize, colonize is a much more benign method of containment.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:41:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mamina Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose poisoning cats.

February 1, 2022

Mamina Yamada

from Japan.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:44:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
dana tobey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I, Dana Tobey, oppose this bill because I do not believe it will ultimately solve the cat population issue of Hawaii.

The only way to effectively address this issue is to implement and practice a humane solution, Trap Neuter Return. There has already been a reduction in terms of numbers by the organizations and people who are doing this. It is safe, effective, and most importantly humane. Hunting and killing innocent creatures will not result in the desired outcome.

Please do not pass bill HB1987.

Hawaii is known for so many beautiful things, please don't add this bill to start being known for something ugly.

Thank you.

Dana Tobey

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:44:51 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sherry george	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is cruelty to animals these cats didn't let themselves go in the wild they were released by humans and now you want to kill them! How horrible can a human be!!!! I am against this inhumane bill!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:45:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Midori Kawasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please please don't kill our beautiful cats 🙏😭

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:48:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mariko Ishibashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Animals are as important a life as humans. It is not allowed to kill for human convenience. Same as murder.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:51:02 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann Pitcaithley	Individual	Comments	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Agriculture Chair and Members

My name is Ann Pitcaithley. I am a full-time resident of Maui for 29 years and am an advocate for animal welfare. I am testifying in opposition to HB 1987. Relating to Invasive Species, to eliminate the feral cat population in Hawaii

Removing cats from an area by poisoning them is not only drastic and cruel—it is pointless. Animal control agencies and city governments have blindly perpetuated this futile approach for decades. But years of failed attempts, scientific research, and evidence from animal control personnel prove that catch and kill does not permanently clear an area of cats. Scientific evidence indicates that removing feral cat populations only opens up the habitat to an influx of new cats, either from neighboring territories or born from survivors. Each time cats are removed, the population will rebound through a natural phenomenon known as the “**vacuum effect**,” drawing the community into a costly, endless cycle of trapping and killing. This **vacuum effect** is a phenomenon scientifically recognized worldwide, across all types of animal species.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the humane and effective approach to addressing stray or feral cats commonly called community cat populations. It saves cats’ lives and is effective in slowly diminishing population numbers, by preventing the **vacuum effect**. TNR not only stops the breeding cycle but allows community cats to continue protecting their established territories. Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. In my opinion, had the DLNR assisted with TNR programs years earlier, we would not have this problem today.

The ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States and many nonprofit organizations like Alley Cats, Animal League, Fix Nation, and Greater Good to name a few who all support TNR programs.

Community cat colonies are managed by community members who trap and sterilize cats in a specific area. In this program, community cats are humanely trapped, brought to the Humane

society or a private veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been sterilized), and then returned to their outdoor home.

I currently help manage a cat colony in Wailuku Maui consisting of 25 cats who are well cared for. Sadly, especially since the pandemic, more people have been illegally dumping their unwanted domestic cats. This is really a people problem, not a cat problem. Surprisingly, most of these abandoned cats showing up at the cat colonies have already been spayed or neutered. Many of these cats have later been adopted through the Humane Society.

I have been caring for cats in colonies for several years in North Shore Maui areas and have yet to witness any cats killing birds. I question the authenticity of the bill's statement of the massive numbers of bird killing by community cats. And what about the mongoose problem? They are known to kill birds. Why isn't the mongoose population also being targeted?

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

Aloha Committee on Agriculture Chair and Members

My name is Ann Pitcaithley. I am a full-time resident of Maui for 29 years and am an advocate for animal welfare. I am testifying in opposition to HB 1987. Relating to Invasive Species, to eliminate the feral cat population in Hawaii

Removing cats from an area by poisoning them is not only drastic and cruel—it is pointless. Animal control agencies and city governments have blindly perpetuated this futile approach for decades. But years of failed attempts, scientific research, and evidence from animal control personnel prove that catch and kill does not permanently clear an area of cats. Scientific evidence indicates that removing feral cat populations only opens up the habitat to an influx of new cats, either from neighboring territories or born from survivors. Each time cats are removed, the population will rebound through a natural phenomenon known as the “**vacuum effect**,” drawing the community into a costly, endless cycle of trapping and killing. This **vacuum effect** is a phenomenon scientifically recognized worldwide, across all types of animal species.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the humane and effective approach to addressing stray or feral cats commonly called community cat populations. It saves cats’ lives and is effective in slowly diminishing population numbers, by preventing the [vacuum effect](#). TNR not only stops the breeding cycle but allows community cats to continue protecting their established territories. Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. In my opinion, had the DLNR assisted with TNR programs years earlier, we would not have this problem today.

The ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States and many nonprofit organizations like Alley Cats, Animal League, Fix Nation, and Greater Good to name a few who all support TNR programs.

Community cat colonies are managed by community members who trap and sterilize cats in a specific area. In this program, community cats are humanely trapped, brought to the Humane society or a private veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been sterilized), and then returned to their outdoor home.

I currently help manage a cat colony in Wailuku Maui consisting of 25 cats who are well cared for. Sadly, especially since the pandemic, more people have been illegally dumping their unwanted domestic cats. This is really a people problem, not a cat problem. Surprisingly, most of

these abandoned cats showing up at the cat colonies have already been spayed or neutered. Many of these cats have later been adopted through the Humane Society.

I have been caring for cats in colonies for several years in North Shore Maui areas and have yet to witness any cats killing birds. I question the authenticity of the bill's statement of the massive numbers of bird killing by community cats. And what about the mongoose problem? They are known to kill birds. Why isn't the mongoose population also being targeted?

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

Aloha Committee on Agriculture Chair and Members

My name is Ann Pitcaithley. I am a full-time resident of Maui for 29 years and am an advocate for animal welfare. I am testifying in opposition to HB 1987. Relating to Invasive Species, to eliminate the feral cat population in Hawaii

Removing cats from an area by poisoning them is not only drastic and cruel—it is pointless. Animal control agencies and city governments have blindly perpetuated this futile approach for decades. But years of failed attempts, scientific research, and evidence from animal control personnel prove that catch and kill does not permanently clear an area of cats. Scientific evidence indicates that removing feral cat populations only opens up the habitat to an influx of new cats, either from neighboring territories or born from survivors. Each time cats are removed, the

population will rebound through a natural phenomenon known as the “**vacuum effect**,” drawing the community into a costly, endless cycle of trapping and killing. This **vacuum effect** is a phenomenon scientifically recognized worldwide, across all types of animal species.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the humane and effective approach to addressing stray or feral cats commonly called community cat populations. It saves cats’ lives and is effective in slowly diminishing population numbers, by preventing the [vacuum effect](#). TNR not only stops the breeding cycle but allows community cats to continue protecting their established territories. Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. In my opinion, had the DLNR assisted with TNR programs years earlier, we would not have this problem today.

The ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States and many nonprofit organizations like Alley Cats, Animal League, Fix Nation, and Greater Good to name a few who all support TNR programs.

Community cat colonies are managed by community members who trap and sterilize cats in a specific area. In this program, community cats are humanely trapped, brought to the Humane society or a private veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been sterilized), and then returned to their outdoor home.

I currently help manage a cat colony in Wailuku Maui consisting of 25 cats who are well cared for. Sadly, especially since the pandemic, more people have been illegally dumping their unwanted domestic cats. This is really a people problem, not a cat problem. Surprisingly, most of these abandoned cats showing up at the cat colonies have already been spayed or neutered. Many of these cats have later been adopted through the Humane Society.

I have been caring for cats in colonies for several years in North Shore Maui areas and have yet to witness any cats killing birds. I question the authenticity of the bill’s statement of the massive numbers of bird killing by community cats. And what about the mongoose problem? They are known to kill birds. Why isn’t the mongoose population also being targeted?

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

Aloha Committee on Agriculture Chair and Members

My name is Ann Pitcaithley. I am a full-time resident of Maui for 29 years and am an advocate for animal welfare. I am testifying in opposition to HB 1987. Relating to Invasive Species, to eliminate the feral cat population in Hawaii

Removing cats from an area by poisoning them is not only drastic and cruel—it is pointless. Animal control agencies and city governments have blindly perpetuated this futile approach for decades. But years of failed attempts, scientific research, and evidence from animal control personnel prove that catch and kill does not permanently clear an area of cats. Scientific evidence indicates that removing feral cat populations only opens up the habitat to an influx of new cats, either from neighboring territories or born from survivors. Each time cats are removed, the population will rebound through a natural phenomenon known as the “**vacuum effect**,” drawing the community into a costly, endless cycle of trapping and killing. This **vacuum effect** is a phenomenon scientifically recognized worldwide, across all types of animal species.

Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) is the humane and effective approach to addressing stray or feral cats commonly called community cat populations. It saves cats' lives and is effective in slowly diminishing population numbers, by preventing the [vacuum effect](#). TNR not only stops the breeding cycle but allows community cats to continue protecting their established territories. Grounded in science, TNR stops the breeding cycle of cats and therefore improves their lives while preventing reproduction. In my opinion, had the DLNR assisted with TNR programs years earlier, we would not have this problem today.

The ASPCA and the Humane Society of the United States and many nonprofit organizations like Alley Cats, Animal League, Fix Nation, and Greater Good to name a few who all support TNR programs.

Community cat colonies are managed by community members who trap and sterilize cats in a specific area. In this program, community cats are humanely trapped, brought to the Humane society or a private veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, ear tipped (the universal sign that a cat has been sterilized), and then returned to their outdoor home.

I currently help manage a cat colony in Wailuku Maui consisting of 25 cats who are well cared for. Sadly, especially since the pandemic, more people have been illegally dumping their unwanted domestic cats. This is really a people problem, not a cat problem. Surprisingly, most of these abandoned cats showing up at the cat colonies have already been spayed or neutered. Many of these cats have later been adopted through the Humane Society.

I have been caring for cats in colonies for several years in North Shore Maui areas and have yet to witness any cats killing birds. I question the authenticity of the bill's statement of the massive numbers of bird killing by community cats. And what about the mongoose problem? They are known to kill birds. Why isn't the mongoose population also being targeted?

I thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:51:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megumi Yoshida Taketa	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Please stop this .

This is crazy. Please do not kill cats.

There are many different way to save cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:52:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mayu Nakae	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:56:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jocelyn Raquepau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please say NO to HB1987. This cruel and short-sighted bill goes against the very Aloha spirit of our state. Cats are highly intelligent, sensitive beings that deserve better treatment than murder. The killing of feral cats will NOT stop the problem of people abandoning them to fend for themselves. Introducing a bill that would enact harsher penalties for anyone caught abandoning an animal and public education campaigns would be more effective and humane options. AdvoCATS Hawaii does tremendous work in making sure that feral colonies are spayed, neutered, fed and vaccinated, allowing the cats to humanely live out their natural lifespans without reproducing.

as your constituent, I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:56:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pamela Morgan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to make a statement regarding HB1987.

You are grappling with two very real and very critical problems—the threat to many native species and the spread of a dangerous disease that can be severely harmful, even deadly, to both animals and people. These problems are the result of an extremely large number of feral cats—estimated numbers that are staggering. In a sense, this bill has surely been conceived of as a necessary last resort after other efforts were unsuccessful.

Nevertheless, killing these cats, as outlined in this bill, is very likely to have strong negative effects involving both (1) **TOURISM** and (2) **POLITICAL SUPPORT**.

A very important note before proceeding:

In these remarks, I will not be discussing the moral, ethical, philosophical, or spiritual aspects of this problem and its proposed solution, which are certainly not trivial and which I absolutely do not wish to minimize by not addressing them here.

(1). The Risk to TOURISM, based on current US and Worldwide SOCIAL ATTITUDES

Many of the people in the following significant groups will not want to come to a place where the government is deliberately killing cats on a grand scale:

—**Cat-themed tourists** (put the phrase “cat-themed tourism” in a search engine and you’ll see): **Millions of tourists worldwide** when the numbers are totaled up for the many, many places all around the world (cat cafes; hotels with their cats in your room; big-city parks for ferals; museums; sanctuaries; parades; and cat villages and cat islands, some of which have restored their failing local economies by means of their cat-themed tourism). The numbers of both tourists and places were increasing pre-pandemic. **Especially JAPAN**, along with equally wildly popular cat-themed merchandise, cultural traditions, food, and YouTube videos. And I know how important Japanese tourism is to Hawaii.

—People who make **compassion-based spending choices, including travel**: Also an increasing trend, especially among younger people. They want to save ecosystems but they do not like killing animals.

—**The accelerating number of supporters for “no-kill” animal shelters** in the US, because of the strong and growing belief/feeling that killing cats (and dogs and other animals) for anything other than euthanasia for untreatable illness or injury is animal murder.

—People with **more personal awareness of and concern for cats in general** (79 million cats are now owned in America): **Because of an increase in pet ownership** as documented by the American Veterinary Medical Association, including “homeowners with a household income over \$100,000, those who were financially the same or better off since the pandemic began, and those under 45 who were married with children.” These are groups who might very well want to visit Hawaii, and who may very well also feel a personal solidarity with any of the Hawaiian pet owners who will surely lose their domestic cats to this plan (see #2 below). (Source: <https://avmajournals.avma.org/view/news/pet-population-still-on-the-rise-with-fewer-pets-per-household.xml>)

—**Potential tourists watching the Internet from everywhere:** The runaway #1 popularity of “cute cat videos.” Many, many, many heart-wrenching videos about SAVING stray and feral cats (especially from Japan).

—And not least: All those people who have predictable negative reactions **when the meme of “large-scale government cat-killing in Hawaii” goes viral.**

These potential tourists—especially perhaps younger people—are probably unlikely to believe that a state government is incapable of finding a non-killing alternative that will protect both the cats and the wildlife as much as possible, and they will most likely not accept settling for this bill instead.

Especially since this bill says the government will “Eliminate”—an emotionally laden word—all the feral cats on three of the four named islands—and 100% eradication in what immediately sounds like almost all of the state (plus 50% on the fourth island) will not be well received.

On the other hand, an enlightened and forward-thinking alternative solution to this critical global problem that shows concern for both the threatened species and these cats might very well ATTRACT TOURISM, if it has the stated and widely publicized mission and goal of preserving both the native species and also as many cats as humanly—and humanely—possible. A place that can think that way might very well be seen as a place especially worth visiting and supporting.

(2) The Risk for Diminished POLITICAL SUPPORT IN HAWAII when family pets and beloved community cats are killed, as will inevitably happen, and a government policy is the reason. In many areas purely domestic cats will be let out or get out of homes, mingle temporarily with the targeted non-domestic cats, and be in just as much danger of being killed.

—Can you imagine the outcry when a government policy kills beloved family members?

—Support for this kind of action is very high now according to this bill, but most people whose animal family members are killed become full of grief and very angry.

—And yes, pets are overwhelmingly seen as family members, not just “pets” or “animal companions.” This was the view of 80% of pet owners in the US according to the most recent American Veterinary Medical Association survey, “the largest percentage of pet owners ever” to hold that opinion.

(Source: The American Veterinary Medical Association’s most recent sourcebook: *AVMA Pet Ownership and Demographics Sourcebook, 2017–2018 edition*, p. 16. The survey is published every 5 years.)

—Australia’s toxic-bait method may work well in their “conservation areas,” as this bill asserts, but those are probably not areas in or near which very many families with pets live.

Conclusion

I leave you with a quote:

“The quiet island [of Aoshima] has since transformed into one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations. ‘I seldom carried tourists before,’ ferry captain Nobuyuki Ninomiya said of the tourist boom. ‘Now I carry tourists every week, even though the only thing we have to offer is cats.’” (<https://allthatsinteresting.com/places-overrun-with-cats>)

Unlike Aoshima, cats are absolutely not all that Hawaii has to offer. But the deliberate and large-scale governmental killing of cats is likely to go a long way toward offsetting those pluses in the eyes of many people around the nation and around the world, given the Internet, social media, and the often-demonstrated willingness of people to promote boycotting campaigns around legislative decisions that they vehemently disagree with.

I do not envy you the urgent need to grapple with this critical problem. However, I do urge you to consider the kinds of unintended economic and political consequences—locally, nationally, and worldwide—that are very likely to occur if this bill passes.

I strongly urge you NOT to move this bill, HB1987, forward.

Thank you.

P.S. SOME THOUGHTS ON POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE PATHS:

Evidence shows that TNR programs alone do not reduce free-roaming cat populations, especially because of replenishment by pet abandonment. However, it would seem sensible for an alternative plan to start with sterilization in order to prevent replacement or increase through immediate reproduction. The existing, now sterilized, cats would then need to be relocated for their lifetimes. I know that relocation has been investigated before, but now there is perhaps more incentive for cooperation, since this really is a We Do or They (threatened species and other animals, and these cats) Die situation.

Based on existing programs, many abandoned, stray, young, and friendly free-roaming cats would have a good chance of (re-)socialization and adoption, including through transfers to other states (as is currently done). As many of the rest as possible could be cared for in contained “live-out-their-lives” sanctuaries, although that is an overly simplistic way of addressing a vastly huge number of cats, even allowing for necessary illness-or-injury–based humane euthanasias and natural deaths. Still, the current bill provides for a 3-year timetable, so alternative plans should be not be given any less time.

And an alternative plan along these kinds of lines would at least be trying to save as many as possible rather than deliberately aiming at killing them all—for all the world to see.

Furthermore, Australia’s own website (<https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia/feral-cats>) reports that, at least for the predation part of the problem, “Predator-proof fenced areas are an effective way to control feral cat impacts.” Although this procedure is understandably described as “costly,” it is likely to be much less costly in smaller Hawaii than in larger Australia, and perhaps should at least be considered for some species while the other alternative plan(s) dealing directly with these cats are in process.

In general, it seems that these kinds of plans could quite soon be having a positive effect by sterilizing, removing, or blocking the predatory activities of significant numbers of feral cats, even during the length of time that this bill allocates just for the count. (And a count probably isn’t necessary if you’re not trying to decide how much toxic bait you’ll need.)

Finally—never underestimate the willingness of *pragmatic* cat and other animal lovers to step in when something desperately needs doing. Their time, commitment, and willingness to save both threatened native species and threatened cats would be available resources to help get these kinds of alternative plans underway as soon as possible and to keep them going as long as necessary.

Thank you again.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/2/2022 11:57:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Jacobs	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is an embarrassment to the state of Hawaii. The proposed action is barbaric. We can address the feral cat problem humanely through catch and release programs that spay/neuter. HB1987 has garnered attention nationally after being widely shared by rescue groups in other states on several social media platforms. Many commenters threatened to never visit Hawaii again if this legislation is enacted. I'm opposed to to HB1987 and I ask that the committee vote no.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:02:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Nakagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Members, I oppose HB1987 as it states it intends to cull feral populations. There are many responsible charitable organizations out there that are doing work on a volunteer basis to trap, neuter and release (TNR) for the purpose of reducing feral populations. These TNR have been doing this work for years, but it is on a volunteer/charitable basis with private, limited funding. These organizations already exist and are doing the work you propose on a small scale because of the limited funding. As HB1987 cites several statistics to show the widespread support for the reduction in feral populations, wouldn't it be a wise move to translate the support into funding for organizations already up and running and doing this work in communities? The groups also offer the opportunity to reduce feral populations in a humane way. Please oppose HB1987 as it is written and instead introduce a measure to fund organizations that TNR to expand their reach and systematically reduce the feral population in a humane way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:05:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaimme Hayakawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because it is inhumane. We recently adopted a feral cat that has become a part of our family. I can't even begin to imagine why an option to poison feral cats would be considered. Our cat had we not adopted him could have been one of those being threatened by this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:05:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha e,

I am asking for you, the Committee on Agriculture, to seriously consider the ethical implications of HB1987. I have close friends who live in Hawaii and are beside themselves at what you've proposed. They've asked me to support them by helping to contact this committee. Please do the right thing!

The plan to exterminate Hawaii's entire population of community cats is rash, cruel, inhumane, illogical, and ill-conceived.

These are cats who, by and large, have been neutered or spayed and have caretakers. Activists are working tirelessly to spay/neuter the cats who have not yet been. TNR (trap-neuter-return) is a proven, humane way to decrease cat populations and suffering, and increase community happiness, and is endorsed by humane societies and local governments in most states in America as well as most developed nations. Don't let Hawaii be left behind with a backwards law that history will look upon with horror.

These people feeding cats are using their own time, money, and resources to do something good in this world, to stop some suffering. By instead committing an act of mass cruelty, you'd be making these bleak times even more sad and hopeless feeling for Hawaiians and visitors. Furthermore, you'd be giving Hawaii a horrible reputation for rash violence instead of the feelings of mahalo and maluhia that Hawaii is currently known for.

I'm a concerned citizen. I'd like to believe Hawaii will do the right thing here and not the egregiously, cruel, malicious action. Thank you for reading my comments at the public meeting.

Elizabeth

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:06:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Georgia Campbell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please have a heart and do not kill innocent animals there is a spay and neuter program that is doing a good job of managing feral cats -there is no need to poison them!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:07:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Freireich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Madams and Sirs,

I write to you from Austria. Sure, I am an outsider and sadly have no influence in your concerns, but I always have regarded Hawaii as something like a dream to live in. Do I romanticise? Of course I do, but as someone completely taken by the beauty of your state I think I can hardly be faulted. Therefore it was a great shock to read of your, shameful I might add, bill. You are better than that! You can do better! Some of my friends, who live in your great state, assured me, that the 'cat problem' is handled due to spaying and neutering with great progress. Sure it takes a bit of time, as all good things do.

I simply know, that someone living on and working for the people of these beautiful islands is more in tune with nature, than folks living in grey dull cities, fleeing them on weekends to see more nature and destroying it sadly due to stubbornness and carelessness on the way.

please show the world (it reaches, as you can see, even someone in Austria) that you ARE more knowledgeable and forward in your thinking than this bill suggests.

Thank you for reading this, really reading not simply scanning it and please excuse any mistakes in grammar and vocabulary.

Stay healthy, respectfully

Anna Freireich

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:08:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mona Waiau	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am against HR1987. There are better solutions to resolve the matter. Mona Waiau from Windward Oahu

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:10:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
fumika muto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:10:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuka Himeno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Put yourself in the opposite position and reconsider.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:12:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tsubasa Seki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't kill cats

Testimony for HB1987

I vehemently oppose this bill. This bill is an atrocity. You want to cull - murder - the cat population of Hawaii? I am appalled by the intent of this bill. You suggest putting taxpayer money into reducing the cat population of Hawaii, but you are not willing to help us out with TNR? There are so many us who put in the time and effort and our own money to trap and fix cats with NO help from the government, and now you want to MURDER the cats that we've put in the time and money to fix. Also, with your 'baiting', you will surely end up killing family pets. I have gotten numerous cats in my Hilo neighborhood fixed, 10 of whom now share my house, and 4 more live outside on my property, with several others fixed and moved off. I guarantee you I will sue the state if one of my outside cats is baited and culled, which, I might remind you, is animal cruelty in Hawaii. If you want to help the endangered fauna of this state, I recommend dealing with the most offensive and destructive species first – humans. Feel free to deal with the mongoose and rats and fire ants next. And then help us out with TNR.

Here is a subsample of the creatures you wish to murder:



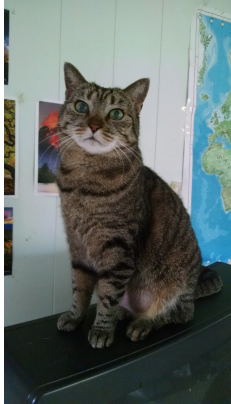
Sweet 4-Socks who I had fixed. He lived on my property for over a year before vanishing. I still miss him terribly and look out for him everywhere. He was playful, loved being petted, and followed me around whenever I was outside doing yardwork. I have also had fixed cats Brutus and Hina vanish on me. I fear the worst, but hope they are all still out there somewhere.



Westley and Buttercup – 2 adorable kittens that appeared in my yard last year – trapped, fixed, and now living in my house.



Muku and Flurry – originally feral kittens found by others which I adopted at the time. I've now had these precious lovers for 12 years in my house.



Rudy – After she and her siblings were born I had both her parents (ferals Mama and Brutus) fixed, and got her and 6 siblings fixed, 4 brought in and 2 more still living outside on my property. She is my only indoor/outdoor cat and I would be devastated if she went missing. She sleeps cuddled up next to me each night and has been my pandemic officemate and constant companion.



R2 – one of Rudy's brothers, trapped and brought in. This cat is as sweet as can be and I doubt this one has ever even killed a bug. He escaped my house once and it took a long month, and a lot of work putting webcams around my house and having friends help search, but I finally got him back in. He is only 8 now, but as of today on chemo for lymphoma. I love this little guy and I'm so glad I didn't have to worry about the state murdering him while he was out. Another cat, Hina mentioned above, escaped my house when we had a visitor over. She disappeared and I have never seen her again but I will always keep a lookout.

I have plenty more, but you get the idea. These are sentient beings, worthy of our time and care, and while I absolutely agree there are too many feral cats and I am tired of feeling like I have to be the one to take care of them all, what this bill proposes is wrong. Instead, the state should be putting this significant proposed effort into TNR, which will help save the native fauna, is humane, and will not accidentally kill thousands of beloved pets.

Respectfully,
Kristin Chiboucas
Hilo resident

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:13:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eri Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love cat.

I love Hawaii.

Please TNR.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:13:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brittany	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha my name is Brittany,

I live on the Leeward coast. I am opposed to this bill HB1987 because I believe it is inhumane and that we as humans have to do better. We can do better and come up with better solutions rather than to murder animals who are just trying to live. There are so many of us people here in Hawaii trying to contain the growing population of stray cats by doing TNR (Trap-n-release) which will sterilize them from reproducing and a known fact that it has worked and will continue to work if we work together and make that the main goal. If it weren't for irresponsible people who dump their pets, we would not be discussing this right now. Please give them a chance and have some empathy and compassion. If not for them, for the keiki. I mean honestly what would we be teaching them if this bill went through? That murdering of innocent animals is okay? Please hear us out. Mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MIKI MOCHIZUKI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

absolutely opposite

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenny Welch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

What is proposed in this bill threatens to not only eliminate feral cats, but also lost pets who have been dumped into feral colonies. This, in addition to other animals, many of which could also be pets. The rodent population would also likely increase substantially. Rats and mice reproduce at an even more rapid rate than cats.. I feel more research needs to be done on the para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) toxin being used to eliminate them. Typically poisons are not a humane way of eliminating any animal. Why not put the money that would be designated for this bill towards a spay/neuter program? I would also be interested in seeing studies showing that killing cats is effective in protecting wildlife long-term. I implore that you please reconsider this inhumane bill and work with cat colony volunteers and the public to come up with a better solution to this issue. Thank you. Jenny Welch

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:15:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuki Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill HB1987 for the following reasons.

1. Eradicating the entire feral cat population (or 50% on Oahu) is unethical and inhumane regardless of method.
2. Wide-spread attempted culls of feral cats can result in killing of many non-targeted species. With these baits lying around dogs and outdoor cats that are personal pets that are less savvy than feral cats are likely to consume them and become sick or die. A study in Jarrah Forest in Australia showed 99% of baits were taken by non-target species, and 48 percent were taken by the species they were trying to protect.
3. The Curiosity and Eradicat cat baiting methods have shown limited effect in feral cat population reduction. Trials performed in high density feral cat locations of Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve showed low mortality rates. In nearly 1500 sq km of total land, out of 72,950 baits only 4 cats were presumed to have died from baiting. Though there were some mitigating factors that is still very low effectiveness
4. Another study in Fortescue Marsh using Eradicat baits also "suggested baiting programs were having limited impact on reducing the cat population."
5. A study in Karijini National Park using Curiosity baits showed "no significant reduction in feral cat population after baiting. None of the collared cats died as a result of bait consumption." Non-targeted species were also photographed removing and consuming baits.
6. Programs like Curiosity and Eradicat are deployed in large arid habitats, using aircraft to distribute the bait. The process reads to be quite timing specific. How will that work in Hawaii, a much different landscape?
7. This money would be better spent on conservation efforts for the threatened species.

Best,

yuki Kimura

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:17:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maho Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is so important life of cat....please help their life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:17:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sawako Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No way! Don't!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:17:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KAORU ISSHI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think there are other ways to do it.

Please look for other ways besides poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:18:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yukari Kizawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the passage of such a ridiculous bill. It's the 21st century now! There should be plenty of more peaceful and equal solutions. Be a great example of what will lead the world. At this time we humans should learn more about animals. Please spare no time and money.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:18:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ayuka suzuki	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

oppose!!! From japan

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:18:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miyuki Omoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can't agree

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:19:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Naoko Azuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is unacceptable to take a life at human's own will.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:20:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maiko Araki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:25:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sayaka Maki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There might be another way to be with the cats instead of removing them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:26:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Im deeply disturbed by the idea of this passing.I think it is cruel & uneccasary.It will also endanger animals including pets!!!!OMG It could even endanger small children!!!Thats a horrible thought but reality!Seriously pointing out poison is good for our wildlife& enviroment???I dont thing so!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:26:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thomas Shih	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill HB1987 for the following reasons.

1. Eradicating the entire feral cat population (or 50% on Oahu) is unethical and inhumane regardless of method.
2. Wide-spread attempted culls of feral cats can result in killing of many non-targeted species. With these baits lying around dogs and outdoor cats that are personal pets that are less savvy than feral cats are likely to consume them and become sick or die. A study in Jarrah Forest in Australia showed 99% of baits were taken by non-target species, and 48 percent were taken by the species they were trying to protect.
3. The Curiosity and Eradecat cat baiting methods have shown limited effect in feral cat population reduction. Trials performed in high density feral cat locations of Cape Arid National Park and Nuytsland Nature Reserve showed low mortality rates. In nearly 1500 sq km of total land, out of 72,950 baits only 4 cats were presumed to have died from baiting. Though there were some mitigating factors that is still very low effectiveness
4. Another study in Fortescue Marsh using Eradecat baits also "suggested baiting programs were having limited impact on reducing the cat population."
5. A study in Karijini National Park using Curiosity baits showed "no significant reduction in feral cat population after baiting. None of the collared cats died as a result of bait consumption." Non-targeted species were also photographed removing and consuming baits.
6. Programs like Curiosity and Eradecat are deployed in large arid habitats, using aircraft to distribute the bait. The process reads to be quite timing specific. How will that work in Hawaii, a much different landscape?
7. This money would be better spent on conservation efforts for the threatened species.

Source: <https://terrestrialecosystems.com/cat-baiting-using-eradecat-and-curiosity-is-it-working/>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:27:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Saori Koide	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Street cats cannot choose their lifestyle by themselves, some of them are abandoned by Cats' parent(Human being) or just born in the street without their choice.

Cats have the life and the rights. If you consider we should kill street cats' life, we should consider the homeless people as well.

What my point is that we should treat cats' life as the human being.

Therefore I am against this strongly. I hope all of the congress people have the decent judgement.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:27:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuri Kawakami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I want you to think of a way to save it , not to kill it,

but to increace it.

HB1987 constitutes a huge step backward in animal welfare, taking us back to the Middle Ages, when cats were killed en masse because they were thought to be symbols of witchcraft and the embodiment of Satan. And what then happened in the Middle Ages? The rat population exploded, resulting in millions of people dying from the bubonic plague (which is transmitted by fleas that live on rats.)

And what will happen in Hawaii if all feral cats are eradicated? You can be certain that rat populations will skyrocket, bringing with them such diseases as Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome, Hemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome, Salmonellosis, Tularemia, and of course Leptospirosis, which is for years has been a huge concern in Hawaii and can result in death. (This information per the CDC website.)

Extinction of native Hawaiian bird species is not a new thing, it has been going on since the first Polynesians arrived in the Hawaiian Islands around 400 AD. The Polynesians are thought to have killed off at least 35 and possibly 50 species of birds in Hawaii

In researching for this testimony, I came across a number of reasons for declining native Hawaiian bird populations:

- Destruction of habitat. For well over 100 years, the native Hawaiian forest has been cut down for grazing and for human habitation.
- Introduced birds – especially the Japanese white-eye – compete with the native Hawaiian birds for food, and have been found to be thriving much better than the native Hawaiian birds.
- Avian malaria. Introduced birds have also spread avian malaria. Studies going back more than half a century have identified avian malaria — and the mosquitoes that transmit it — as **the biggest threat facing Hawaii's native birds**. And because of global warming, mosquito populations are being found at higher elevations where the native Hawaiian birds live.
- Other introduced animals. Mongoose have had a devastating effect on ground-nesting birds, eating the young as well as eggs.
- Overuse of pesticides and herbicides. The rampant use of RoundUp and pesticides has had a devastating effect on birds. One has only to drive down any street to see dead birds by the side of the road, most likely killed by use of herbicides.

Today, feral cats are the scapegoat for many of the world's ills. It's easy to blame the cats for killing all the native Hawaiian birds, but in reality there are far more complex issues that need to be dealt with in order to save the remaining native Hawaiian bird populations. **Killing all the feral cats will not stop the extinction of native Hawaiian birds** and will just cause other problems .

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Thurston

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:27:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rika Inoue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Lethal injection is easy choice and effective in short amount of time, but implementing it is disappointing for all the individuals and organizations who make efforts of TNR and adoptions to save feral cats. Saving and regrowing endangered pieces are important, but it should not be done by the solutions that save time and money.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:28:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jayson Collins	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly oppose to this bill. Please make an effort to save these animals before making the decision to kill them. Make Hawaii known for how much we care about these animals. I beg you.

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1987

Samuel Shnider

Samshnider@gmail.com

808-868-7444

HB 1987 as it currently stands presents a drastic, simplified solution to a complex problem. The bill ignores the legal and ethical implications of its measures.

A. Legal Shortcomings of the Bill

a. Problem of definition: what is a feral cat?

The bill as it currently stands does not define “feral.” Feral cats can include a wide range of cats that are somewhere between “domestic” and “wild.” It is unclear if first-generation strays are included, or even domesticated cats that spend the majority of their time outdoors. Section 2, par. (c)(2) of the bill requires the complete elimination of the population, but this cannot be achieved without an accurate definition. By its internal logic, based on its preamble and the problems presented, the bill suggests elimination of all cats in Hawaii, a measure which is too extreme by any standard, and certainly not suited to unilateral management by the invasive species council.

b. Ownership Rights and Due Process Concerns

Related to the issue of definition, the bill does not address issues of ownership. Local governments have laws that define owners to include “any person owning, harboring or keeping animals” See Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, sec. 7-2.2; Maui County Code sec. 6.04.010. Under this definition, at least some feral cats may be owned. This could include any persons or organizations that currently feed, care for, maintain or shelter feral cat colonies. There is nothing in the bill to address this. The bill’s requirement of complete elimination of undefined group of animals that may include animals with owners raises Due Process concerns. The bill is immediately subject to legal challenge by any groups or persons whose ownership rights might be affected.

c. Environmental Impact and Standing

Similarly, the bill is subject to challenge by any persons or organizations who are directly impacted by the environmental effects of the DLNR’s plans, including owners of domesticated animals that could be affected by the elimination methods, or even persons affected by increases in rodent populations.

d. Lack of Advisory Process and Oversight

Although the bill's preamble broadly refers to the fact that methods used "should be humane and supported by peer-reviewed, scientific evidence demonstrating the efficacy of such methods," it does not require any specific methods or define the methods that will be used. It requires "consultation with appropriate county, state, federal, and international agencies and private organizations," but does not provide any structure or supervision for such consultation. There is no clear advisory process or provisions that allow consulting organizations to be heard on the issues. To the contrary, the invasive species council is *required* to consider the uses of poison baiting such as those used in Australia. It further *requires* the invasive species council to immediately implement the plan of complete elimination with no further need for consultation of any kind.

Because there is no functional supervisory, collaborative or advisory structure, the bill effectively grants the invasive species council a free hand to use *any* methods required to reach the goal of complete elimination, even if the plan to use poison baiting is partially or completely unsuccessful. In the final rush to meet its goals of complete eradication, there is nothing in the bill that stops the invasive species council from using methods to eliminate cats that are not humane at all.

B. Ethical and Policy Problems

The bill is based on an approach that examines species as a whole, and not individual animals. However, a genuinely humane approach considers animals as "active subjects who are simultaneously parts of both nature and human society." Seen this way, the law should protect and consider both the environment and the well-being of individual animals. This bill apparently adopts the perspective of respondents to a survey that feral cats "lack intrinsic value," a perspective which ignores the human causes of the problem and justifies indiscriminate killing of a species that has been created by human activity, for crimes which are human crimes. A bill of this nature sets a precedent for other indiscriminate killing of animals, and a complete negation of animal cruelty laws. It is time to stop blaming the victim.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:29:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Misa Ueda	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Love animals!!!

Not just human earth.

Precious life.

Please help animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:32:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hitomi Matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think it is an unforgivable act

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:32:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yoshimi Kanazawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please help cats. All the animals have variable lives as we do.

They are just trying to live as we are.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:32:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MIYUKI ICHIKAWA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

don't do that

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:34:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Frank John Forest	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. If you decide to poison all feral cats to reduce their population, at least two unwanted events will occur: 1) You will have a huge rodent problem and 2) You will poison and kill other animals attracted to the bait, besides these cats. The only humane and objective solutions are to establish trap and neuter programs or create State sponsored and supported feral cat colonies where these animals can more easily be neturered and live with us in peace. You should be ashamed for even proposing such cruelty driven legislation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:35:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mayu Nishiyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life of the person, all the value of the life of every creature of this world are the same as the life of a dog and a cat.

Therefore I want to say that it is a mistake we kill a dog and a cat to dispose.

It that the value of the life of the person is serious,
and that of life of a dog and a cat is light is a mistake.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:35:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rena Koike	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life is precious, everybody counts.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:37:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Manami Kanzaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning cats won't solve anything.I object to taking precious lives for human convenience.Many volunteers try not to increase the pitiful life of stray cats by contraception and castration every day.I don't think there's any other way to reduce the number of cats.Instead of poisoning, the state should move to castrate cats and carry out contraception.Don't spend money on poison and pay for the operation.Also, if you poison stray cats, it is possible that their cats may be mixed up.Whether it's a domestic cat or a stray cat, it's the same life.Think of an alternative to killing.Thank you for your cooperation.Lastly, I apologize for the strange English.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:38:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ririka Hayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

cherish life

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:40:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
TOMOKO KAMAE	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

animal's is also inportant

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:41:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MOE ARAI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't kill the cat.

Everyone has the same equal life as us.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:42:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Airi Miyata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am ashamed that such a bill will be resolved. I think humans should treat animals and nature equally in this era. Don't take part in stupid things, such as killing when you have too many, or increasing when you have too few. And with this fine brain, I think it's easy to find a more peaceful solution. Please think again.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:43:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ayako izumi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:43:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mami Yamaguchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stray cats are also important lives. Please make a loving decision. Poisoning is something no one can do. The cats are alive. Please cherish it. I believe you are the people you love.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:44:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JUNKO SAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't think this idea is smart.

please think of another way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:44:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chiharu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please, think of another way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:49:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YUKARI OKADA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I want you to be a world that is kind to all living things

Every life is equal

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:54:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristine Seguin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill being introduced has many feeling sick to their stomachs, as it reads as though cats will be culled. There is no need for this in the 21st century. There are so many people already working hard on TNR (trap neuter release) programs, and they simply could just use more help. Stats show that culling is not the answer. More cats will just move in as Hawaii has a serious and illegal pet dumping problem. You need to address the cause (not enough funding for spay and neuter programs, neighbours illegally catching and dumping cats) and not the result (more cats), otherwise it is just an endless cycle of killing and bad publicity for Maui. The state and country need to commit to assisting financially towards tnr and public education on proper pet care, and heighten the punishment and rate of conviction/ticketing of illegal dumpers and animal abusers.

I am not a resident of Maui, but have been visiting for 37 years and my family used to own a few places on island. I am in love with your island and understand the struggles of residents vs the superficial perceptions of tourists. In October 2021, my husband and I flew two feral kittens home with us that we saved from a very bad man with no intent to take them to MHS once caught. While figuring out travel logistics and care needed for these kittens, I met an amazing community of local cat rescuers. Maui county has wonderful, knowledgeable, and respectful people already putting every free moment into cat colony management, helping lower income community members receive proper vet care for their cats, flying adoptable and vetted ferals/strays to the mainland, and helping scan and bring back home illegally dumped cats. They want to work with the county on controlling the cat population in a humane and non lethal way. The way this bill is reading is not on par with what is needed or desired.

I strongly urge (and beg) you to not go forward with this bill. You have a strong and capable population who is already doing the work towards cat population management and you could make a tremendously huge impact by helping them with funds to continue doing good and to majorly amp up their progress. Maui's cats are beloved by most visitors and residents alike and there is no logical reason for culling.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:55:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Chen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly **OPPOSE HB1987**. Culling feral and free roaming cats is cruel, inhumane and ineffective. Appropriating State funds for the purpose of killing cats is highly irresponsible. Instead, spending State funds to get free roaming cats neutered/spayed to keep the cat population down is the way to go. Don't punish the innocent cats. Go after people who dump unfixed cats. Human beings are the biggest threat to endangered species. Should human beings be eradicated so we can save the planet Earth? Why make the cats the scapegoats just because they are easy targets?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:57:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Koji NAGANO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I definitely oppose this bill. We should find another way to solve problem instead of killing cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:57:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaitlin DeMello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The most effective way to reduce the feral cat population is through spay/neuter. The funds that would be allocated to this proposed bill would be better served to help the organizations already implementing TNR programs. If the funding was used to help open more clinics/appointment slots there would be a lot less cats in the first place. The biggest issue people like me are facing is a lack of affordable and available appointments. The hawaiian humane society is booked two months in advance. We need more free places to go to take these cats to get fixed. The most humane thing to do is to TNR. Poison of any kind would be cruel and heartless. Please help the organizations already at work. We have effectively lowered the feral cat population thus far. With more state support we could more than double our efforts. TNR is the way to go.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:58:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra Palm	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cat problems are made by the thoughtless actions of humans, it is now our conundrum as a species to reduce this problem but not by fatal means. Catch neuter release programmes have worked with great efficiency in other countries along with addition feeding stations these have a large and humane impact on numbers. We as humans have the capacity for logic, reason and compassion it is our duty to use it. Poisoning another living creature is wrong on all moral aspects and should not be given the green light in any circumstances

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:59:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NatsumiMotomura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Can your precious family drink poison to your child?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:00:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm oppose to killing innocent cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:00:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
IKUKO KAWAMURA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't take your innocent life.

Do you want to poison your family?

We need love.

Give instead of robbing.

The important thing is to coexist.

So don't take it away.

Please don't kill me.

Please a loving choice.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:02:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuna Burrell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

All animal have rights to live! We can't kill them on purpose.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:05:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

猫の大切な生活。

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:07:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mari Takeuchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No!!

Don't kill, please

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:14:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aki Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

absolutely oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:14:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Akane Kaihara	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Because it's a world that should coexist

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:16:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
rei takada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life is precious

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:16:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tina Bounds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:18:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayuka.K	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are not guilty. All living things are the same as humans. Since we were born in this world, we should be respected and happy.

Please protect your precious life.

Sincerely wish.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:18:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sakurako Matsuura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

cats and our weight of life is the same. we should think another choice.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:18:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuna	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let's cherish the creatures

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:19:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kie Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't want stray cats to be poisoned
I feel that it is too human

I am Japanese and was impressed by the calmness of cats and dogs when I went to Hawaii.

Please pray that this bill will not be decided

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:23:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chieko Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't think killing cats give a good image to the world. It reminds me of the history in Germany. Instead, making a cat park like the cat sanctuary in Lanai could be a good business for Hawaii.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:23:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mamoru ukai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

life is precious

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:26:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cathy daly	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Apples to Apples

I Believe citing information re: Feral Cats on islands worldwide (as stated in this bill) in not a good example of our situation in Hawaii. We are in a VERY UNIQUE situation, unlike less populated islands with feral cat problems. to compare what has been done in Australia in vast million hectare Landscapes is a Mute point, we have no natural predators, no hawks or dingos as Australia does! We are inundated with tourists at all times on our islands!! To implement the directives of this Bill will, in my opinion, send our struggling, post pandemic economy, on a further downward spiral !, from which we may never recover ! The international organizations: the Humane Society, The ASPCA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals will put Hawaii on BLAST and will devastate our struggling economy. Visitors more than ever are conciously deciding where to spend their hard earned money.

If Hawaii kills, hundreds of thousands of cats our economy will come to a HALT.

I question the Hawaii Invasive Species Councils findings that the Trap-Neuter-Release programs are not effective strategies. Again i say we are not comparing Apples to Apples. To quote a 2013 Univ of hawaii survey is not effective. The feral cat situations on the islands of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii are very different then they were when the respondents were questioned 9 YEARS ago. The Trap- Neuter-Release programs have made INCREDIBLE progress!

In the 2013 univ of Hawaii survey, 78% of respondents supported permanetely removing feral cats from areas with threated fauna. To this i ask can the state or counties allocate Land for Cat Sanctuaries?, as has been done successfully on the island of Lanai ? Having a place to relocate Feral Cats would alleviate much of the Feral Cat problems in our state.

Allocating monies for feeding and sterilization surgeries will greatly decrease the number of feral cats.I disagree with the statement that the Legislature finds that even well -fed cats will hunt and kill wildlife. Maintained, cared for colony cats are much less predatory.

The amount of funds appropriated from the general revenue of the state of Hawaii is not listed, this number is blank ! Perhaps this tax payer money could be used to assist the current feral cat programs, colonies, education and sanctuaries.

In my experience on Maui for 27 years, NO ONE in the Cat community wants more cats, we are just trying to manage an impossible situation, with not much help from the state or county.

Perhaps we could strategize this as a State fundraiser, and get assistance from our tourists and our resident billionaires, Jeff Bezos, Oprah Winfrey, Larry Ellison, Mark Zuckerberg. We could reach out to the world wide animal organizations for help and donations! When the ASPCA found out about the number of feral cats at just one beach park on Maui (Kanaha), they sent HELP, doctors and staff to conduct a mass spay and neuter clinic.

When a similar bill to this was introduced on Maui in 2020, our County Council. chair said the Maui Council had never received such public outcry, The Majority of testimony was in favor of a workable solution to our Feral Cat Problem, that did not involve the killing of innocent animals.

I believe this Bill HB1987 to be barbaric and HORRIFIC and has the potential if passed to devastate our state's economy.

Cathleen Daly

Full time Maui resident since Sept 1994

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:26:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
hiroshi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please think of another way.

Not indiscriminate .

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:28:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayaka kizuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It's human's responsibility to keep doing TNR. It may not be the best for the Hawaii.

It will take a while. But like I said earlier it's human's responsibility.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:29:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
corby white	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are programs that have been working for decades on trapping cats and having them spayed and neutered, TNR works if you work it. This bill is a morally wrong proposal that will not magically take care of the issue. People will still dump and discard cats without regulations like requiring to have them neutered or spayed. When this happens animal lovers will be there to do what we can to stop the cycle by TNR efforts. Support the humane tactics of these people and organizations, don't cull very much loved cats that deserve better. No on HB1987

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:30:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miki uematsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Just because it is a nuisance to humans, the image of Hawaii, which kills cats living on the island and lives in harmony with nature, changes at once.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:31:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathy McDuff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please do not pass this bill. Many volunteers are working to help neuter these innocent animals. Volunteers are helping feed and control the population. Several organizations are helping send some to other shelters and homes on the mainland. What you are proposing is inhumane and barbaric. Please do not pass this bill. Other more humane solutions are available.

kathleen McDuff Supported by Richard Lucas. Michael Lucas. Ashonte fair.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:34:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello.

Im mailing from JAPAN.

I think all lives are equal.

So, I wanna save animals.

Im sorry for my poor English.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MANAMI ONO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats and human lives are equal God doesn't make unnecessary lives.

I hope this bill will not be decided. May this thought arrive from Japan.

We have 30 cats and only rescued cats. With this encounter, my life became rich and loving.

Please don't get rid of the wonderful scenery of Hawaii

I send a lot of love.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ginny tiu	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong opposition of HB 1987. I ask you to PLEASE find it in your hearts to do the humane thing. I understand the need to protect endangered species, but surely we can find more humane ways of doing so. Poison is an agonizingly painful way to die. What does it say about us as a society when we resort to such cruelty? We are against torturing known criminals and terrorists. How can you can justify inflicting such suffering on innocent creatures? PLEASE work with sensible and reasonable people/organizations, to find a humane solution. I am not against doing something, just not something so cruel and inhumane. Thank you very much for your kind consideration. Ginny Tiu

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:39:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SayakaWADA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

今いる子達にはできる限りのTNRを。そして猫の放棄を減らす方に尽力を。
数を減らすために毒殺というのは安易であり、この先もその繰り返しにしかならないから

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:41:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
???	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are also life.

I love cats and all animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:42:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ciao Uchida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

a Cat. They also alive in this earth together!!!

so,please, Don't take their LIFE!!! by Human convenience.

That's not fair!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:44:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sakilto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please be nice to all animals

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:46:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tomomi tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The number of cats can be declieased by other solutions without killing them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:47:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mami Oga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please protect the life of a cat.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:54:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miyabi Oshima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To be honest, I am dead set against this plan.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:55:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
???	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Human rights to animals

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:55:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ai Sato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There should be a better way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:56:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nozomi furuhashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think that killing anything immediately has a bad effect on humans, especially children.

It is necessary to make the world a gentle world.

I don't want to go to Hawaii.

Cats are not bad in the first place, they are seeds sown by humans. You should think about something other than how to kill.

Please. Don't be scary.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:57:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yukiyo Kameyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If you don't need it anymore, throw it away. If it gets in the way, poison it." It's the same idea as disposable plastic. Subconsciously, we will think the same way about others and ourselves. I don't want to live in such a world.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:57:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eri Kosaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose the slaughter of animals

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:02:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yasuko abe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i think it is important that all animals are protected their lives

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:02:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
TOMOE GOSHIMA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:05:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Namiko Swindler	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the idea of killing stray cats by poisoning them. It is a problem created by the irresponsible actions of human race and it shouldn't affect the lives of stray cats especially by poisoning which causes great amount of suffering.

We, as a responsible being in the society need to spay stray cats to prevent overbreeding.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:06:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natsumi Iwakiri	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Think of other ways.

I disagree with it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:12:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chinatsu Aso	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do it the other way

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:13:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Asami Nakai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love cat,no kill

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:16:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MANAMI TAKANO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Absolutely opposite. I remember the case in China in Corona. When a hamster becomes a corona, it is killed. Humans are saved. I want to believe that it is humans who can save the lives of voiceless animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:16:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
katsuyama Rieiko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is not up to humans to decide whether or not to kill an animal. You should give them freedom. Think of a way to coexist rather than kill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:17:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haruka Tani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love hawaii. Please be kind and heartfelt not only for people and nature but also for animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:18:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
keiko nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to kill cats in Hawaii.
please help angels.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:19:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
masami oda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a strong passion for Hawaii.

Please do not kill cats.

Hawaii is a beautiful place.

Please be kind to animals, and reconsider the proposed change in the law.

In Japan, we have a voluntary association who carry out abortion surgery. This has helped reduce the number of cats.

Please do not choose to kill, and protect the lives of the cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:20:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayako Kosaka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I cannot accept that is happening and it shouldn't happen.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:21:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Narumi Asai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Any life you have now should be cherished. There is no life that can be disposed of by human selfishness.
I think it is better to work on it so as not to increase it from now on.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:24:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KATJA GEC ACIA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

There is absolutely no reason to eradicate homeless cats population. Cats are and have been part of ecosystem for a long time, in Hawaii as well as all around the World. Why hatred against them? To save native animals? Well, there is a thing called Natural Selection that occurs in nature. Every creature has a reason to exist, some survive and some don't. Cats are not the only animals/beings that likes to eat birds, for example. Mongoose loves to go after the eggs of the birds and that speice was introduced to Hawaii in the past, as well. Of course, we don't want the scale to tip fully on one side, therefore there are ways to successfully lessen the unwanted effects of overpopulation of one specie and extreme reduction of the other. TNR. Trap and Release method has been very successful and diligently practiced by numerous community members to help reduce overpopulation of the cats, domestic or feral. Covid has pushed the positive outcome few step back, but we are all working on getting on the mountain top again. It takes time to make progress and see positive outcome. Please, let us do the work, in a Humane way, with love towards all the animals. How about human race, aren't we the most destructive speice of all? Killing, poisoning, invading living habitat of so many animals! Something to ponder on...

At the end we all, people and animals, have the same Creator, God the Father. His Kingdom on Earth is what we need to care for, not destroy. God Bless you and give you wisdom in decision making.

Aloha

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:28:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
haruka aoshima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Of course NOT!!

They are all precious life , we too. right??

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:28:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haruna Kito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Humans and cats are the same living.

It is not allowed to kill allies.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:30:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yvette peroff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!! WHY IS KILLING ALWAYS THE SOLUTION? THIS IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TAXPAYER MONEY!! THIS IS A HUMAN PROBLEM NOT A FERAL CAT PROBLEM, ERADICATING BY POISON IS RECKLESS, DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. WHAT IF OTHER ANIMALS OR CHILDREN GET THE POISON? I PRAY THIS BILL NEVER GETS PASSED!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:30:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miho kainuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:34:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chihiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm Japanese. I have a cat. She was a stray cat. I don't want you to kill innocent cats please.
Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:34:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aiko Uragami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't kill them. There should be other ways to keep their lives.

(making shelters and conduc Antifertility castration operations to control the numbers of cats.
etc)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:36:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nana.h	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:37:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Moeko Takagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this opinion because cats are creature. Poisoning is not allowed just because it is stray. If you are homeless, do you think it is acceptable?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:37:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kawamoto Naoko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill. Take a longer time to find a way to reduce the strain on cat. I strongly oppose.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:38:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hana Aoi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think that the euthanization of Harmless animals is cruel. Rather than euthanization, why not try and build programs to find homes for the stray cats? I think that that would be a much more compassionate and humane way of solving the issue.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:38:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Junko Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please TNR.

Don't kill stray cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:43:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kazuki terui	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm opposed to this plan

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:44:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nagase asuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The lost cat may be killed by mistake

Cats are family

Let's find a way to coexist

with love from japan

WRITTEN TESTIMONY OPPOSING H.B. NO. 1987

Date: February 3, 2022
To: Hawaii State Legislature
From: Sandi Tanoue, Big Island, Hawaii
Re: Opposition to H.B. No. 1987

My name is Sandi Tanoue and I oppose H.B. No. 1987 for the following reasons:

First, I do not agree that feral cats should be labeled as a harmful invasive species. The Bill fails to recognize that there other wildlife that also prey on native species on a daily basis. Feral cats have been a part of my life and many others lives throughout the islands and the United States. Feral cats have not only been a tremendous help to keeping our rat population in check, but they have also been a part of our lives as beloved pets.

Second, the data that the Bill relies on to justify the elimination of feral cats throughout the islands is outdated and unsupported. The Bill relies on alleged data from 2013 and 2015, citing snippets of “studies” that have been conducted, without providing the public with the actual citation to the study for the public to review. What is even more alarming is that the Bill alleges that feral cats contribute to the extinctions of birds, while also admitting that, “the exact number of birds killed by feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands is unknown.” The blame for the extinction of birds and other species that the Bill references should not be placed primarily on feral cats, as there are other animals and humans that contribute to the extinction of these species as well. The Bill attempts to include a recent study in 2020 by referencing an alleged cat killing twelve endangered Newell’s shearwaters and another cat killing nine endangered Hawaiian petrel; no other information such as who conducted the study, where the study was conducted, and how these numbers were actually obtained are included for the public to review. This is highly concerning and unfair to the public who are being asked to vote on such an important issue.

Third, the passing of this Bill would undoubtedly effect feral cat pet owners who let their cats outside of their homes. The baiting method, which is aimed at poisoning cats, would be a danger to ALL cats (feral or not) and all animals who consume it. In essence, this Bill would place our pets and animals in danger as there is no way to effectively control its consumption.

Finally, this Bill is giving the Legislature the power to enact cruelty to animals. This is not right. I encourage the Legislature to recognize that we do have successful organizations such as AdvoCats, Inc. in Hawaii, which makes daily progress to reducing the number of feral cats with the ONLY human and effective method - spay/neuter. These organizations need our support. It is my hope and the hope of many others throughout Hawaii that you understand: The elimination of feral cats by poison or any other means is cruel, unnecessary, and should not be encouraged.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:47:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YASUKO SHIBAYAMA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is the human ego that kills the born life

TNR works as shown by the facts...and numbers!

Below are 2 articles from a medium sized metropolitan city proving that when an out of control feral cat population is approached by compassionate, empathetic professionals backed by realistic funding and dedicated volunteers, that the scientifically proven "Trap, Neuter, Release" approach really works. Please look the facts & the numbers. In the Land of Aloha, I would expect the highest degree of compassion, responsibility, and the spirit of Aloha. It is 'the' best and most humane method available. Certainly a state-wide law mandating that all pets are spay/neutered and not allowed to roam free. Education should be our long term goal!

"Editorial: City TNR cuts the costs and deaths of feral cats

By Albuquerque Journal Editorial Board

Thursday, November 24th, 2016 at 12:05am

In 2012, Albuquerque was one of two cities to receive a three-year, \$1 million grant to implement trap-neuter-return as a way to reduce the feral cat population. In March, the state Court of Appeals rejected a challenge to the program that claimed it was illegal and cruel. And, on Oct. 16, National Feral Cat Day, the city announced the feral cat population is shrinking.

It means that, four years in, the city's once-novel program is working, that trapping, sterilizing and returning feral cats to their haunts really does allow them to act as placeholders, discouraging new cats from moving in and overbreeding to fill the vacuum, and the shelters and the euthanization tables.

The Best Friends Animal Society and PetSmart Charities grant ended in 2015, and the city has continued to fund the program with \$200,000 a year. Now, there are strong indicators the multi-year investment has paid off financially and ethically – consider that half the number of cats are coming into shelters, 5,537 last year compared to 11,495 in 2009. That means TNR has in fact saved the public dollars that would have been spent housing, treating and then euthanizing those thousands of cats because now Street Cat Hub volunteers go out and trap entire colonies of strays, and sterilize them.

Jayne Sage, founder of Street Cat Hub, says “we are seeing a reduction of kittens. ... We used to see really big cat colonies. Now a big one is 10 to 15 cats, but they used to be ridiculously large, like 40 or 50 cats.” And she says dozens of cities have sent

representatives to study Albuquerque's approach.

TNR has shown in four short years that it is a more responsible way to deal with the area's feral cat population. It is a program that honors public dollars and respect for life, one residents can be thankful has continued to be funded, and one that should be fostered in years to come.

This editorial first appeared in the Albuquerque Journal. It was written by members of the editorial board and is unsigned as it represents the opinion of the newspaper rather than the writers."

(from barbarabruin.com)

"Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) A Bold Initiative That Produced Results

One of our boldest, most innovative, and successful initiatives was embracing Trap/Neuter/Return (TNR) as a way to manage the free-roaming cat population. Previously Trap and Kill had been the policy, which had done nothing to reduce the number of unwanted cats in our community. Each year, thousands of feral cats were trapped, brought to AWD, spent five terrifying days in a cage, and then were killed. Some days kennel workers spent their entire shift killing animals.

When we first started to embrace TNR it was a novel approach to feral cat control: sterilize feral cats and put them back in their colonies rather than killing them. Then all cats at that location are sterilized, thus preventing future litters. Previously, when cats were taken to the shelter and killed with no follow up, the food source stayed the same and new cats took the place of the cats that were removed

either through migration or through reproduction (“the vacuum effect”), so the number of free-roaming cats continued to grow.

A private group, Street Cat Companions, which was part of New Mexico Animal Friends and led by Jayne Sage (who now leads Street Cat Hub, the successor organization) had been sterilizing cats out in the community and holding clinics to sterilize free-roaming cats for several years, but when we implemented TNR at our shelter the number of cats being sterilized and returned skyrocketed.

Once we showed support for TNR, we attracted the attention of national groups, including Best Friends Society, which selected us as one of the first communities for its TNR of street cats grant program in 2012. The three year program brought

approximately one million dollars to Albuquerque and paid for roughly 11,743 cat sterilizations. The euthanasia of feral cats dropped to zero:

2005: 2,517

2006: 2,818

2007: 2,737

2008: 2,612

2009: 1,904

2010: 1,196

2011: 473

2012: 16

2013: 0

2014: 0

2015: 0

2016: 0

2017: 0

At the Albuquerque Animal Welfare Department, a cat hasn't been euthanized simply for being feral since February of 2012.

In addition, the number of cats coming into the shelter dropped from 11,495 in 2009 to 4,938 in 2017, which is a phenomenal decrease and a major improvement for our shelter. Because of other life-saving reforms in addition to TNR, the euthanasia of cats has plummeted from 6,642 in 2009 to a mere 342 in 2017, a 95% reduction!

Simply put, because we embraced TNR, there are far fewer unwanted cats in Albuquerque."

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:50:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MARIN ONO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly object to it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:50:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Celia Lee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Chair of House Committee

RE: In Opposition of HB1987

Feb 3, 2022

As a resident of Honolulu, HI and someone who personally knows several dedicated people who care for feral cat colonies, I am opposed to this bill that includes the cruel practice of poisoning innocent animals. I have seen people care for feral colonies and reduce the number of cats by 75% over time by trapping, neutering, releasing. It is a cruelty to these dedicated people who care for these animals as well.

I am opposed to HB1987 mainly due to the animal cruelty aspect.

Celia Lee

832 15th Avenue, Honolulu, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:52:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
maki fujioka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Humans and animals have the same life.

How would you feel if you were poisoned just because there are so many humans? Such violence cannot be tolerated. I believe that Hawaii is a noble island that believes in the existence of God.

Animals and humans have the same life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:54:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miho morimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:55:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
FUTA NAKAMURA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I hope that the problem will be solved with the cats alive.

Poisoning the cats is extremely cruel!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:55:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
??H	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

save the lives of animals. Never kill. PLEASE think other ways.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:56:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sayaka Shigematsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It's no solution to the problems.

please,

Make humane choices

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:57:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
junko matsumura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Never forgive

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:59:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
A. Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This sounds like a bandaid solution, as many residents often allow their own pets to be free-roaming pets. Will the State take responsibility for possibly poisoning someone's beloved pet? To quote an article from the Smithsonian Magazine: "It is not the cats' fault that they are hungry and that there are a lot of them, of course; they have spread as a result of human behavior." (<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/australia-curiosity-really-will-kill-feral-cats-180953064/#:~:text=The%20government%20has%20been%20experimenting,%C2%AE%20shuld%20only%20kill%20cats.>)

Often cats are feral due to being abandoned by humans, or stolen from their home and dropped in a remote location. These are real scenarios which leave any pet (cat, or otherwise) to survive by any means necessary. I feel that State of Hawaii has too many resources and too many valuable minds to determine this as the best course of action.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:02:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Animals cannot be changed at all, they are creatures with lives.I also this world could be like all animals would lead their happy lives peacefully. I hope I could make the world like that with the people all over the world.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:05:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yumi Ebihara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stray cats are also precious lives.

We should try to find other best ways to save their lives.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:05:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuri Shiozaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stray cats are also important lives.

We should think about how to whether the breeding.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:05:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hazuki Kono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:05:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aya Kato	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:07:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
EBINE KANEKO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Every living thing has the right to live.

Cats aren't bad. Is there anything I can do other than poisoning?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:09:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SAYURI MIZUTANI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Human selfishness.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:15:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
eiichi shiozaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

no animal,no life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:16:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ai	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a animal lover . I wish I could help all animals in the world.from Japan .

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:18:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haruka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't ruin the cat precious life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:18:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
HAMAMOTO HIKARI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The stray cats are not guilty. They're just alive. Humans are not the only ones living on this planet. There are various creatures and nature, and human beings are kept alive. I think it's best understood by people living in Hawaii. Therefore, it is inhumane and contrary to the providence of nature to take a life innocently at the convenience of human beings. It's the wrong way. Stop thinking only about human convenience.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:20:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MOEKA OZAWA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is because slaughter is not the ultimate solution. Don't take your life easily. You have to do TNR to reduce the number of cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:22:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michiko Tozaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

命はみんな平等です。

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:22:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Saori Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The cat saved my spirit.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:24:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacqueline Schmidt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning feral cats is absolutely barbaric. TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) is the only common sense method. It is humane and effective. Thank you.

Jacqueline Schmidt

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:24:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hisa Hirooka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think animals should be cherished.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:27:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mamiko Kubota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

please,stop

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:28:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayako Takemura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

please do not kill every cats!!please.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:30:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mai Kubodera	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

why can you do this???

I cannot understand what make you think must to kill cats.

Are you sure????

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:31:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kumiko kinoshita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

wanting loving behavior

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:32:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuki hamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We're going to do something else.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:32:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
TOMOMI TAKAHASHI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose.

I love cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:33:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mayu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:33:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chihiro Kadooka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life that is the same as us. I think we should spend some time thinking about a policy of not slaughter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:35:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuki Fukatsu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing cats cannot solve the problem.

Trap–neuter–release should be much better.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:37:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
asami kadono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The life of a cat is that of a cat、

We must not take it on our own.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:38:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MIHO FUJIHARA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats have the same life as humans.

Please don't kill stray cats.

I am a Japanese who loves Hawaii.

I don't won't to hate Hawaii because of this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:38:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
aya okuda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The life of a cat is as precious as a human being.

It must not be decided that human beings will take it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:38:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KAORI HAMANAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

×

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:40:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do you kill a roadside orphan? Cats and people have the same weight of life. They do nothing wrong with us.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:41:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MASAMI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life is precious in any case and should never be killed. I think that human modification is against the order of the natural world.

Humans should take responsibility for managing stray cats so that they do not increase.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:45:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maaya Ono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppse

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:45:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KITANAKAYUKI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a strong passion for Hawaii.

Please do not kill cats.

Hawaii is a beautiful place.

Please be kind to animals, and reconsider the proposed change in the law.

In Japan, we have a voluntary association who carry out abortion surgery. This has helped reduce the number of cats.

Please do not choose to kill, and protect the lives of the cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:45:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mao Horiuchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is absolutely against killing creatures with human power.
Cats are very important.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:45:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
erina ayukawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Your behavior is animal cruelty

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:47:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kumi Ishibashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I will never agree on any options not to save animal rights.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:47:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kei.S	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love Hawaii and cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:51:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

cuz I Love cat's

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:52:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nami Wada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think we should TNR.

We should also protect cats in the same way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:54:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yui Baba	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against taking precious lives. Consider other ways.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:55:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yoshiko taniguchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning a cat is not something that humans do, it's a devil.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:55:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maki Yoshimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Against poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 3:58:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Lloyd	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are better ways of taking care of this besides killing the animals. If poison is used, you run the risk of other animals, including the birds you are trying to save, getting to the poison. Shooting the animals is inhumane, especially since there is no guarantee you won't just maim it. Trap, Neuter, and Release is a program that is proven to reduce the amount of cats that are born.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:00:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ERIKO YUSA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

save all cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:01:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miyuki takahashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to this legislation. It is not the cats fault.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:02:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayako Kondo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are also important creatures, I want to save their lives

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:03:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
TOMOKO SAKAI	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

尊い命守ってください

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:03:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mako Miyagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

please. Don't kill cats.

From Japan.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:03:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YUKO NONOMURA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Against animal poisoning

Cats are not guilty

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:04:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rei	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We really have to live with any kind of animals, and respect thier life as well,

They are not thing, they have a life same as human!

the earth is not only for human. They have to live!

I strongly hope that all of us live together n the earth!

never ever kill cats and animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:05:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NAOKO YASUYAMA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Because I Love Cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:05:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
TOMOMI TOYAMA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are an important family to me. Of course, I think there are many people who don't think so.

Still, I don't think it's a good idea to poison it because it's too much.

It's also a big problem in Japan.

I want to be a world where I can respect all living things kindly.

I want you to choose a way for people and cats to coexist well and look for it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:07:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyoko Kamidozono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I want to protect the life of the cat.

Every life is important.

The value of a life is the same.

No poison !

Please peaceful !

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:07:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
minari nagano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

why cat kill? crazy

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:07:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuko inoshita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We have to respect animal's life.I oppose the bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:10:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tomoko kashiwagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No kill cat !!

please !!

we have more good way !!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:12:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shiena Watanabe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life of the person, all the value of the life of every creature of this world are the same as the life of a dog and a cat.

Therefore I want to say that it is a mistake we kill a dog and a cat to dispose.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:13:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
VALERIE L HOWELL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I agree with doing a census but not killing the cats. The proposal to poison these animals is barbaric and antiquated. Targetted Spay/Neuter is the only successful and humane way to do this. Killing will only create a vacuum that will be filled by new strays. The best use of taxpayer's dollars is to do intensive trapping, focusing on one area at a time until everyone is sterilized, and then moving to the adjacent area (targetted method). Cats that are handleable or rehabable can be removed from the population by approved rescues and shelters. The population of sterilized ferals will steadily decrease as they die off. I have seen this happen in my own city when the city funded such a program. I urge you to abandon this cruel misguided idea and opt for a proven method that if implemented correctly will work. But it has to be the targetted method. Please contact Humane Society of the U.S. for additional information and assistance.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:14:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Takatomo Sakai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose. Save the cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:15:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuko Tominaga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Do not increase the number of cats in the future.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:17:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anna Miyachi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love animals. Please do not kill them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:20:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sayaka Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:21:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rumiko Ito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello

They are lives the same as us.

Life is very important.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:22:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KEIKO AOYAGI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats were not born to die. Did you castrate him? There are many ways not to kill. If you need that support, please call on us. They should continue to live wonderful lives. It is a sin to end their lives without permission by human hands. Please. Please reconsider. And why don't we think about a different way together?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:23:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayumi Imai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please cherish your precious life

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:25:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayami Numata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats aren't bad, so think of other ways. Killing is the worst way. Please use tax for TNR.Please.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:26:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Juthaporn Ludwig	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am oppose the "count & kill the cats" method. I support the reducing the number of cats with only humane and effective by spay/neuter which many nonprofits organizations and community have been working on it and continue doing it. They are doing a good job and continues more progress. We are sharing the word with animals and other living species. We need to be kind and sharing the love to one another including animals

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:31:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donni Corrow-Sanchez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I understand that feral cats pose a threat to native birds, monk seals and other wildlife, I must vehemently oppose this bill and any other such cruel measures which would cause these cats to suffer, as enforcement of this bill would. The suggestion that they should be poisoned is especially cruel and unacceptable as this method would impact many beloved pets and other wildlife also. I cannot even believe that someone could suggest such a thing. There are many groups and private citizens working hard on other measures to reduce the feral populations and we need to educate humans about responsible pet ownership so that these animals are not abandoned or abused. Please stop this insane bill from becoming law!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:34:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kamata sayaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It 's an innocent life.

It 's a precious life that heals our hearts.

There is no life we can deliberately take away

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:36:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aileen Uchida, MPH	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I feel everyone would want to preserve Native species whenever possible however I feel this Bill is flawed in it's information and methods of eradication of invasive species. The killing of cats is addressing the symptom rather than the problem. You cite NOA as stating Monk Seals are endangered by toxoplasmosis but fail to cite more are killed or injured by humans and loss of habitat than by toxoplasmosis. A balanced understanding of what is actually happening environmentally needs to be studied with the Humane Society which can cite success with TNR and TNVR programs worldwide. Eradication of cats is temporary and cruel due to the source of where these cats come from. Better laws and strict enforcement of dumping animals need to be addressed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:37:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KANAKO KAWANAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Save the life of the cat.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:38:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MARIA GRAZIA SANGUIN	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately.

The Committee know we're already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:38:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
natsumi aoyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO (; ;)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:40:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
akane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is human selfishness to poison a living cat without making an effort not to increase the number of stray cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:41:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sena Nishihara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We have no right to harm innocent species. I strongly oppose.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:41:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hanae Mitsumoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against poisoning stray cats! There are other things you can do other than poisoning, such as castration surgery to prevent the number of stray cats from increasing! Stray cats are not guilty. All lives should be equal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:41:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
RIE NAKAZAWA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Is it really the right way?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:45:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hide Tana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I never agree that cats are killed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:49:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Victoria Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I lived on Oahu a few years ago. As a cat owner myself , I am flattered when outdoor cats come around. Instated feeding one cat, who I layer found out was pregnant. Upon feeling this cat I noticed there were several that would come to eat. I was able to trap, spay, neuter and return all the cats that came along plus get mama and her kittens in a safe place. It's our responsibility as humans to control their reproduction. So many people don't spay or neuter their animals which is the cause of over production. It's not the animals fault nor should they have to pay the consequences for the irresponsibility of the people who took them to Hawaii to begin with . Mind you I know all the laws in going to Hawaii with an animal ita ridiculous thay coming from the main land we are "required" to have all these things done prior to arriving on island. Spay , neuter , vaccines, health certificates, bloodwork. If all these things would be a requirement for everyone who lives in Hawaii there wouldn't be an issue with cats . Killing them away isn't the responsible thing to do it's the Coward thing to do! Again, trying to take the way out isn't going to be helpful as guess what there will be non spayed or neutered cats and the same issue will continue. Best thing to do is to educate the residents of Hawaii on the importance of spay and neutering their cats and requiring all adoptions and pets to he fixed. This will help in the longevity to reduce cats humanely as we should not killing off. It's inhumane and so so cruel . Not to mention so many people will not want to support a state who allows such awful things to be done in plain site. Please reconsider your actions as these too have long terms affects of how its viewed in the public eye. TNR is the best solution! TNT TNR TNR TNR

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:51:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maya Ashiba	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT KILL cats. They are worth living like us.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:52:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
KOMAI SHOKO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear sir's

Unbelievable.

I against this matter!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:54:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kim yongok	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against animal slaughter! ! ! !

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:55:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jay smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

In favor of all steps necessary in order to eradicate feral cat populations

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:56:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alison Kiuchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

My name is Alison Kiuchi. I recently heard about HB1987 and was highly distraught at the idea of it. I think about my cat and remember her background as a pregnant street cat. To think someone would count her for record and then poison her or kill her in some other manner is disturbing. She adds so much joy to my life.

I understand that feral street cats can be an issue in neighborhoods and communities. However, killing the feral cats is just a short-term solution and won't have lasting results, not to mention it's cruel and unethical. We know that trap-neuter-release programs have very positive results and work well. Please consider adding these types of programs and trainings in place of HB1987. With this being said, I strongly oppose HB1987.

Thank you for your time,

Alison

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:57:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Glenn H	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I view HB1987 as inhumane in its attempt to cull the feral cat population.

The Committee on Agriculture needs to provide more resources to the trap-neuter-release program. This method if further funded will bring the feral cat population down to a manageable level.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:57:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jun Hayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It doesn't make sense to slaughter

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:59:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MIDORI YOSHII	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Take care of life

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 4:59:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NANAKAWAI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

NO.

The importance of life.

動物達の命も大切にしてください。

毒で殺すなんて最低です。

殺す必要もないと思います。

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:00:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Nipp	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If this bill is passed, it will negate everything that individuals and organizations have put into to try to help our community! All of the time, effort and money that was put into the TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program that these people has done all of these years was all for nothing! These are people who has full time jobs and not to mention that the monies used to fix these cats to try to keep the feral cat population down is coming out of their own pockets! Instead of passing a bill to kill these poor animals, why doesn't the State try to pass a bill where you can help to find a place to build a sanctuary where all of these cats can live in a safe environment! The State has land somewhere! This problem is in every island and I know this can be remedied without killing. If there's a sanctuary, every person that brings a fixed cat will have to sign a contract stating they will care and feed the ones they bring into this place. THIS IS A MAN MADE PROBLEM! It's the humans who didn't want these cats anymore and just dumps them wherever to make it someone else's problem. That's not right! Those irresponsible people doesn't care as long as they don't have to deal with it. If you think by killing the feral cats will solve your problem, guess what, there will be more! A lot of these cats are not really feral, they are strays that once upon a time lived in a home until the owner got stupid and didn't want them anymore. They get dumped without being fixed. Every single animal on this planet has the same feelings as the humans...happy, sad, scared, hungry, thirsty, etc. Killing is not the answer. Come on State let's work together to be more compassionate and work out a better plan. Again, don't allow the people who has spent all of their time and money to stop the population of these cats go to waste. It takes anywhere from 2 to 6 hours to trap, depends on how many cats are in a colony. People who don't like cats will say that they carry disease, NOT TRUE! Did you ever hear of the cat flu? Of course not! But we heard of the bird flu! Get your facts straight! It's been years that people have been trapping and fixing but as long as irresponsible humans keep dumping, it will never get resolved. The cats didn't ask to be put out there! DO NOT PASS THIS HORRIBLE BILL! Find other solutions that will make all of our efforts all worth while!! Thank you!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:00:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul Hohman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We as humans have come a long way to turn back and become so barbaric as to use poison as a way of birth control for our feral animals. I totally oppose this action.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:04:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Charmayne Hohman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stop this inhumane treatment immediately. I totally oppose this barbaric cruelty to our ferral friends. There are plenty of ways to control births without resorting to this type of behavior on our part. STOP NOW!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:04:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yu Sugimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

All lives should not be easily reduced by human selfishness.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:06:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1987, which gives the Department of Land and Natural Resources critical tools to both assess the extent of and develop strategies for managing one of Hawaii’s worst invasive species: domestic cats.

As iterated in the original text of the bill, cats have been implicated in the depletion and even extinction of our resources. Before the introduction of cats, birds such as uau, were a critically important sustainable resource for the local community. However, following the release of the first domestic cats in the 1780s, uau and other native bird populations collapsed. Birds that according to the Kumulipo once darkened the sky were by the 1920s thought to be completely extinct. Since then, remnant populations have been rediscovered including most recently on Maunakea, but cats continue to threaten their survival killing significant numbers of adults and chicks every year.

Cats are also a significant predator of forest birds such as the palila and are a chief suspect in that species' continued decline. In 2021 palila had their lowest ever recorded population. The time to act on addressing the feral cat crisis was decades ago, but we still have time to save species like the palila from extinction if the action proposed in HB1987 is undertaken.

HB1987 will allow Hawaii to align management actions with the best practices already being implemented by nations throughout the Pacific such as Australia and Aotearoa (NZ). Hawaii leads the world in loss of diversity because of inaction. We must follow the models developed by other Pacific nations or risk losing even more of the unique and cherished aspects of this place.

The impact of domestic cats often gets downplayed in the US with a new global media content analysis by Gow et al. 2021 concluding that “overall, based on both the ecological and social science literature, the popular press is not providing representation of issues of public concern, such as cat hunting behavior and may be intentionally or unintentionally attempting to downplay the risks cats pose to wildlife.” Furthermore the majority of the articles in this analysis advocate for the use of TNR (Trap neuter return) as a viable option for reducing cat populations, when nearly all of the available peer reviewed scientific literature on the topic states otherwise.

HB1987 sets Hawaii on the path to following the best available science and move away from unsupported to blatantly false methodologies that have been put forward by outdoor cat proponents and opponents of this bill.

Please invest in the future of our culturally and ecologically important native species and support HB1987. Any further delay in action will lead to greater extinction and further threaten the survival of Hawaiian cultural practices.

Mahalo nui,

Bret Nainoa Mossman

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:06:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yumiko Araseki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think it's necessary to protect endangered species, but killing cats by poison is too cruel. I hope the government can find other way to protect the endangered species.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:07:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NATSUE KAMODA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

All the lives that exist in this world are precious lives. Will poisoning stray cats make us happy? Are you satisfied with that? If you perform contraceptive surgery on stray cats, stray cats will disappear someday. Please spend your money on making use of it. I don't treat animals like things. I just hope that the world will be kind.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:09:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
EMI HASEGAWA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please protect your precious life

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:10:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miyuki Ando	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I oppose the reduction plan of feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:12:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
moe matsuzaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

every life is equal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:12:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YukiKajiyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Life is equal

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:12:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carrie Thomas	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello - this new legislation that has been proposed for the Dept. of Land & Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to count all the feral cats in Hawaii - and then kill them. This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately.

There are less brutal ways to control population of feral cats - many states set up the Trap/Spay-Neuter/Release model, and it has been incredibly successful. Killing feral cats by any means is inhumane. If poison is used, then that will also kill other animals and wildlife. We're already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

There was an Indian tribe in Canada that thought if they rounded up all of the feral dogs on their reservation and kill them, that it would eradicate the feral dog problem. It ended up never working, there continued to be a problem. Once more humane methods were used, where they rounded up ALL of the dogs, and spay/neutered them, the population then would 'die' off. Same with feral cat colonies in Massachusetts -- they used the same Trap/Spay-Neuter/Release program, and the colonies no longer produce kittens.

Please do the right thing and use HUMANE methods to control the population. thank you in advance.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:13:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mikana Furuya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to this legislation. It is not the cats fault.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:19:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mikie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please don't poison the cat!!!Please!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:20:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuko hoshino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I love cats.

I love Hawaii.

So, nobody kills any lives.

please.please.please.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:21:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
azusa yonekura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We have to select other plan than killing cats.

Because we , human beings & cat &other animals have to live together.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:27:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
RISA TAMURA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

他の方法がきっとあります。そんな悲しい方法はやめましょう！

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:28:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mana Hoffman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I opposed to this legislation. This is irresponsible humans fault, not cats. They heve lives, emotions so as humans.

There are many other ways to reduce feral cats amount besides killing them.

TNR is one of them. Welcoming rescue animals is one of them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:29:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yumiko Ota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a cat
Originally it was a stray cat.
They are not guilty.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:29:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
shea prueger	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am surprised and saddened that this is where Hawaii stands when it comes to the treatment of sentient beings that can feel fear, pain, anxiety, love, etc.

My neighbor trapped and dumped one of my two cats right before Christmas. I have spent every day looking for him. He is a family member. He probably looks like a stray and is most likely near feral cats. How will you determine the missing, lost, lava refugees from the feral ones? Are you going to kill Pepper, my one and half year old shy and loving cat who was stolen from me? Will people like my neighbor be able to get away with poison cats regardless of who they belong to?

There are humane ways to solve this issue. Trap, neuter, and release programs do work. There are many volunteers in Hawaii getting this done in their free time. I have taken many cats to these free spay and neuter clinics. I have volunteered at them as well the moratorium on shelters needs to end. Seriously. It's crazy that we can't take animals to the humane society. Animal Control should exist. It's currently just a voicemail.

With the amount of time you take to count and kill the cats, you could ask the animal loving people of the island to tackle the colonies with traps and get them all fixed. Problem solved. Many missing cars would be found, maybe we'd find Pepper, and Hawaii isn't committing cruelty against the innocent. They deserve to be here as much as we do we should treat them without harming them and without cruelty.

Please give us a chance to find our beloved Pepper. We believe he was dumped near feral cat colonies and are still looking. I would be devastated to find out that my lawmakers took that away from my and my partner.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:31:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
RISA GOHARA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is an important life. Please help me.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:37:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Saya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Absolutely the opposite. Do not poison the cat. I am really sad.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:39:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Selekmán	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this barbaric and brutal bill to eradicate the feral cat population. It is not the cats' fault that they were born outside. TNR (trap, neuter, return) is the only humane way to get the feral cat population under control and over time the population will decrease. TNR is already being done and progress is being made.

I implore legislators to vote "no" on bill HB1987 and address the feral cat problem through a humane spay/neuter approach.

Sincerely,

Rachel Selekmán

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:39:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jacqueline Tkac	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing feral cats as a means to control their population is inhumane and unethical. Period. Additionally, it's not an effective way to address this complex issue. It's simply not. It's been proven time and time again that it doesn't work. Most recently, in late 2020, Australia set out to cull 2 million feral cats. What happened? It was an ecological disaster that resulted in an out-of-control mouse plague that could take up to two years to contain.

Further, blaming the feral cat overpopulation on the feral cats is cowardly. It shifts the blame from humans (who are 100% responsible) to the cats (who are innocent). After all, the cats did not choose to be domesticated and brought to places where they were then labeled an "invasive species." The cats did not choose to be irresponsibly abandoned by their owners - unfixed. Left to their own peril, all they are doing is fighting to survive. And in terms of reproduction, cats should not be blamed for simply doing what is natural to them. The feral cat overpopulation is a human caused problem and as humans we must ethically, humanely, and responsibly address this issue. And luckily for us all, there is already a way, there is already a humane solution. It's called TNR.

TR humanely decreases feral cat overpopulation while drastically improving the quality of life of feral cats.

Please advocate for these innocent feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:40:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Ann Kornacki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I could not be more strongly OPPOSED to HB1987. The approach of Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) is the only HUMANE solution to overpopulation of community (aka feral) cat colonies. As a certified TNR citizen in Michigan I have witnessed the incredible bonds cat communities have, caring and showing extreme affection for each other; in addition to their affection and bond with community cat volunteers. TNR programs are extremely successful in controlling cat populations even here in Michigan, challenged with cold weather during the release phase of the program. This bill is an example of ANIMAL CRUELTY. Who gives you the right to take the life of an animal who is posing virtually no threat to other living creatures? Instead, subsidize funding for the costs associated with TNR (traps, veterinary costs, training, etc.) There are so many organizations here in Michigan actively involved in TNR; I am not aware of ANY talk of something so hideous as controlling cat communities by murdering them. SHAME ON YOU. Elizabeth Kornacki, Linwood MI 48634

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:41:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dorothy North	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. The poisoning of cats should not be encouraged, it is very cruel. A much better method is the use of TNR. I have used this method, with others' help, in my neighborhood in Staten Island, and it works. The cats do not reproduce after TNR, but they can live out their lives happily, and reduce the population of rats and mice. It is a method that has worked successfully all over the US and even other countries, the UK for certain.

Please do not kill cats in Hawaii. Please use TNR to control feral cat population instead.

Many thanks,

Dorothy North

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:42:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexis Ann McDonald	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not approve HB1987.

Respectively to the Committee:

You are already making headway with the most effective, humane method of reducing feral cats through spay/neuter programs. I beg you to not approve HB1987. You can tell the heart of a community by how they treat their animals. I have always been impressed with Hawaii's TNR programs and supported them with donations. Please continue with the spay/neuter programs already in place.

Thank you kindly for hearing my testimony,

Alexis McDonald.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:46:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Hashem, Vice Chairperson Perruso and Committee on Agriculture Members.

I am Jennifer Chiwa and have lived on Oahu my whole life. I currently reside in Makiki.

am opposed to HB 1987 in its current form. While I can support a count of the feral cat population, and I understand the need for the invasive species council to implement a program to reduce the feral cat population, my understanding is that this bill supports the reduction of feral cats by poison baiting. If so, I am strongly opposed to this inhumane method.

If this bill is supported by the majority of committee members, please consider making these amendments to this bill:

1. Section 2 (a), first sentence should include 'in consultation with the Hawaiian Humane Society'. It's my understanding that the Hawaiian Humane Society is currently coordinating a scientific free roaming cat census. The department of land and natural resources should work together with this group to save time and money, and avoid duplication of efforts.
2. Section 1, paragraph 7 on efforts by the Australian government to reduce the feral cat population should be stricken as baiting is questionable as a humane method.
3. In section 2, (c), (b), (1), 'Eliminate' should be stricken and replaced with 'Reduce' to be consistent with intent of this bill.

If this bill is passed by this committee, please ensure that it is made absolutely clear that no inhumane method of feral cat reduction is supported in any way. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:56:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mai yamashita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

no way to kills cat. they are

sweet. whos idea was this.

You have no heart.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 5:59:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
eri udagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:00:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brenda L Gutierrez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987 and ask the committee to reject it. I ask that you instead provide adequate funding for more TNR programs. It is important to have people that look after the cats, this prevents over population, dumping, and prevents cats from having to hunt prey to feed themselves. Please consider providing more programs and funding so that the people of hawaii continue to care for these animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:03:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MARIKO SHIMIZU	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please stop selling creatures in pet stores and make a bill to take over rescued cats.

I have 3 rescued cats.

Very cute.

Don't take the life of stray cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:04:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Zee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987, eradicating cats via poison is inhumane. There are other options and researched based methods to control cat populations.

In the end it is not the cats fault but the community that fails to appropriately care for the population including spay/neutering their pets and inappropriately abandoning unwanted pets.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:05:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steve Robertson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Controlling feral cats is vital to protecting native Hawaiian ecosystems, marine life and human health. Cats are way out of control. Please do something!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:08:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isabel King	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The need to prevent the overpopulation of feral cats is real. However, the means being suggested here are barbaric and brutal. The use of "Trap, Neuter, Return" is low cost, humane and highly effective. Countless cities and towns have employed this, with government backing, and successfully reduced feral cat populations to low numbers, and eventually zero. Please consider this option. TNR is the future of animal control and sheltering: <https://www.alleycat.org/our-work/trap-neuter-return/>

Thank you,

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:11:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Miki Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against the bill to poison stray cats.

Animals are the same life as humans.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:13:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lovella Daoust	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am absolutely appalled that a bill like this is even being proposed. I know first-hand that much progress has been and is being made to humanely control and care for Hawaii's cats through spay and neuter programs and through the hard work and sacrifice of caring volunteers. These selfless people have spent thousands of their own resources to help reduce the population of feral cats through their spay and neuter programs and by placing cats in loving homes. This bill is not only cruel and inhumane, it is a slap in the face to all those who love and cherish animals. Please do not let this evil idea go any further. Please show respect for the elders in our community who care for the cats every day and for the lives of these animals who have every much right to live as any other creatures. Thank you for doing the right thing and striking down this inhumane bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:14:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
chris thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT kill community cats! MANAGE AND REDUCE their populations. Murdering these innocent creatures is not going to work long term and will create a vacuum that other cats will breed to fill in. Do not exasperate the problem, please help and support intensive Trap Neuter Release efforts by Hawaiian Humane Society and other rescue organizations. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:15:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shira L Hunt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please DO NOT let this bill (HB 1987 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES) be passed. We are working so hard to stop the growth of this species and we are making good progress.

Ghandi said, **“The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”**

This is true - don't turn us into a heartless Nation. These animals were brought here by humans and we should take responsibility to care for them. Many groups in Hawaii are trapping and spaying/neutering these feral cats to keep them to a minimum. Just last month, Catsnip (a nonprofit organization on the Big Island spayed and neutered 80 cats and placed 21 cats to new homes. We feed the ones that can not be placed to keep them healthy.

Please be a responsible Legislation and help us to care for this planet and all animals living on it. We humans are an animal species too, would you like someone to decide that your species needs to be eliminated?

Mahalo for considering my comments.

Sincerely: Shira Hunt

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:18:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
angelis libster	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for reading.. <3

These are communities of cats and this proposition is not a solution, it is inhumane and unnecessary. Once you kill these cats, all you will have is a grace period before more breeding takes place and fills the void... Thus, causing more harm and issue. Please hear me when I say this is not a solution AND will cause more harm in the long-run.

Please focus on implementing an effective way to **reduce overpopulation**, create an effective way to have **government bodies communicate with local shelters on these matters**, because there are plenty to choose from who would be more than willing to educate and help and create a system that actually works.. Please continue to invest in **TNR** procedure, trap, neuter, release.

This world is full of bullshit, and I would hate to see Hawaii's legislature participating in acts like this as a disguise for not wanting to make a more cognizant, necessary, and truly good change. Please do what is right for these sweet creatures, they need us for that reason.

Thank you so much and take good care.

Angelis.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:18:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mami Kawata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There should be another way

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:20:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yukino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

oppose!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:23:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Zepeda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How can such peaceful island people support killing cats?! This bill inflicts unnecessary cruelty onto animals and should not pass. If you start killing cats then you can rest assured my tourist dollars won't be going to your island and I won't be the only animal-loving tourist who feels this way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:24:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julie Lancaster Morris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We visit Hawaii as often as we can- we live in LA. One of the reasons I love coming is to visit the cats. Most recently we were staying at the Marriott on Hawaii and I loved spending time observing and petting the cats on our walks past the great tree. The organization ADvocats Hawaii is an organization that I support. Their work in neutering and spaying feral cats is working. That is the humane and effective way. I beg and urge you not to pass this measure. It is shameful. Cats are not pests. Thank you for your consideration and the ability to express my opinion. I frankly would be very disappointed in Hawaii if this passes and the joy of coming would be lessened.

Best, Julie Lancaster Morris

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:24:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Everett Jellinek	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My wife and I have been participating in Tran Neuter Release (TNR) for years. We have seen its effectiveness in our old neighborhood in reducing the spread of a feral cat population, and eventually reducing the total population to almost nothing. It is the most humane way to manage and reduce the numbers of feral cats. However, the process is cumbersome and expensive and relies on willingness of individuals and funds from non-profits. A clear and easy path to TNR these feral population should be established and FOLLOWED THROUGH prior to giving up and "culling." Legislation seems the best way to accomplish that.

Most of these feral cats descend from domesticated cats that have either escaped or been abandoned, whose irresponsible owners have neglected to get them fixed. I see an ethical issue with culling feral cat populations that have blown up because of human action. Incentivize people to participate in TNR. Make traps available affordably, give monetary incentives. There are other ways.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:28:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alina Daoust	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I know many people working on the spay/neuter and adoption program, and it is becoming increasingly successful. To disregard all their hard work and brutally slaughter the animals that they know and love is disrespectful and cruel. If you have a pet, think of them. How would you like it if someone came in and killed the animal that you've spent time with and cared for because it's an "inconvenience"? If you have a heart, you'll oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:28:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Keller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Culling feral cats is not only unbelievably cruel but it does NOT work. Programs should be created to trap and spay/ neuter these cats. There are so many cases where cities attempted to kill feral cats or stray dogs and it does not work. Simply killing the cats is not the answer.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:29:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurel Costales	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposing this bill. This is the wrong way to go. Spay/neuter is the best way but we need more services to get it done. Controlling the population is the answer and NOT KILLING the population of cats. The intentional killing of them is cruel and inhumane. The pandemic did not help the situation as spay/neuter services were almost to a halt for a significant period. Services are still limited and it's difficult to get an appointment. If more services are available and veterinarians can increase their participation in spay/neuter services, we can be successful in controlling the population instead of killing innocent and healthy cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:31:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Josephine Klingener	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Killing feral cats to control their population is just INHUMANE and UNETHICAL and simply HORRIBLE way to address this complex issue. We human should not blame and punish these innocent cats. These cats did not choose to be in this dire situation, on their own peril, all they are doing is fighting to survive. As humans we must ethically, humanely and responsibly address this issue. There is already an effective way. It's called TNR (Trap Neutered and Release). This ongoing humane solution helps to control the cats population and at the same time improving the quality of life of the feral cats. PLEASE DON'T KILL THESE INNOCENT CATS. WE MUST HELP THEM INSTEAD.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:35:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Pearl Nakagawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members:

Please do not pass HB1987 for further consideration. Feral cats are a big problem in our state, and reducing the population will greatly improve the quality of life for the entire community, but this bill proposes a method that is unnecessarily cruel to animals and may create additional environmental concerns. Death by poison often involves suffering as the animal's body naturally reacts to expel the toxic substance, and if the animal does not ingest a lethal dose, the animal continues to suffer until death. Cats often hide while in pain, so a poisoned cat will seek shelter, creating additional health hazards if colonies are poisoned and the carcasses accumulate in inaccessible areas. Has the DLNR planned for prompt recovery of all of the bodies so the ingested poison does not further contaminate the environment as the bodies decompose? Birds and rodents may scavenge a poisoned cat's corpse and further spread the toxin further into the ecosystem.

Instead of promoting a cruel and toxic solution to the problem of feral cats, I would suggest increasing available funding to nonprofit groups who practice TNR (trap, neuter, release) at feral cat colonies. This practice is humane, and it not only reduces future population, but it also encourages adoption of cats into homes. If our state practices mass TNR, not only will the feral cat population decrease, our local economy may benefit as our veterinary clinics are contracted to perform neutration. Dozens of volunteers already assist nonprofit agencies in TNR, and many would continue voluntarily to reduce the population because they consider this practice a benefit to animal welfare, but funding resources such as humane traps and clinic transport would encourage further participation.

Please end this bill and consider other measures that would reduce the feral cat population in Hawai'i. This bill proposes a barbaric practice that will also attract negative publicity to our Islands. Let's extend our legacy of Aloha to all creatures.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:36:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Toshie Osborn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is cruelest ever! Plese don't do this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:36:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cindy jung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

2.3.22

Aloha,

I am opposed to any bill that calls for killing of any creature, specifically proposed bill HB1987. This is animal cruelty plain and simple. TNR (trap, neuter, release) has been shown over and over again to be the best answer to cat overpopulation. Not starvation or killing them. Hawaii is supposed to be the Aloha state. Does animal cruelty really say Aloha?

I have lived here for 17 years and in that time I have cared for countless community (feral) cats, most of which were dumped by uncaring people. Some of these cats became like family to me. Watching one of them die a slow death from poisoning was excruciating! These cats did not ask for this life but it is our responsibility as decent human beings to help them. We help them by feeding them and getting them spayed or neutered so they are no longer procreating. By feeding them they are not hunting native birds for food. By not feeding them they are more than likely not going to get spayed or neutered creating an even larger overpopulation problem.

The most recent member of my family is a community kitten that I rescued from our condo parking lot. We have worked with these community cats to get them socialized and sometimes get them homes. At minimum we can get them to trust us so we can get them to the vet to be spayed/neutered. Nobody wants a whole bunch of starving cats and kittens running around killing birds but killing them will NOT solve the problem.

I do not know what is happening on other islands but I know that Maui has a lot of outreach for TNR (trap, neuter, release). This is a program that works to reduce the cat population. Think about it. More cats getting spayed/neutered means less cats having babies. These cats can live out their lives without contributing to any further overpopulation. You can put the money you want to use to kill all the cats towards programs like TNR that are proven to work. You cannot kill your way out of the overpopulation problem.

Thank You,

Cindy Jung

Maui, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:39:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mary northrup	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't kill the cats.

TNR is a much more effective not to mention humane way to deal with this problem that has been caused by humans.

if this passes, I will never visit Hawaii again and will ask the same of my friends.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:40:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
saori hashimoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose it. We are absolutely opposed to the idea! It's a crazy!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:40:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hiroimi Itoh	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The culling is a very short-circuited idea. The life of endemic creatures and stray cats' lives are equally important.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:41:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Henry Gee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is so inhumane to kill these cats, when they can be neutered. Thank you

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:43:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alice	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill if it plans to kill feral cats. There are other ways to help reduce the feral cat population besides killing innocent creatures. For example, if the state would pay its citizens to TNR (trap, neuter & return), the community would most likely become a lot more involved and supportive of making sure free roaming cats are fixed. Simple as that.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:44:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tara Weikum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am testifying in opposition to this shameful proposal. I live on Maui so my personal experience and knowledge is related to that island although I believe it's a fair assumption that my feedback applies to all islands.

There is a significant community here on Maui that works together to take care of colony cats. We help each other fundraise for injured animals, get cats adopted when possible, help feed when regular feeders are unable, and offer advice and support to one another in all kinds of ways. Many of us work closely with the Maui Humane Society and follow their guidance with the Trap Neuter Return Maintain program. We get cats spayed or neutered and we maintain colonies where they are to limit their expansion.

Many colony cats defy the definition of "feral" as they are socialized to varying degrees and depend upon the colony caretakers. A large number of these cats are former pets who have been left behind or have been stolen, trapped, and dumped by thoughtless people who don't take the time to figure out another solution.

Instead of promoting the idea of cruelly murdering innocent animals, there are many other actions that could be taken. On Maui, the Humane Society and its Humane Enforcement Dept could benefit from additional funds to help work with the cat population. They do what they can with their spay/neuter program and their limited ability to help enforce the laws regarding animal cruelty but they are stretched thin. Provide them and other similar orgs on all islands with funds to offer more help to cats as they do with dogs. Work with these orgs and colony caretakers to identify any colonies that may be in problematic locations. It is challenging to relocate a colony but not impossible and this is a far preferable solution than simply killing cats.

Do not promote the idea that it is ok to kill innocent animals. It is inhumane and cruel to even propose this idea.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:45:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fred Fall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not enact this cruel,awful bill.The only humane solution to the feral cat problem is trap,neuter and release.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:46:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Suzanne Eibeck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This plan to eradicate "feral" cats in the Hawaiian Islands is based largely on anecdotal evidence and uses the few actual research studies it quotes to draw extreme conclusions about the course of action recommended in the bill. Homelessness among cats is a problem created by inhumane action (animal abandonment and lack of effort to promote spay/neuter of owned and unowned cats) and should not be resolved by another inhumane action, killing cats who are homeless through the fault of human action. TNR is a known, effective tool to reduce populations of homeless cats, limiting reproduction to shrink populations along with attrition as cats die through natural progression.

Rather than extreme measures, I suggest funding massive sterilization efforts organized through municipal shelters that are funded by taxpayer dollars and fund public media campaigns to promote sterilization of all cats and dogs, as well as remind residents it is illegal to abandon domestic animals. It won't be a quick solution, but this isn't a new problem in Hawaii, and it's unfair to the cats to pay for human fault with their lives.

Eradication will only be a temporary solution as the vacuum eradicated homeless cats leave behind will be filled by newly abandoned animals. Until Hawaii enforces animal abandonment laws and promotes spay/neuter in a meaningful way, this will not go away. There are numerous national organizations that work with governments to resolve human/cat conflicts, why not pursue that instead of extreme measures that are inhumane and don't address the real issue? Why make cats pay the price for human mistakes? "Feral" cats are not wild animals as they are portrayed, they are unsocialized domestic cats--and no different from genetically from the cats many residents own and love. Among other concerns, how would this eradication program distinguish unowned from owned cats that run loose? How will poison not kill other wildlife?

I urge you to consider less extreme measures to lower homeless cat populations in Hawaii. I have long been embarrassed by the lack of effort Hawaii has put into helping these domestic animals, and now I am far more embarrassed at the barbaric, ill-conceived, and ultimately futile exercise in state-sanctioned animal cruelty suggested in this bill. Please do not vote yes on this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:47:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mae Cohen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The area is already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

Please increase funding for spay/neuter programs. Please DO NOT use any inhumane methods of reducing the cats in Hawaii. That is horrific to imagine and would make me not support any form of tourism to the Islands.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:47:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Agota F Fehervari	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The most humane method of reducing the feral cat population is the TNR method (trap, neuter, release). Neutered cats can control the rodent population, which could explode if cats, the main natural predators of mice and rats are eliminated. Rodents cause damage (think agriculture, food industry) and spread deadly diseases. Please recall, that mongoose was introduced to Hawaii in an effort to control rodents, but mongoose being diurnal and rodents nocturnal, this effort was unsuccessful. Instead, mongoose population is high now on our island, hunting during the day for birds (and their eggs) instead, that this bill is intended to protect. A more effective approach would be to count and decrease the mongoose population, and use the TNR method to control and reduce the population of feral cats. Using cat baits is cruel and is likely to poison some of our pets (cats and dogs) as an unintended consequence.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:50:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maki Horikawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We can find more humane way to deal with the issue together.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:50:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mark jung	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is animal cruelty plain and simple and I am opposed to it.

I have cared for many outdoor cats in the nearly 17 years I have lived here. This includes one that I rescued from life outdoors to live with me in my home. Another was a beautiful calico that lived for over 15 years outdoors. She was spayed and had a great life right up until the end. I am sure you will hear this many times but the answer to cat overpopulation is TNR (trap-neuter-return) not killing. That is what you should be funding. I could list all sorts of statistics and facts but I am not going to do that. Be human. Have compassion and try to understand that these creatures did not ask to be in this situation. Show Aloha.

Thank You,

Mark Jung

Maui, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:51:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra Sakata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This measure requires DLNR to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by 6/30/23 and requires the invasive species council to develop and implement a program to effectively reduce the feral cat population in the State by 12/31/25 by the use of poisoned bait.

I am shocked and dismayed at the cruel and vicious intent behind this vile measure of using poisoned bait to kill abandoned and defenseless animals. Providing reasonable and adequate resources for the general public and colony caretakers to utilize in stopping the reproductive cycle would be a preferable alternative to such a harsh and despicable eradication program, this is not Nazi Germany. It is deeply disturbing to me that this idea has been considered and allowed to progress this far.

I agree with the Hawaiian Humane Society's stance that data is needed to better understand the state's Free-Roaming cat population and presently coordinating such an effort with researchers who conducted the groundbreaking [DC Cat Count](#).

Debra Sakata

95-422 Lauawa St

Mililani, HI 96789

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:51:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayaka Uehira	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are all living together. We can't kill any animals. Cats too.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:52:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christian Libster	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT kill community cats! MANAGE AND REDUCE their populations. Murdering these innocent creatures is not going to work long term. Do not exasperate the problem, please help and support intensive Trap Neuter Release efforts by Hawaiian Humane Society and other rescue organizations. They work tirelessly to find a better life for these mistreated cats. There are so many other alternatives to just deciding to poison and kill the population. humane societies all over the country would be estatic to revieve those future family members. Think of the keiki and the smiles on their faces when they adopt their new best friend.. please have a heart and do not support HB 1987. instead give more support to the humane society and other rescue orginazations. Theyre the people out there after every big storm pulling kittens out of storm drains and getting them nursed back to health. Those people are heros, give them your support. Mahalo for your compassion. Oppose HB 1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:52:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
John Doe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987 because it is inhumane, will cause needless suffering, and will not be effective in terms of solving what it aims to solve (in fact, it will have the opposite effect). Here's why:

It would likely be impossible to fully eradicate feral cat populations on such a large scale with lethal, or even non-lethal, means. It has proven to be more effective, and humane, to properly manage the cats through targeted and comprehensive Trap Neuter Return (TNR) programs. Here are a few points to consider:

- Attempting to fully eradicate or kill the current cats all at once will be counterintuitive – doing so will actually increase the number of cats over time, therefore deeming it not only cruel but also ineffective.
- Eradicating the cats will also have adverse side effects on wildlife including birds. For example, in some cases, removing the cats altogether can actually create a dramatic increase in rats, which in turn harms the birds, the very species this bill aims to protect.
- Cat predation of rodents and rabbits, particularly on islands, has been shown to actually protect vulnerable bird populations.
- Outdoor cats provide several other critical benefits to our modern-day, extremely complex ecosystems.
- There is proof that with TNR: the feral cat population is stabilized (creating less cats over time), adoptable kittens/cats are removed from the outdoors, feline and community health goes up, nuisance issues and complaints go down, and euthanasia rates go down (saving tax-payer dollars). Additionally, targeted and comprehensive TNR ultimately reduces the threat to wildlife – less cats outside means less threat to wildlife.

Considering the facts presented above, as well as many other factors I have not mentioned here, it would be more productive and beneficial if cat advocates and wildlife conservationists could work together to create humane solutions, such as TNR and other associated deterrent methods.

In conclusion, please vote NO on HB 1987 and consider more strategic and innovative approaches to work together to restore wildlife habitat while simultaneously implementing effective and humane programs that both minimize outdoor cat populations and conflicts with wildlife.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:53:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tomoko Kimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I want to be a world where I can protect my precious life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:53:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tomoko Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. All living things are given the right to live equally. Humans are not given the right to reduce the lives of other creatures. Humans are not that great. Shame on you. I am very embarrassed that such an embarrassing bill exists in the climate of animal conservation activities.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:53:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Drisana Davis	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is horrifying to learn about! I hope that you are ONLY considering humane spay/neuter programs. Please do not harm the cats in Hawaii.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:54:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yumi Nakaniwa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think about Cats aren't bad.

I'm just living hard.

Look for other ways.

First of all, no more

Please perform fix so that it does not increase.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 6:58:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hiraoka Tomomi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a strong passion for Hawaii.

Please do not kill cats.

Hawaii is a beautiful place.

Please be kind to animals, and reconsider the proposed change in the law.

In Japan, we have a voluntary association who carry out abortion surgery. This has helped reduce the number of cats.

Please do not choose to kill, and protect the lives of the cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:02:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Yokogawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987 and urge the legislators to fund humane TNR efforts instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:02:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

猫を毒殺する権利は人間にはない。

The management of community cats has been an issue in many locations for nearly a century. Experience has shown that the traditional approach of trapping and killing cats in an attempt to reduce their numbers is ineffective, as is illustrated by the persistence of the problem in many locales despite the employment of lethal efforts for many decades. Of course, lethal management is also widely considered to be inhumane.

Multiple opinion surveys indicate strong public support for the non-lethal management of community cats.

Since the 1990s, the practice of trap-neuter-return (TNR) has proliferated in the U.S. because it has proven to be more effective than lethal methods of community cat management. A fact that, despite claims made by opponents of TNR, is supported by science.

Recently-published results of sophisticated simulation modeling suggest that TNR of sufficient intensity offers significant advantages in terms of reducing population size and improving animal welfare when compared to lethal methods or taking no action. And, a growing body of field research supports these conclusions. In fact, the results of five case studies, each published since 2017, indicate that intensive TNR is capable of producing significant and sustainable long-term reductions in community cat populations across a variety of contexts. Such progress is already being made in Hawaii.

We must reject the brutally inhumane and ineffective methods proposed in HB 1987 and embrace the humane, evidence-based approach to community cat management: spay/neuter via TNR.

Daniel Spehar, MS

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:04:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chris Miller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The most humane way to control the feral cat population is through TNR trap-neuter-return. Poisoning the cats is cruel and inhumane. Also putting money into free spaying and neutering Hawaii residents' cats will go a long way to controlling the feral cat population. TNR and managing the feral cat population is the best way to go. Tourism is important to Hawaii and cruelly poisoning the feral cats will tarnish Hawaii's reputation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:06:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kacy Kim	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Many "feral" cats on the islands have the ability to be easily domesticated and adopted to homes. An alternative, more humane method to reducing the feral cat population needs to be practiced before baiting. Trap and fix cats then send them off island to the mainland before resorting to baiting.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:09:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Mack	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987

This bill amounts to cruelty to animals, which is illegal. Poisoning cats is barbaric and inhumane. You can try to call it humane, but it's not! It's poison! The state should spend money to support TNR and spay/neuter programs rather than cruelly killing cats. These are the humane, civilized ways of controlling the cat population. This bill would also allow the killing of people's pets, if they eat the bait, which would surely result in multiple lawsuits. Do you plan on checking for microchips before poisoning these cats? The state would be overrun with rodents without cats and rats also kill young birds and eat bird eggs. Please read the following article and educate yourselves about TNR. The residents of Hawaii, especially young people also need to be educated about the importance of spaying, neutering and properly caring for animals. Thank you.

<https://www.alleycat.org/resources/junk-science-gets-cats-killed/>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:10:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
youyasutomi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please save the life of the cat.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:11:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rebecca Slocum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a barbaric, brutal, and inhumane proposition. The cat spay/neuter program for feral cats is being successful. I urge anybody with any speck of humanity to oppose this horrible, gruesome bill. Rebecca Paige Slocum

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:13:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Colette Pryslak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a lover of cats, I'm opposing this bill to slaughter them all.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:19:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
peter simmons	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Peter D. Simmons

59-416 Ka Nani Dr.

Kamuela, HI 96743

RE: HB: 1987

Aloha Members of our House of Representatives:

My name is Peter Simmons and I retired after a career of land and resource management at Kamehameha Schools including supervising KS' small mammalian predator project. I am opposed to this legislation.

While this bill is well intended, it's purpose is to preserve Hawaii's native wildlife it is wrong headed in its facts. Its misleading analysis is directed at cats when it should be directed at rats. Removing all the cats only invites more rats into sensitive ecosystems. The effort should be to reduce rat populations. When the primary food of feral cats (rats) is dramatically ecosystems improve.

Thank you to the Kauai Humane Society for their well researched and compelling testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter D. Simmons, Ret.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:21:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sophia Hensz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a barbaric bill, certainly in this day we can find a more appropriate way of dealing with invasive species that does not involve cruelty.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:21:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
virginia Kalvelage	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987 because felines are domesticated animals and it is our responsibility to solve the over population of cats on Oahu in a humane way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:22:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
hirona nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have a strong passion for Hawaii.

Please do not kill cats.

Hawaii is a beautiful place.

Please be kind to animals, and reconsider the proposed change in the law.

In Japan, we have a voluntary association who carry out abortion surgery. This has helped reduce the number of cats.

Please do not choose to kill, and protect the lives of the cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:22:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kaorisuzuki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose to this legislation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:22:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shari Massey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern ~

One of my closest friends is part of an organization you may be interested in contacting, Friends of Ferals, in Colorado. They have successfully reduced the cat population in Colorado (and trips to other states) through their methods of spay/neuter in a humane and cost effective method of dealing with feline overpopulation; and if appropriate rehoming. Let the Committee know the Friends of Ferals program is already making significant progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method of cat overpopulation control spay/neuter.

I strongly suggest you research and study this program and modify HB1987 and it's funding to go to a humane, tried and true program for reducing the cat population in your state! I know their staff would be happy to discuss your concerns with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shari Massey

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:24:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Faye Ferris	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Neighborhood cats are already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter.

Don't kill innocent animals just because it's quick. They have just as much right to this world as we do.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:24:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Roland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a licensed veterinarian in Iowa. I was in private practice as a small animal veterinarian for 35 years. I am now very active in volunteering my time to shelter medicine. Three years ago, I developed, from scratch, a spay/neuter program in the shelter I volunteer at. This has been a highly successful endeavor. We also help with TNR programs in our area. We are slowly but surely reducing the numbers of feral and unwanted animals with our spay/neuter programs. I will be traveling to the western states soon to participate in a successful S/N program they have been running for some time. Later in the year, I plan to volunteer at a S/N clinic in an international very successful program as well.

You need to adopt a spay/neuter program for your excessive feral cat problem. This will work for you - veterinarians will volunteer to do this for you. You can get a program set up. There are many successful programs you can look to for help in getting started. Spay/neuter is the ONLY humane way to successfully reduce your feline population, and I urge you to follow through with this option.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Roland, DVM

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:24:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra bushman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is the most barbaric form of murder against cats that I have ever heard of. I can't believe in the year of 2022 you would even consider this. Poisoning cats will also destroy your ecological system of your islands. It would kill many other animals and birds and plants etc. Trap neuter and return is the only safe answer to containing the cat population. It's not the cat's problem that the cat population is out of control, it's ignorant people that do not spay and neuter their pets. I firmly oppose this bill that murders cats. Debra Bushman

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:25:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amanda Schaefer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I stand in opposition to this legislation as it not only would put beloved pets and other animals at risk, but it also is cruel and not a long term solution. Increasing catch, spay or neuter, and release programs would be a better use of the suggested funding while doing a census of the total feral cat population.

I volunteer my time on a daily basis to bring feral cats into a spay/neuter program (Catsnip) here on the Big Island. We cannot "*kill*" our way into a solution here. The sole pathway with the feral cat population is through spay & neuter. As Gandhi wisely remarked, "*The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.*" Life and cats are not going to simply "*go away.*" Please address this matter in a more-humane way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:27:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
courtney Pagach	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Spay and neuter is the only effective, humane option to reduce the faral cat population. Various cat organizations on the island work endlessly to get the cats spay/neutered and have already greatly reduced the numbers. In order to see a more dramatic decrease in numbers, more resources and funding to spay/neyster clinics. Killing the cats is not only inhumane but it is only putting a bandaide on the problem. Be part of the solution, not the problem.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:27:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Miho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

This bill will enable and encourage people to kill animals in the most inhumane way by poisoning them. Such acts of violence towards animals will also further divide our community that is already fraught with tension.

Is it possible for our legislators and state agencies to consider a higher perspective that brings people together in positive ways as opposed to stooping to divisive tactics that can tear apart our community?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:27:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dilly Yusupova	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This insane practice must be stopped immediately. We are the humans have started to desttroy this world since December 2019.,,,

If the Hawaii legislation would continue to accomplish the unhumaine actions poisoning the outdoor animals, we are the citezens should post worldwide about the shamefull practicess and thoughts of Hawaiian agencies....

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:27:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
pompom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

OMG!!!!!!!

A human being does not have the qualification to kill a cat !
There was an image with the love in Hawaii.

I regret it heartily to be going to do something like this.

I want please you to choose a certain **Love** method.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:29:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jackie Woodruff	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose the inhumane, unfounded, and reckless HB1987 as a proposed measure of managing and/or controlling the feral cat population in Hawaii. The real problem of irresponsible residents is being completely overlooked --that is where the solution will be found.

As an animal-loving resident of the Ko'olauloa community for 19 years, I voluntarily adopted a feral colony at my jobsite and with the help of half a dozen other volunteers, we successfully Trapped/Spayed/Neutered/Returned/Managed all the ferals present. We even adopted some out to homes. Almost every single week, some irresponsible residents would dump more cats behind our office. We repeated the process, at our own expense, every time newly dumped cats were found on the property. As a caregiver to the helpless, voiceless former or rejected pets, it is heartbreaking to see the cats arrive terrified, hungry, neglected and accused for something that is the fault of uncaring humans.

Too often on social media platforms, I see Military families claiming they are being transferred and need to rehome their pet. Residents post multiple times a day that they are moving to a new apartment and the new landlord doesn't allow pets so now they have to rehome their pet. These people see a managed colony and they think, "Oh I'll just set it out over there and those people will feed it." It is 100% on the residents and the cats are being blamed!!! Now this ridiculous HB1987 comes along to poison these defenseless animals that did not ask for any of this. The fact this action is even being considered is horrendous.

Let's say this passes and ferals across the island are poisoned. Did you solve the problem?? No! Because you didn't look at the root cause --the residents. They will do it over and over and over because there's no accountability. Here are some ideas for how to better use the funding:

1. If you really want to create a solution and make a positive difference, how about involving the rescues, the caregivers, the law enforcement, community associations and vets around the island and talk about the best way to handle it.

2. Hawaii has in place so many agencies and low-cost vets that surpass anywhere else in the United States for assisting with Trap Neuter Return. Use these resources. Put the funding into programs and non-profits that tirelessly work around the clock to care for these cats. There are agencies and individuals who would love to provide no-kill shelters in their communities. Fund those programs instead and put more funding into preventing animal dumping across the island.

3. Encourage more landlords around the island to accept tenants with pets. A pet deposit is more than reasonable and keeps the pet with its family.

4. Discourage transient military members from permanent adoptions, but rather create a foster program instead so they can provide a loving home to an animal that is in a shelter.

Above all, this HB1987 is a horrible, awful and inhumane manner in which to approach such a sensitive issue as an innocent life.

Thank you for your time. Mahalo,

Jackie R. Woodruff

Nanihoa Loop, Laie

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:29:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sarena Delgadillo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Research has proven that this method is ineffective and IMMORAL. Absolutely disgusting that I even have to write this. Instead, donate to local organizations that TNR these cats. STOP BEING LAZY.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:30:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Emi Hanamizu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We should not kill animals for any reason.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:30:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Masayo Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:31:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Dominic Salomon Jaramillo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please take this into consideration

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:31:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Lozar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is inhumane and I'm 100% opposed. You can find a better solution than mass murder.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:32:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Canon Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Every life is equal. THE EARTH IS NOT JUST FOR HUMANS.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:32:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hanako	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:32:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
char murakane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats are not on the forest where the endangered birds are hiding from humans. Cats keep down the rodent and unwanted insect population and has become part of the ecosystem. In the early 1900s we had a problem with plague. Dlnr brought in the mongoose which was a diurnal animal while rats are nocturnal and was not effective. Dlnr brought the cane toad which is. Ocyurnal but they dont survive in the vast lava rock desert. Please do not kill cats. Many people have assisting doing catch and neuter.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:33:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liz Noetzel	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

It is with deep concern that I submit this testimony AGAINST HB 1987. While no one argues that homeless cats are of concern, there are many individuals and organizations hard at work spaying, neutering, feeding and caring for these animals that are at our mercy. Many of them were pets that were abandoned by their owners for one reason or another-- and many were born in the wild through no fault of their own. While it is such a tragic situation, killing them is absolutely NOT the answer. EDUCATION and more funding for the non profit organizations who spy and neuter them is the answer!

WE ARE THE ALOHA STATE and should this horrifying bill pass, it will make NATIONAL headlines, and not in a positive way! We must preserve our Aloha spirit- not only for the sake of maintaining tourism dollars, but because it is our responsibility to take care of the 'aina and ALL of its inhabitants. The food chain will be disrupted in more ways than can be understood, and there is research that has proven that eliminating feral cats does NOT end up eliminating feral cats- all it takes is a few people who do not spay or neuter their animals and who let them outside- and the entire cycle continues. That will happen!! EDUCATION is KEY to solving this problem and as an educator, I do my best to teach my students the importance of altering their pets so as to not contribute to the overpopulation problem. Humane Education is critical. Funding is critical.

Being humane is critical. No animal should die because of human irresponsibility. There are so many people working so hard to help this situation and they have made great progress- Advocats and Catsnip Hawaii have spayed and neutered over 25,000 cats on the Big Island. Assist them in their efforts, do not allow this bill to progress. It will NOT reflect well on our state at all! HB 1987 is not humane, it is archaic and inappropriate, backwards thinking to believe that it would actually even work (it won't!), and it is not a reflection of who we are as a people of these islands. Please, regardless of whether you are a cat lover, stand up for God's creatures.

With much mahalo and appreciation for your consideration,

Liz Noetzel

Teacher, Waikoloa School

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:33:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yukinko tsujimura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:36:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kahi Fujii	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee on Agriculture,

The real problem of why native species are continuing to become extinct is because of humans. Climate change, deforestation, marine debris, pollution, development, and the list goes on are reasons why we have caused native species to decline.

Killing cats inhumanely is not the answer. Feral animals who are shot or poisoned suffer and feel pain in the same way that our family cats do.

Cat organizations like Cat Friends and individual feeders have already made progress by reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method which is to spay and neuter feral cats. Cat organizations like Cat People of O’ahu have been making strides in finding homes for cats, especially because most of the feral cats in cat colonies are not feral, but have been abandoned or dropped off by their owner/breeder. People who abandon their cats need to be held accountable.

Predator-proof fenced areas are an effective and better way to control feral cat impacts (in restricted areas).

The 2013 University of Hawai’i survey is eight years old and needs to be updated to reflect what Hawai’i residents are currently thinking.

I do not support the proposed H.B. 1987 as there are more humane and better ways to protect and conserve native species.

Mahalo,

Kahi Fujii

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:41:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sugane Kubota	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can't believe that idea.

So terrible.

Cat and human's life are same.

Therefore I don't support.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:41:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natsumi Otsuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I hope that this legislation is reconsidered. There should be a more in-depth analysis on the "other" effective techniques other than killing such as trap-neuter-release which allows at least the freedom to live... There should be a more humane solution to reduce the loss of endangered species other than killing other species?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:42:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
JILL M VANZANDT	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

What a disgusting bill. Shame, shame. Are we a third world country???? You mean the state of Hawaii cannot come up with a better solution. Progress is being made reducing the number of cats with the ONLY humane and effective method -spray/neuter. I am appalled.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:43:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
hana yamamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:43:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yayoi Sutherland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't agree poisoning animals. It is not cat's fault. Who has right to choose which species should be protected and which species should be killed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:44:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
salena ohta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support the killing of feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:44:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Scott Zuziak	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do understand the problem the feral population poses. But I feel a different and more humane approach should be explored, including a heavier focus on spay and neuter of feral colonies.

The idea of poisoning an entire population of animals leaves me speechless. It seems an extremely cruel and painful way to euthanize any animal. I feel we can and should do better.

Please consider other options for reducing the feral population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:47:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Liz Lees	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this idea!

This brutal scheme will produce a huge public outcry.

It is a sledge hammer approach when a scalpel is needed.

First, what could go wrong?

"Culling" someones beloved pet that has been relocated by a hostile neighbor? The unintended consequences of and explosion of uncontrolled vermin? So many times in Hawaii, in trying to "fix" one perceived problem, we create a much worse one-

Second- All pet owners should be required to spay/neuter their pets. Each county should fund and offer a free spay/neuter program as well a a public outreach/education campaign.

Third- A well managed (fixed and fed) feral cat colony at a transfer station, for example, provides a valuable service to the community in the form of vermin control. Cats in sensitive habitats should be trapped, fixed and relocated to non-sensitive areas. Toxoplasmosis exists in the environment is not cat only spread. Quit using this as a scare tactic.

Humans are an invasive species to Hawaii and damage the environment too. Yet we don't propose "culling" them.

There are many more humane and thoughtful solutions to this problem that will allow all of us to peacefully co-exist and reduce the population of unwanted cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:48:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
wendy Vlug	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please this is not the way to a humane way to reduce the cat population. It's brutal and not necessary. A better way is to spray/ neutralize cats so they can not produce any kittens.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:49:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen McManus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this inhumane bill. The Hawaii trap and release community is making headway on all islands to manage the feral cat population with humane methods. I have been involved in such programs in Mexico, Oregon and California , all of which were extremely successful in one years time. With a healthy budget and organized effort, strides can be made quickly to reduce the feral cat population with trap, spay/neuter and release methods without having to kill them. Please vote no against bill HB1987. Thank you. Concerned Hawaiian citizen

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:50:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marvin Eastman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not do this.

There are valid points in this bill, but there are other ways to halt the population of feral cats. Possibly a larger scale effort with TNR.

I cant believe we are talking about poisoning all those animals. Have you watched a poisoned animal die? It is slow and painful... PLEASE consider other options. Please.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:50:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Henry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose any bill that would lead to the unnecessary killing of feral cats. Resources should be allocated toward humane initiatives, including spaying/neutering and adoption.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:52:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YURIKA OTAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:52:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Mann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good morning!

As a "soon to be" citizen of Big Island, I am opposed to the passage of Bill HB1987. Local TNR (trap/neuter/release) programs have made good progress. And the feeding of feral colonies post neutering, demonstrates greatly reduced interest from these colonies as to the hunting of local birds - in numerous locales across the country. The potential usage of poison described in Bill 1987, is particularly and appallingly INHUMANE.

Thank you for considering these things tomorrow, 02/04/2022, when this Bill comes before the hearing committee.

Susan M. Mann

124-A Flynn Ave

Mountain View, CA

94034-3950

HB 1987

Since we founded Catsnip Hawaii in 2011, my husband and I have facilitated the spay & neuter of over 5,500 cats. And paid for a good portion of it. Some of these have been pets, but most of them have been “feral”. That includes yard cats, shopping center cats, beach park cats, harbor cats. These cats were all spayed or neutered, vaccinated and microchipped, and now you want to kill them, indiscriminately???. In the years between 2005 and 2011, I personally trapped hundreds of cats and took them to Advocats’ spay/neuter clinics. That organization has spayed and neutered over 20,000 cats – and you are in favor of killing them all ??

I haven’t researched all of the Australian procedures. I do know that Macquarie Island turned into a nightmare (in my opinion). They killed all the cats on the island to save the ground nesting birds. They then found that the rabbits ate all the vegetation, so no nesting materials for the birds. Last I heard, they were going to airdrop poison to kill all the rabbits. Do you ever wonder how that poison affected the fish in the ocean that the seabirds ate? And the kicker is the Macquarie Island is NOT inhabited by people.

The Hawaiian Islands ARE inhabited by people. If you kill all the cats, the mice and rats will proliferate. Do you plan to air drop poison to kill all these rodents? And what will be the toll on the Puelo and I’o that will be eating those poisoned mice & rats?

And how will you differentiate between “feral” and lost pet cats?

And how much will it cost to pick up all the dead bodies? Or do you plan to leave them out to rot?

I think everyone in the islands is in favor of reducing the number of free-roaming cats. We heartily agree, which is why we started Catsnip Hawaii. We think the answer lies in education (spay and neuter your pets, don’t dump your unfixed pet at the nearest beach park), and more funding for spay and neuter. The indiscriminate elimination of an entire species can drastically upset the balance of nature.

We hope you will reconsider the harmful effects of this bill.

Sincerely,

Bernice McBryde Henderson, President and Founder of Catsnip Hawaii

Greig Henderson, Vice-President and Founder of Catsnip Hawaii

Aloha,

I'm grateful that our legislators are concerned for our flora and fauna. To that end, we are all stewards of the environment, and humane treatment of all animals. This is why I'm very concerned with how open-ended this bill is, and where it will likely go if our lawmakers only listen to the loudest "squeaky wheels".

I applaud the proposal to do a count of feral cats per island. However, I would suggest that if the purpose of the bill is to control the population, spayed/neutered cats should not be part of the population to be reduced, as they are no longer able to reproduce, and natural hazards/environment will reduce their natural lifespans. Also, what is defined as "control of the feral cat population"? Is there a specific number? The reason why I ask is because if the goal is zero feral cats, I am very pessimistic that goal will ever be reached without an outright ban of feline ownership, or adoption only through specific organizations.

I'm against certain methods of "control", which are live capture and lethal injection. I know that many residents have a deep dislike of cats marking and defecating on their property, and even well-fed cats will still kill the occasional bird with no intention of eating it. However, cats generally have a fairly small area they tend to frequent. I would suggest consulting with several of the lead veterinarians on the most humane way to control the population, and hold owners accountable for abandoning their pets. Don't let people get away with just relinquishing ownership, but charge them with abandonment and apply a significant fine per animal. All of this should be made as transparent as possible to the public. For cats that are microchipped and have a verified owner, the owner should be held accountable for allowing their pet to free roam. Those that file a lost report shouldn't be penalized. The military will also need to be held accountable, since many do abandon their cats due to unexpected high costs of transport, and commanders don't consider it a priority or responsibility, even though there was a public statement to the contrary.

Well-fed ferals generally will prefer to stay in the area they are fed, and the need/urge to hunt is substantially reduced. I've actually seen this as a result of dedicated volunteer caretakers. It may be harsh, but I think many would agree that ferals that specifically hunt native birds will need to be euthanized to maintain protection. The rest, though, should be humanely maintained until natural death.

Hawaii already has a reputation as being not pet friendly, so we should tread carefully. I implore our lawmakers to actively work with the many nonprofit cat rescue organizations, the Hawaiian Humane Society, DLNR, and the invasive species council to come up with a comprehensive bill that reflects positively on our State.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:56:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haruka Anderson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning animals for human-made reasons should not be done as a person living on the same earth. It is an act only for human life, and I strongly oppose poisoning animals. Will the government poison its citizens if the human population grows? It never happens. What we need to do for them is to focus on policies that allow stray animals to have forever home.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:57:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
CAROL AGBISIT	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

Aloha,

I have been taking care of all kinds of animals and have a conony that I take care of. this is crazy and Murder. What has ths world come to, there are other ways and what gives us the right to decide this mass murder. it is no control. there are many many serious reasons this bill should not pass. all the dead animals would create more problems. NO NO NO TO NOT PASSING THIS BILL!!!!!! I WILL TRY TO MAKE THE ZOOM MEETING BUT IF NOT PLEASE SUBMIT MY TESTAMONY.

Mahalo,

Carol Agbisit

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:57:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Watson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

This bill is unconscionable. How can you call a cat in invasive species. These poor animals have been dumped neglected and left to fend for themselves. Why don't you sponsor a bill that helps to capture spay neuter and chip them. There's plenty of states that even have animals shortages, they could be shipped out, but to kill them is Criminal! Why don't you work with the cat rescue organizations in town to come up with other options!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:58:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nichole Gray	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am a media professional and graduate research assistant. I became aware of HB187 via a campaign alerting of the cruel proposition of poisoning the cat population of Hawaii as a means of population control. I have been a member of the cat rescue, and TNR (trap-neuter-return), community for over a decade. Beyond being an advocate for cats, I'm an advocate for humane treatment of animals. Proposing animals to be poisoned is an extreme and barbaric thing. There are several more ethical ways to deal with an "invasive" species, especially when we are discussing felines. Instead of mass death, perhaps consider educating the population about fixing their pets, providing services, and setting into motion a government TNR (trap-neuter-return) program to sterilize ferals/strays. HB1987 places the cats of Hawaii as villains, when they are often victims of abandonment and human nature. Please consider a more ethical, humane choice in your quest to control the cat population.

Sincerely,

Nichole M. Gray

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:58:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Norma Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a community issue dear to my heart. It's also one that divides a community. I, personally, have seen over the last 20 years what the TNR program does for a feral cat community. I have watched as the colony near me go from dozens and growing, at one point, to where we are now, down to maybe 2 dozen cats. May I remind all of you that 90% of the cats in this colony were dumped off pets(many unsterilized) by residents moving and not taking the responsibility to rehome or take them to a shelter. How does dropping off a pet cat, most likely a house cat, into the wild make sense? How is this life "better" than a shelter or rescue organization? These cats know dry/wet food and litter boxes, treats, toys, cat trees, etc. Lanai Cat Sanctuary is a prime example of what our islands need. These cats are taken from the harbor area or wherever they congregate and given proper medical care and human interaction with the ultimate goal of getting them adopted. If adoption is not in their cards, they are welcomed to live out their natural lives, comfortably, in an open air sanctuary. Please refer to their program as many mainland shelters have contacted them to learn how to do what they do. Even the schools help out. It is an amazing place, run by mostly volunteers, many cats have been adopted out to the mainland. Please do NOT lump all these cats into one general solution. Poisoning is cruel!! We arrest and charge people who poison a neighbor's pet, why is this any different? People must be responsible and must be held responsible for their pets. They are NOT disposable. Donations of land and materials to set up and run a sanctuary would be needed, but I am certain volunteers will come forward. All of the smaller non profit rescues can then join forces work to make this place a reality. In the end all animal lovers just want animals to be safe, healthy and happy. Thank you for being open to alternate solutions.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 7:59:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jackie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this! How can anyone with a conscience wish a painful horrible scary death to these cats that never asked for this homeless life? These cats are dumped by heartless people. You should have a bill that actually punishes these people instead of these cats. There are many people helping our feral cat community.

I can think of better things to spend my tax dollars on than killing cats.

Killing is never the first answer to anything.

Please don't let this pass, this is an awful bill. I can't believe this was even brought up! If this passes, what's next? Poisoning the homeless people? Because they are bothersome? No. We need compassion in society. Please. These cats don't deserve to be poisoned to death.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:00:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vanessa Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Honorable House members of the Ag Committee:

I respectfully disagree on the basic premise of the bill relating that feral cats are the main cause of native wildlife populations on all Islands. I also am opposed to the approach being outlined as far as funding a population count for the express purpose of then "eliminating" them from certain islands, and by 50 percent on Oahu. No where does this bill address the fact that other species of introduced animals, namely rats, mosquitos {transmitters of avian viral and other diseases}, and mongooses, also contribute to this issue - yet, the Legislature has not funded eradication programs to eliminate these. No where is there recognition that the trap, neuter, release program has been successful in other places around the world. In short, this bill attempts to ramrod a solution before a through study is done with all stakeholders, to come up with the most humane solutions to protecting ALL wild life, including community cats.

I oppose this bill as it is now written. I urge all committee members to vote No. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:01:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Carter	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I understand that cats have a long history of human companionship, and when treated as an invasive species, arouse strong feelings in people. However the plain truth is that they are an invasive species here in Hawaii and a dangerous predator of our endangered birds. As other island Communities such as New Zealand have done, we must take strong action to protect the endemic animals that have evolved here over millennia, and controlling our out of control cat population is the only effective way. Trapping and spay/neuter cannot effectively touch the thousands of cats that are not in proximity to humans or not approaching traps. Please act on behalf of our native species, which have a right to the life they are adapted to, free of mammalian predators, and more so, a right to continue existing as a species.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:02:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nancy Wallace	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is inhumane and likely to be ineffective- resulting in half dead and sick

cats. Those of us who care about and are helping cats are not be considered, consulted

real progress is bring made with the spa/neuter program

Please vote against this disgraceful bill

mahalo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:04:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
jaimé T	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not move forward with this! This is inhumane! There are solutions out there that are not being considered. They did not deserve to be put in this position and it is our duty as compassionate human beings to take responsibility and come up with a better solution. Many of these cats are pets that people are still trying to recover!!! Please can you look in your children's eyes and say you really did your best? And when your family adopts any animal because of your compassion to help, can you honestly feel good about yourself knowing you did all you could? We as the community are willing to come together to produce a better solution, but we need your assistance and mercifulness! It can be measured how humanity will turn for the worst by these horrible actions like this irradiation of these precious creatures on our planet earth that we share all together. Do the right action and Don't Kill, please!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:06:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ruth Castrigno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Let me make this clear. I fully support all lifeforms. I DO NOT support the killing of animals, who are sentient beings. Those who have brought this bill to life are supposed to be higher level cognitive beings. THIS is NOT higher level cognitive thinking. This would be continuing a pattern of killing that you are trying to stop. There are people who are working toward solving this issue. Why don't officials work with these people for a humane solution??? This pattern of killing will never stop. **HUMANS ARE THE MOST INVASIVE SPECIES, NOT CATS.** Perfectly stated by Becky Robinson, president and founder of Alley Cat Allies, "Killing millions of feral cats is barbaric, reprehensible and a morally flawed choice." The truth is this will be yet another domino effect. If you think poisoning cats will not poison/effect other species and the environment, you are sadly mistaken. And people are already doing this illegally. **WHERE IS THEIR PUNISHMENT FOR KILLING???** It is time that **WE STEP UP, PAY ATTENTION TO CLIMATE CONTROL, EMISSIONS FROM OUR CARS AND STOP BUILDING!!! THERE ARE A MYRIAD OF ISSUES THAT NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. SAVE THE FORESTS AND THE TREES FOR THE WILDLIFE BIRDS.** Let's have proactive, productive, positive solutions to "our" issues. We need to start with the humans who abandon these animals. And have stricter laws about **OUR RESPONSIBILITY** in this matter. WE need to take responsibility to help others, not **KILL** them. I am willing to participate in helping with further solutions to this matter, however I will not idly stand by and watch as innocent creatures are tortured and punished for our lack of compassion and intelligence.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:08:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
HIROTO MIYAGI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Save cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:09:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ERINO KANEKO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

i do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:10:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diego Marin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is unethical and ineffective. Please donate to organizations to TNR, as a more effective alternative.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:11:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ariel McKenzie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987. There are less inhumane ways to control the feral cat population. Poisoning feral cats? Where is the aloha spirit? I can name at least 5 non-profit organizations off the top of my head that organize adoptions and "trap, neuter, spay." (Hawaii Cat Foundation, Lucky Paws, Hawaii Cat Cafe, Pounce Cafe, Popoki and Tea, etc). There are countless more organizations, they are growing in numbers by the day, some of these organizations even fly cats to the mainland! From cat cafes, to small non-profits on facebook. The community is doing a lot to help this situation, killing innocenct animals is not the solution.

The late Chief Justice Richardson allowed for a family to recover emotional distress damages from the death of their dog. How do you think the hundreds of cat lovers will feel if this bill is allowed to pass?

Also, what about all the animal farming from Parker Ranch? Or the millions of ships that come into the islands to drop off goods because Hawaii is not self sufficient? Isn't that causing damage to the environment? Killing animals is not the answer, nor the only solution. We need to evaluate our actions as human beings.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:12:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Barbara Rossi-Underriner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB1987. It is a brutal and barbaric method to control the feral cat population. TNR is making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method-spay/neuter.

Thank you,

Barbara Rossi-Underriner

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:15:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shizuka Fujiwara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:15:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Julia Myers	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I understand the provision to contain the feral cat population is to poison them. Attempts to control unwanted species by poisoning them can have serious consequences - many other species may be unintentionally targeted, such as poisoned meat left out for wolves kills birds of prey, household pets, etc. This isn't a sound management strategy because it may not work as intended; it isn't humane, and it will not solve the problem over time. Trap, spay and neuter will overcome the problem in the long run, and working with volunteer organizations that want to help the animals and protect the environment too. For society - Provide affordable spay-neuter services to everyone; educate kids, educate everyone, get everyone on board that this protects our island's native species.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:16:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Payton Wagner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB 1987 is incredibly inhumane. Feral cats have become a beloved part of the community in Hawaii with many people doing a lot of great work to help ensure they are fed, happy, safe, and healthy. To propose counting and killing a whole population of innocent animals is simply evil and wrong.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:16:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Phyllis Hanson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The issue of feral cats is troublesome and destruction of the bird populations more so, but poisoning all feral cats doesn't seem to be the answer, especially when this poison could take "hours" to take effect. And it won't help any birds survive all the pet cats who go outside whenever they choose. Stopping cats from reproducing should eventually reduce the numbers of cats. Even trapping and humanely euthanizing... with something quick, would be better. And, what about all the dead bodies of these poisoned cats? Please don't pass this bill; come up with a better plan. Mahalo, pHyllis

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:17:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristl Mendez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill! Killing innocent cats is animal cruelty. Trap and neuter program has worked in keeping cat population down. I would like to know how these cats are getting to endangered birds that are way out in the wilderness? Cats are not the only reason for deaths of these birds. Don't forget actions humans make with chemical, pollution and other animals contribute to their deaths.

Cats help keep our rodent populatiin down. Disneyland and Disneyworld has about 200 cats on each property to help in their rodent problem. Why are you so willing to kill cats that do no harm to you? Cats can be put in places that will benefit the property's and them. Do not pass this bill!

Sincerely,

Kristl Mendez

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:19:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elizabeth Jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

You can label it bait instead of poison. You can call it an invasive species instead of a domestic cat but at the end of the day, you will be killing numerous pets with this bill. Please be aware of this because there will be severe backlash from owners of cats who have been killed by this method along with countless others who care for these poor animals. All of us will be looking for answers and there will be no response that will justify these purposeful killings. At this point, most of the cats outside belong to someone as they microchipped. Even the ones labeled strays or ferals have owners in the eyes of the law. There is no way to control who will be eating and dying from this poison. There is also no way to identify if a cat has an owner by sight alone. Just because you have contracted someone else do it, doesn't mean there is no responsibility on your part and that you will be free from blame when this happens. Poison not only leads to a cruel and horrific death but it is also such a risk for our aina and even the native species we are trying to protect. There are so many better ways to control the population and the input of those who are knowledgeable and invested have not even been considered. There are colony caretakers, the Humane Society and numerous cat rescue groups in Hawaii that daily work tirelessly to help temper this problem, which started with lack of education and legal response to those who dump and abandon cats, do not spay or neuter pets or people who have been trapping and relocating neighborhood pets. All of these are illegal but without any recourse, it will continue to happen daily. This problem will not end by culling cats. Do not be willingly fooled to believing in this. It needs to start with the source that created this issue in the first place. With more assistance from the state, this can result to a better outcome for all involved. Do we really want a financial liability to pet owners and a poor reputation of state of Hawaii of being pet animal killers? I think not.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:20:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Halverson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Many groups and individuals are doing their part to help control the feral cat population by trapping and spaying a neutering. The state should provide support for these efforts. Also the state should be holding pet owners accountable for dumping their animals which contributes to the problem.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:20:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kurt Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This Bill is insane! I find it totally unacceptable in every conceivable way. If anything is to be done, the State and it's Counties should invest in creating cat sanctuary locations on all the islands similar to the one on Lanai. I am 100% against the killing of these animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:21:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
liz Sappington	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning animals! How is that a humane solution? Allowing an animal to suffer til death then eventually recovering their bodies. Decimating known colonies? I feed a small colony and care for those animals so that is just disgusting to me.

People need to take responsibility. Quit getting animals and later discarding them when you move or get tired of it. Get animals fixed! Work with organizations on socializing the feral population as able and getting them adopted.

Poison is rarely specific...what about pets in the area or other animals?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:21:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maiko Ozawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

February 3, 2022

Opposition to Bill HB1987

Dear Committee on Agriculture,

The real problem of why native species are continuing to become extinct is because of humans. Climate change, deforestation, marine debris, pollution, development, and the list goes on are reasons why we have caused native species to decline.

Killing cats inhumanely is not the answer. Feral animals who are shot or poisoned suffer and feel pain in the same way that our family cats do.

Cat organizations like Cat Friends and individual feeders have already made progress by reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method which is to spay and neuter feral cats. Cat organizations like Cat People of O'ahu have been making strides in finding homes for cats, especially because most of the feral cats in cat colonies are not feral, but have been abandoned or dropped off by their owner/breeder. People who abandon their cats need to be held accountable.

Predator-proof fenced areas are an effective and better way to control feral cat impacts (in restricted areas).

The 2013 University of Hawai'i survey is eight years old and needs to be updated to reflect what Hawai'i residents are currently thinking.

We strongly oppose the proposed H.B. 1987 as there are more humane and better ways to protect and conserve native species.

Mahalo for your service to our community and this opportunity to submit our written testimony.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

Dennis H. Fujii and Pamela Lota Fujii

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:23:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
diane k paracuelles	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This eradication of feral cats being proposed are "horrible and inhumane". No animal should be poisoned and subjected to a long painful death! my suggestion would be to continue to allow feeders and organizations to come up with solutions and let them be heard!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:23:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Martha Girdany	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose HB1987. I do NOT want our beautiful Hawaiian islands to be known as the cat killing islands.

I am concerned about how surveys to determine the feral cat population will be conducted. Surveys in certain areas that would be extrapolated to estimate populations on the rest of an island will not be accurate.

I am much more concerned about the methods being contemplated for killing feral cats. The poisons used in Australia would almost certainly do damage to MORE than cats, particularly to include endangered seabirds. An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) MUST be conducted to examine the consequences of releasing these poisons onto our Hawaiian islands.

Furthermore, should most feral cats be killed, there will be a huge upturn in the population of rats, which are also predators of endangered seabirds. Scientific studies have shown that feral cats have helped keep down the population of rats, thus helping mitigate rat predation of seabirds.

Please do NOT pass this horrific bill.

Respectfully,

Martha Girdany

Resident of Kilauea, Kauai

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:23:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sage	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is unnecessary and our state money should go towards causes that are actually negatively impacting our society. Feral cats are not our biggest problem to tackle and many cats bring people happiness. Not to mention, these cats are also living beings and do not deserve to die for no reason other than the unfortunate fact that they were brought here as an invasive species.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:24:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Isabelle Stobie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to state that I believe this bill is unnecessary and cruel. The number of feral cats as being properly reduced over the years with spaying and neutering. I believe this method to be more effective and more humane. If reducing the population is really what this bill stands for, propose more funding for organizations that provide spaying and neutering to the animals. Spaying and neutering prevents future offspring, while preventing the end of an innocent life. If this were your pet roaming the streets, how would you prefer it be taken care of? The methods in which are being proposed in this bill are archaic and superfluous compared to the spay and neuter technique. Please think of the poor lives that will be ended with this bill, and provide better funding towards clinics and adoption centers such as the humane society, that provide more humane and reasonable forms of population control. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:24:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alicia Shoulta	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This will absolutely result in accidental poisoning of beloved pets or other animals. Controlling the population can be done by a strong spay/neuter program. Poising is inhumane and there is no way to control how the cat reacts, this could result in unintended injuries to others as well as humans in the area. Poison is never a good option.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:25:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Forshey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB1987 Relating to Invasive Species - Testimony in Opposition to the Bill

House Committee on Agriculture (AGR)

Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

I stand firm with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) in solid opposition to this proposed legislation.

While I believe that free roaming feral cats are a scourge on our land and need to be managed, the idea of a mass killing through poisoned bait is abhorrent, cruel, and in direct opposition to all that this state stands for - it is NOT righteous, sensitive, pono.

I am heartbroken over the diminished native species impacted by our stray cat & rat populations. And, I detest finding litter, feces, empty food & water bowls left on public property by people feeding these cats but unwilling to truly care for them. I detest being stalked by stray cats as I walk my pup. I am uncomfortable going to several parks and beaches due to the high numbers of feral cats.

However, I agree that the population should be measured and addressed. I fully support implementation of programs to effectively reduce the feral cat population in the State by humane and decent means.

The legislature must partner with other organizations in the state, like the HHS to better understand the state's feral cat population. In fact, the HHS' Trap, Neuter, and Release can be a partial solution to this problem if adequate resources were available to apply the practice, state-wide.

In closing, I must reinforce that poisoning the food of vulnerable stray cats is reprehensible. Further, what will guaranty that no domestic pets or even children might be impacted by this approach?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:25:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nanaho	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Using poison might cause other creatures' death such as wild birds, wild hogs, missing dogs and cats and more. What about human children who are rolling around wildly and putting everything in their mouth as they always do?

I understand that stray cat population control is critical to protect the native land however, I'm sure there is a better way to deal with rather than poisoning animals.

Please stop this project immediately.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:26:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alexandrian Tse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think we can all agree that feral cat overpopulation is an issue in Hawaii. What I do NOT agree with is DLNR's position that poisoning these cats is the best way to solve this problem! That is such a callous and inhumane proposal, I am appalled by the lack of compassion consistently shown by the DLNR. Time and time again, the Hawaiian Humane Society has recommended TNR (Trap Neuter Return). The DLNR wants to waste taxpayer money on an ill-advised, bandaid solution. Instead, the state should focus on the root cause of the problem - PEOPLE. Irresponsible pet owners who let their intact animals roam free, or abandon their intact animals with no repercussions. The state should start with investing in a wide-spread Trap-Neuter-Return program, and strengthening laws and ENFORCEMENT of penalties for animal abandonment. It may take a little longer to see the desired results, but it's a humane, and more viable sustainable long-term. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:29:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Delfin	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There needs to be another way than just killing innocent animals! Please do not move forward with this bill. What's next dogs, birds, humans...?! Where does it end? These animals deserve better than what this bill is proposing. Please have a conscience and do what's right. Do not pass this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:30:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra Luciani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I strongly oppose HB1987. This bill reflects a serious and incomplete lack of understanding and familiarity of the issues regarding what you call "feral" cats.

A large number of what people as described as "feral" cats are cats that have been dumped by owners upon leaving the island because there continues to be no enforcement by either the state or the DoD of existing laws against animal abandonment. Recently, those who are involved daily and on the ground in this problem witnessed and videotaped a man abandoning six kittens. They had video of the actual event, with the car license plate, and clear pictures. Yet upon calling the police, HPD said they "couldn't do anything."

A large portion of the rest of the rest of the so called "feral" cats are currently owned cats whom neighbors and many times threats have been made have stolen and dumped neighbors cats from their homes and and due to a gripe they have with the owner. Just yesterday a woman was reunited with her 7-months' missing cat . Her cat was chipped and founder suspected it had been taken. Her cat was found in a colony far away from his home, and this is hardly an unusual tale in the community of people who are working to solve this problem.

Enforce the existing penalties for animal abandonment! Provide more funding, and NOT JUST TO HHS, to get animals on this island neutered. Work with all the organizations that care for these cats. There are several organizations that strive to provide spay/neuter services, not just for abandoned cats but also for owned cats. One of the best idea is making it mandatory to have pets neutered (and enforce the laws). There are organizations that have been working very hard and very successfully. Island organizations work very hard to find mainland homes for so called "ferals". They ship cats/ kitten to new homes every week.

.Colonies might vanish if you poison all the existing cats, but they will just reappear again as more cats get dumped.

In addition to the above, if we want to reduce the population, suggest legislation which dictates that absolutely no unneutered pets can be brought into the state. in In addition to making and enforcing high licensing fees and regular compliance checks with any breeders.

The idea that TNR "isn't working" might just be because such programs are woefully unfunded . In addition, there is a shortage of veterinarians to participate in spay/neuter programs.

There is ample evidence of "collateral damage", that is, other animals being poisoned by compound 1080, and I hope you will research it. It's a controversial program in other countries for a reason.

Again, I repeat my strong opposition to this bill.
Sincerely

Debra Luciani

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:31:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lianne Kitajima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Sirs/Madams:

While I understand the issues surrounding free roaming cats creates issues, I find your solution to be quite extreme and barbaric. No different, than Hitler's solution to eradicating the Jewish Population or the United States answer to the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The animals on our island are a part of the community. Rather than spending money on eradicating cats, funding a cat sanctuary and/or expanding the Neuter/Trap/Release Program would be more humane. There are numerous organizations in the community who on a regular basis trap/neuter and release. But, if there was a sanctuary, much like the one on Lanai, were created, then there would be a place for these free roaming cats to live. Be a part of a humane solution as your proposed solution will create larger problems in the community.

Thank you for your consideration regarding this testimony and support a humane solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:32:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuko Porter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I totally oppose this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:32:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe eradicating cats with a poison is a very horrible death. I oppose poisoning cats. Trap and neuter is a humane solution to this problem. Wandering (feral) cats live between 18 mo and 5 years. DLNR should stop presenting the idea that this is a humane method. Would they poison a homeless person who also is a nuisance to society? Who poops on the sidewalks? Who steals from the market? These cats do help rid of mice, bugs, and other rodents. Please vote against HB1987 and be humane.

Peggy Regentine

District 18 (Hasham's area)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:33:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrei Burghelea	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The measures proposed in this bill are cruel and inhumane. This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately. Just killing all the feral cats is cruel and unsustainable as a long term solution. The proper way to fix this is to get them spayed or neutered, off the streets and adopted into suitable homes via a comprehensive and humane animal control organization. For owners who refuse to spay or neuter their pets there should meaningful consequences. The solution proposed in this bill does not represent Hawaii's spirit of Aloha. Please don't waste tax payer's money on this ill advised scheme.

Aloha

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:33:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michele Opiteck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I currently live in the Kaka'ako area. I am a cat caregiver for the last four years at The Kewalo basin Harbor area. I have a colony of 15 cats that have all been spayed and neutered. There have been only 6 small kittens within this area that have been "dropped off/dumped within my colony area. I have used Aloha Kitty TNR to help Get the small kittens fixed, fostered and adopted through Kat Charities and the Hawaiian Humane Society. They also have Utilized the local cat cafés. I have a Mobile Vet her name is Dr Jill that has cared for the health of this Documented colony that is healthyand fed twice a day "feral cat colony". Cats are very territorial and my colony has remained the same size throughout four years of caring for them. I also walk around Ala Moana beach park and see several dedicated cat caregivers that feed and TNR the colony throughout Alamoana beach park in Magic Island. TNR is the answer and education of people to spay and neuter their animals.

To kill innocent animals and possibly harm people or other animals is not a solution I am totally against this bill and it should be killed instead of the animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:33:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Riley Ng	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There are better, more humane ways to decrease the feral cat population other than killing them such as spaying or neutering.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:34:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen Frangipane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha - I am horrified by the bill I just read. I cannot even wrap my head around a bill that supports recklessly killing animals. It is clear from the wording of the bill that those who have introduced it know very little about the feral cat population on Maui and the tremendous efforts that those who care for the feral cat population have put into place. There is an incredible network of cat colony managers on Maui who feed, medicate, and spay and neuter the feral cat population in order to keep them healthy and controlled. Much of this is done at their own expense, but also in conjunction with the Maui Humane Societys program to Trap/Neuter/Return/Manage (TNRM) these animals. But the job is a big one. Perhaps the money that is being set aside for this atrocious program could be better spent by offering funds to the Humane Societies in Hawaii to expand TNRM efforts including educating the public about the benefits of spaying and neutering both pets and feral cats. In addition, many of these animals that this bill considers problematic have stemmed from an even bigger problem in Hawaii and particularly on Maui - the lack of affordable housing and lack of housing that allows pets. Many of these animals have been dumped due to irresponsible owners who no longer want them or those who are forced to give them up due to the housing crisis. Why can't these funds be used to help manage the initial problem - not the after affects of it. It is humans that caused the feral cat population to grow, not the animals themselves. I believe it would be more benifical to attack the first problem - education, increased spay and neuter programs, and housing. I cannot believe that those who care about the native bird population would think it ok to litter the island with poisonous baits that will surely lead to the death of other animals - pets (both dogs and cats), birds, and possibly even humans. How do we keep this poison from getting into the hands of children? Our water? There are far better ways to control the feral cat population than mass killings. There is wide network of cat colony managers on Maui - give them the resources to manage the population and it will be done humanely and with greater effect. This quick "fix all" is so flawed that the population will return despite the inhumane tactics presented in this bill. And all the pain and suffering of animals will be for nothing. There are SO MANY other options than this poorly laid out plan. Thank you for your time.

Karen Frangipane

Wailea-Makena, Maui

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:35:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sharon Caldwell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe he 1987 was brought up once before and the language does not seem to have changed so I assume it is the same person or committee bringing it up again. First let me say whoever believes they can count the number of feral cats in the state is not based in reality. There is absolutely no way to do this (although it would be interesting to see what they think they would use). How would you know the cats to are supposedly counting are feral? Perhaps you are including you neighbors cats as well. The concept is absurd. Secondly, if you want to help preserve the remaining native birds, you might include in your proposal getting rid of all the mice and rats as well as the mongooses that kill birds and eat birds eggs. And let's not forget the viruses killing birds carried by mosquitos and other insects that now live at higher elevations where the birds are. Fixating on just one area will not solve the problem if saving the birds us your main thrust. As far as toxoplasmosis goes, I believe you stated a number of monk seal killed by this. About a dozen ins dozen years. One a year. I know it is an endangered species, but why don't you consider the monk seals (certainly more), killed by people. I believe a couple on just the last few months have been killed by humans. Oh. And let's not forget the ones who ingest human plastic waste or get caught - like the whales - in long fishing lines. Again you are fixatingvon one aspect of an issue. By the way, there is no humane way to mass kill a species. And Australia is certainly not a country we would want to emulate! Thank you for your attention. And as a PS, you would have an incredible number of lawsuits if you try anything like this. The best way, as shown in many places, to cut down on the cat population is TNR. Do your homework and research.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:37:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
ERIN HEWITT	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been working the TNR (Trap Neuter Return) program for over 7 years I have TNR'ed over 600 feral cats. The cats that I have TNR'ed are fed every day by feeders that are doing a awesome job keeping the cats fed so they will not feed on birds. The area around the cats is kept clean at all times. Killing the cats are not the answer. Trappers like myself do our very best to protect the enviornment. We need educate the public on how TNR works. And yes it does work. We all need to work together instead of just killing the cats. Thank you Erin Hewitt

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:37:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caleb	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill because there are better, humane ways of reducing the cat population. In addition, their presence is not a nuisance to anyone or anything. they do not negatively affect the environment. Regardless, the planned method of population reduction is not right.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:37:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kay carlyle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I manage a cat colony in Maui and use TNR to maintain the size. I pay for food, vet visits and help keep the cats safe. I oppose measures to kill feral cats. Lanai has the best solution which is to provide a cat sanctuary to protect the cats and the native birds. If each island managed a cat sanctuary, this would address the issues in this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:38:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natasha Luciano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I understand the goal of this measure, but I feel the States reputation for handling such sensitive situations, and ensuring these feral cats are still given the dignity and respect in their elimination, is what should be questioned here. I am a resident of the Wai'anae Coast, born and raises, and it is known in our community that the Police and other means of law enforcement will turn the other way when informed of locals supporting this measure to erdicate feral cats through cruel means. The objective is not to reach our goal "anyway possible" but to work towards a feasible goal that keeps the population down, harsher punishments for those who release animals in our community instead of surrendering them to the Hawaii Humane Society or other shelters. Planning a mass genocide of feral cats is not the answer to a long term solution, just the answer to a short term solution - which Hawaii is known for...short term solutions that do not work, wasted time and tax payer money for something that will need to be done again and again. When we eridicate our feral cats and they come back in several years because of residents still dumping animals in the community, do we simply plan to just eliminate them over and over? Until a viable long-term solution is presented, as a resident, I cannot support this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:38:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Megan Saccarelli	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm writing on behalf of the cats. Please do not do this. I understand the need to control the population, but there are humane ways of doing this. Advocats has been working very hard to trap, spay & neuter, and release these cats. With additional funding, they could up their game and do this on a larger scale. I have adopted a cat who was feral. I had him neutered through Advocats. He still lives outside, as he always has, but he is well fed and loved, and a very sweet pet. I know others in my neighborhood who have done the same. These cats didn't ask to be here. They didn't buy a plane ticket and fly here during a pandemic. Please do the right thing by these innocent creatures. Any money that would be spent to kill them could just as easily be spent to spay and neuter them. If this is done on a larger scale, naturally their numbers will go down. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:38:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mykala Coe	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please just use the trap neuter return method or birth control. Poison is harsh and unnecessary. We are better than that.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:39:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan Dreiske	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii should be funding Avocats not a kill program. Avocats has been spaying, neutering and microchipping these dumped and feral cats as well as feeding them for years.. these managed populations are not taking out our native species and if you think they are, as a citizen I want proof of it on video with a recent date and time stamp and that specific animal taken away.. I don't believe you have any evidence that is recent or on picture or video of any spayed neutered or microchipped, fed cat taking out a native species.. if you do, show it with date time stamp and take out that cat.. not the innocent ones.

A better use of these funds would be to give all these funds to Avocats under contract to setup a cat sanctuary on each island with a property and fence and food budget. A more humane, less traumatic and allow for better management of these cats. There is already a network of people working with, feeding, spaying and caring for these cats. Take these funds and allow avocats to continue care but capture and enclose for rescue and adoptions. Thousands of these cats are already spayed and neutered! Also...where is the bill for giving more money to rescues and animal control to do free spay and neuter clinics? How about the animal control chapters and laws being changed to run free spay and neuter clinics? Our rescues on the Big Island are full because they only get 1/3 to 1/4 of their former funding for free spay and neuter clinics. Where are the public service announcements on radio and TV to support free spay and neuter clinics? My first day that I moved to Hawaii we found a batch of puppies thrown in the trash can at our national park Honaunau. These cats are dumped. Where is the education to our public that they need to spay and neuter and not dump? I am beyond opposed to this. This is barbaric and unacceptable and does not acknowledge the thousands of hours and dedication to these cats. I watch these people all over the place.. at parks at safeways.. feeding and caring for them. This bill does not take into account the thousands of hours of vet care and spay and neuter and microchip work. No on culling cats and extreme no on culling spayed and neutered and cats. No on money for this when you are not giving money or enough money for spay and neuter and rescue programs. This is INSANE AND BARBARIC.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:39:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet Carpenter	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987 due to the cruel and inhumane treatment of the feral cat population. I live on the Big Island and have volunteered at organizations to trap, neuter, release ferals and stabilize colonies. I have educated many people on the benefits of letting these cats live their lives catching rats and actually making a neighborhood a better place to live. I have also seen first-hand the gruesome and horrible deaths poison causes to cats (and consequently hawks, owls, and dogs) that come into contact with poison meant to kill rats or feral cats. The Volcano National Park had a program some years ago that got hunters to kill the feral cats humanely (being shot) that seemed to work to bring the feral population numbers up and that of native birds. "In the wilderness" I think this should be an option, if done correctly. However, to poison ALL feral cats is ridiculous and cruel. The feral cat colonies in my neighborhood do a service by catching rats (NOT native birds) and keep the rat-lung-worm cycle in check and many other diseases spread by rats. I OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:39:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynne Nakama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My name is Lynne Nakama. I am testify against HB1987

I became a TNR volunteer with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS) because of the uncontrolled poplutation of feral cats in my Kalihi neighborhood. Not something I expected to be a part of since I always thought of myself as a "dog" person. Now I like to think of myself as an "animal" person. All my adopted indoor and outdoor cats came from the "hood".

When I see ferals in the neighborhood, as a volunteer, I think about this problem a lot. My wishes are for easy access to low cost spay/neuter options for the ferals. The HHS can do only so much and it is difficult to get appointments. Let's try to expand the TNR (Fund a program and ask local vets to volunteer, More education) This is a humane solution. Deliberately poisoning animals is not.

Lynne Nakama

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:40:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Junko Munakata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:42:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
elizabeth keller	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is cruel and misguided to poison cats. Other creatures will be killed by accident and none of these creatures deserve a painful protracted death or injury by poisoning. Much better to spay neuter them, allow them to be fed and let them die naturally. Cats living in the wild do not live long lives as housecats do

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:42:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Warren Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for your consideration. I strongly support this measure. Feral cats are an invasive species in Hawaii with a huge impact on native habitats and species, especially avifauna. Since they are associated with humans as pets, it is labeled as inhumane to control the population, but the lack of control measures elevates their life above all the other species they impact in the ecosystem. Native birds, in particular, are further threatened by feral cats, even in protected areas. Two weeks ago we saw a cat hunting honeycreepers within the Hosmer Grove portion of Haleakala NP. And the birds do not have any protection in natural areas that are not fenced. As some of the honeycreepers develop some resistance to malaria and seek to extend their range, they are predated on by feral cats. This will become even more important if the mosquito sterilization program is effective. It's essential that we start this process now in order to provide a safe habitat for the native forest birds to expand into. Finally, feral cats have an even larger impact on nesting seabirds, including the Ua'u.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:43:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daishi Ichizawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can't agree with poisoning my precious life. How about protecting it in several places like the cat sanctuary like Lanai?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:43:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samson Low	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Curiosity and Eradict or any type of poison used to decrease the feral cat population poses a threat to other species like feral pigs. Using these bait traps increases risk of foreign poisonous chemicals being introduced to the environment via runoff; potentially risking the endemic species that feral cat removal is working towards saving. The money that would be used towards paying for these bait traps could be used to remove feral cats off island to the mainland where they can get adopted or used as useful resources like barn cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:43:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Goodman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose any interference with the feral cat population that involves killing cats. I fully support trap, neuter, release and have fostered feral cats through Lucky Paws Hawaii. Please consider offering funding to similar organizations that do such good work to control the cat population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:44:39 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristen Gridley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not let this bill pass! I am one of the many Maui residents actively working to TNR the feral cat population. TNR has been proven to work in other places in the United States. I care deeply about the safety & well being of these cats. This bill has me worried for their future and for my cat at home. To euthanize or poison these cats would be extremely cruel. It will lead to pets and other animals being harmed as well. Please consider giving funds to spay and neuter clinics & do not let this bill pass. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:45:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
cj ozenne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

With Poisoning the cats like you would like to do will only cause other animals to either eat the cats and die and cause a lot of smell and damage on the beach and in the forest and it is just not acceptable that you should be so inhumane at doing so ...there has got to be a better way the cats do not bother the people they do not carry anymore disease and the rats and the mice do and if you kill the cats you're going to have more mice and rats running around I choose cats !!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:45:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Leigh Ann Phillips	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

Mahalo piha for this opportunity. As you know, in all manners you deal with, I am sure you always strive to be humane in your decision making process. The cat situation in Hawaii is not an animal issue as much as a human issue. Many people just abandon their animals when they leave the island. Rounding up and killing the cats is not a humane solution. It saddens me that this is even being seriously looked at as an option.

The most helpful solution, is expanding the spay/neuter program.

If you take this philosophy and apply it to any other situation, it would be obvious that this is cruel and unnecessary. I invite you to be more creative in your problem solving endeavours, and strive to do something that you can be proud of, not regret. mahalo piha, leigh ann phillips

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:46:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lori Okazaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe HB1987 is proposed as a "quick fix" to a problem that has existed for many, many years. I believe this feral cat situation is a PEOPLE problem, and the animals are becoming the victims of irresponsibility and lack of moral obligations. Many of these feral cats are previous pets that have been dumped. The problem with the exponential numbers is because there is not enough action to fix these animals. The DLNR should work with the TNR organizations as well as Hawaii Humane Society to continue to trap and fix the cats.

The reason uninformed people are introducing this "quick fix" of culling or eradicating the cats are because they are now at numbers that are noticeable. They have always been there and the people who are complaining do absolutely nothing about it. I mean just look at some of the reasons why are listed, "they don't like seeing them around" are ridiculous. I don't like seeing people get robbed or driving recklessly, but despite the law and police efforts, it still happens, doesn't it? The cats are also listed as an "invasive species"...are you kidding me? Many of these cats, as I had mentioned previously, were once pets that were dumped by irresponsible owners. Because there is not enough effort by state organizations to help the non profit TNR organizations fix the animals, their numbers grow.

Look, I know feral cats are a problem. But if you believe that simply killing them off is going to resolve the situation, you are sorely mistaken. This is the EASIEST way out, in my opinion. There was also a mention of using poison. Do you really think that this use of culling feral cats will be limited to only THOSE particular animals and not be affecting other animals or even people, too. God forbid someone's dog ingests the poison, then the whole world will be up in arms. It's more difficult, in this day and age, to get people to be more responsible for their actions. All the people complaining have basically done nothing to help control the situation. I myself have stray cats in my yard. I work on trapping & fixing them & trying to find homes. I can see how not doing anything constructive went from 4 cats to 9 very quickly. I feed them regularly & try to take care of them so they stay close & out of trouble. They are all fixed.

I guess what I am trying to say is that this is a PEOPLE problem that has resulted over the years into an animal problem. I don't think you should take the easy way out because I don't think that is the reason you are in politics. I'm assuming you are here to do the right thing, not the easy thing because the people who have politically backed you are telling you to do so. I'm hoping you will deny this bill and do the right thing. By approving a bill like this, you are allowing CRUELTY TO ANIMALS to become a normal thing. Do you really think that if approved, the DLNR will be the only one out there killing feral cats? You are putting a gun in the hands of

people that never had the authorization to do because it is against the law...until YOU allowed it to happen.

Respectfully,

Lori Okazaki

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:47:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Shaw	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of HB 1987.

There is progress being made throughout the country using methods of Trap Neuter Release which is the **ONLY** humane way to reduce and control the feral cat population.

Simply eradicating them will only temporarily reduce the number as unspayed cats will move into these new territories and reproduce again.

State funds should be used to not only Trap, Neuter, Release, but also provide grants for local humane societies to help spay and neuter unaltered owned cats as well as educate the public about the importance of spaying and neutering and keeping their owned cats **INDOORS**.

HB1987 is essentially a killing spree on cats. Further, the use of poison is extremely irresponsible as it will kill unintended wildlife.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:47:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
kasumi fukumura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Think about your family.

The value of life is the same.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:48:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Geoff Walker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Was just reading on the neighborhood social media thing there is a bill HB1987 that if passed, may start to address the problem. Advocats, one of the groups that perpetuate this problem, put this on the website trying to get people to shoot it down! I totally support this bill!! Monk seals dying from toxoplasmosis spread by cats, they prey endangered ground nesting seabirds, they prey on endangered Hawksbill and green sea turtle eggs and hatchlings, native Hawaiian birds, they spread toxoplasmosis, they spread feline AIDS and leukemia, costing legitimate pet owners who neuter and chip their cats thousands of dollars in vet bills, cost many thousands of tax payer \$ for control by state agencies, on and on ad nauseum. Now is the time to man up legislators and show some common sense! PLEASE PASS THIS BILL NOW!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:48:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Naun	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am a veterinarian residing and working throughout the island of Oahu these past 11 years. In the course of my work I have had the opportunity to encounter many of the community cats and the citizens who care for them. While I sympathize with the need to protect our native and endemic species, community cats are creatures who are capable of pain and suffering, and therefore worthy of our compassion as much as any other species. I oppose HB1987 and implore DLNR to work with local animal welfare and conservation groups to find a more humane solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:49:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephen Stellmach	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please reconsider your actions proposed in this bill. Utilize the funds instead to support existing trap spay/uter release programs that will control and eventually eliminate the feral population of animals.

By helping to fund volunteer programs you will make the best use of our tax dollars to achieve the goal of minimizing feral cat population.

Considering the use of poison is a bad choice. You will not be able to properly distinguish between a feral cat and a household pet that is allowed to be inside and outside. These pets are family members and if they are accidentally poisoned you will cause much emotional stress to the family.

The only safe means would be to trap feral cats. Once trapped, instead of killing them, they should be evaluated by a vet and if healthy spay/uter and release them. If you utilize and subsidize the volunteer groups they can establish regular feeding areas. regularly fed feral cats will reduce the hunting efforts helping to preserve other animals native to the islands.

Please modify the bill to utilize funds to create ongoing efforts to reduce the populations through spay/uter release programs. These programs will reduce populations in short time frame and provide a safe way to target only feral cats and not household pets. The ferals can be chipped to identify the responsible volunteer group that will feed and care for them through your subsidized programs.

Thank you for your consideration

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:51:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kaoru ichizawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I cannot agree with the poisoning of precious lives. I think it is necessary to take measures such as protecting with volunteers.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:52:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB 1987 for the following reasons:

1. It is the most extreme option available to the legislature for responding to the large number of feral cats in Hawaii. It is cruel and unnecessary. In fact, it is the most outrageous legislation I have seen from this chamber in quite some time.
2. There are better options, which have successfully been applied in other jurisdictions, including a state-wide spay/neuter program (which will dramatically reduce the number of cats); public feeding program to ensure the health of the cats; and subsidized or free veterinarian care for feral cats in need.
3. Such an extreme and cruel is enormously divisive and will ensure a backlash against it as well as impugn the reputation of the legislature.

I strongly encourage you to reject HB 1987.

Respectfully,

Nandita Sharma, Ph.D.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:52:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Tronoski	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

I am strongly opposed to and urge you to vote against House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

This bill is counterproductive and interferes with efforts by local animal welfare organizations to humanely reduce the community cat population through Trap-Neuter-Release programs.

Data is necessary however, a mass culling is not only inhumane and unrealistic. In addition to making incredible ground in TNR through volunteers, their community spay/neuter center and partnering with national nonprofits like Greater Good Charities to perform mass spay/neuter surgeries, Hawaiian Humane is also presently coordinating the first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawai'i, working with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking DC Cat Count.

This piece of legislation negates and ignores the expertise and counsel of both local Animal Welfare AND Wildlife professionals that are currently and diligently working on addressing the issue of Free-Roaming cats.

I care about cats AND wildlife. This is a cruel, inhumane and wrong approach to a complex and nuanced issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tronoski, Kaimukī

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:54:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
elson Taylor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is sickening, innocent animals being killed for something they had no choice in. My family and I helped the beautiful animals by taking them in and giving them a chance at life. This bill will take that away from them. A chance to live and be loved. A chance that all animals should have!!!. Please help the people who are willing to help them. Some of these people gives up a lot in their lives to these cats. Again please don't do it, help those who are willing to help them. Come together as one and find a solution that will benefit both sides. Give life a chance, a chance you wish you had if it was you on the receiving end of this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:54:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Terry E Restivo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is the most INHUMANE bill I have heard of in my 56 years on this planet. The feral cat population cannot be wiped out with poison or bait or euthanasia. You will just be causing pain and suffering to these sentient creatures as well as infusing our ecosystem with poison.

Let's be stewards of compassion and kindness. Let's set a great example for our children and grandchildren. Let's find a HUMANE way to deal with this problem.

1. Public education is crucial. We need to educate the public about altering pets, not abandoning pets, and keeping them indoors.
2. Let's ensure that every new domestic animal that arrives on the island has previously been altered.
3. Let's continue to support and grow our TNR projects until we get the feral cat population under control.
4. Let's follow examples of other communities who have successfully dealt with Feral cat problems in HUMANE ways.

As Ghandi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." ~Mahatma Gandhi

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:55:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandra Dale	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I "OPPOSE BILL HB1987" and SHOULD NOT BE PASSED!

I am a resident on Oahu. WHAT YOU ARE PROPOSING TO DO IS BARBARIC AND BRUTAL!!!

Since moving here years ago I have learned of the feral cat population and I took measures paying out of our own pockets along with many other residents and organizations to help make progress in reducing the number of cats WITH THE ONLY HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE METHOD - SPAY/NEUTER! I have TNR'd and cared for colonies as many others do on the islands. I have also adopted several stray & feral cats from Oahu myself. WE ARE ALREADY MAKING PROGRESS!

If those of you just sitting behind a desk not involved in any way with the HUMANE AND EFFECTIVE MEASURES of TNR would just GET INVOLVED WITH TNR you would see the impact everyone in the communities on the islands have already made. It is not the cats' fault they are all out there. It began with people just like you. Lets work together and rather than spending money on taking such inhumane barbaric measures - HELP US with more man power and funding needed to continue to TNR. WE ARE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE so you can imagine how much better it would be IF WE HAD YOUR SUPPORT WITH THE TNR PROCESS rather than killing innocent animals!

"I OPPOSE BILL HB1987" and IT SHOULD NOT BE PASSED. I feel that anyone who supports this bill is heartless and evil.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:56:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Doris MacFarlane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Hawaii State Legislators:

Please do not consider passage of HB1987 as, in my opinion, it is an outrageous & inhumane plan to eradicate feral cats in Hawaii. Hawaii's feral cat population is largely the result of irresponsible humans dropping off unwanted cats in remote or vacant areas. It is time for responsible humans to address controlling the feral cat population through humane means such as TNR (Trap-Neuter-Release) or creating protected cat sanctuaries. Spay/neuter programs do work to control and eventually decrease these cat populations. Time, energy and funding should be put into a commitment to establish and support on-going TNR programs on each island.

Thank you for rejecting this inhumane plan!

Doris MacFarlane, Pukalani, Maui

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:58:46 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
michele mcconnell	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha.

My name is Michele Mcconnell. I live in Haiku and own a small business at the Haiku town center.

This proposal to poison cats is a bad idea. First it is barbaric. I think we can do better as a society than sinking to such lows. I wouldn't wish death by poisoning on anybody.

Secondly, it seems like a plan that could easily have unintended consequences. Accidental poisoning of pets and wildlife for example.

A better solution might be to fund the Humane Society and veterinary clinics to handle a much bigger volume of spay and neutering.

Please don't resort to such a cruel plan. There are other solutions that don't require shelving one's conscience.

Mahalo, michele

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:59:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marjorie Clemente	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Members of House Committee on Agriculture,

I adamantly oppose this bill for many reasons, but will try to keep my written testimony as short and concise as possible.

1. Even if I was okay with DLNR killing feral cat populations via lethal injection, what about people's cats that accidentally escaped from their homes and wandered over and got caught? Will DLNR be scanning each cat thoroughly for a microchip? Will they be trained to search as microchips often migrate? Will there be a log kept of such scanning? What is the procedure when DLNR finds a chipped cat? How can we the public trust that they won't just pretend it wasn't chipped and kill the cat regardless?
2. Curiosity bait for feral cats is NOT humane as it says on the Australian government's own website that "death takes minutes to hours." How is oxygen starvation to the brain over a matter of hours HUMANE?
3. What happens if an indoor cat escapes (as it does happen with door dashers), maybe it doesn't have a chip because it's indoor all the time, or maybe it's a semi-feral that someone cares for that IS chipped and it got trapped and dumped by someone else, which happens often. If those cats accidentally eat the Curiosity bait, is DLNR and the legislature okay with those cats being poisoned to death for the greater good of the native species and fauna? What if someone's pet dog gets loose and finds it and eats it? What then? So sorry, your dog shouldn't have been there?
4. Some in DLNR have acknowledged unofficially that they are giving a slanted viewpoint regarding cats and their role in toxoplasmosis. It seems misleading on the part of DLNR and is used to advance their own agenda to kill all the feral cats it can. Hawaii is a very unforgiving place for feral cats. It's not their fault humans have been irresponsible regarding pet ownership and have created this mess, but to kill all the cats they can does not make it right.
5. TNR WORKS - many of us have TNRed cats, many people devote countless hours and time and energy and their own money to do this for the community and they never get recognized for it. These are individuals, not the charities out there. And even the charities struggle to help people with TNR because entities like DLNR are too biased to give it an actual chance to make it work. As re-releasing back in the areas they are trying to save isn't an option, the least they could do is attempt to work with the many TNR advocates on island to find a way of first stopping the population from exploding and then also

relocating them to a different area where they would not have such an impact on native birds and fauna.

6. SLIPPERY SLOPE - Feral cats are not the only predators to native Hawaiian birds and fauna. Why doesn't DLNR hunt down the Madagascar Giant Day gecko with such vigor? What about the rose-ringed parakeets? That's a problem too - they have been doing terrible damage to farms and native plants, especially on Kauai. Is DLNR going to cull them next? I don't see anything about that or is that just next on the list? What else shall we kill in order to save something else?

I RESPECTFULLY OPPOSE THIS BILL for all those reasons and more. I agree that saving our native plants and creatures is a very important issue that needs further discussion. But if the Legislature gives DLNR a license to kill innocent animals (feral and not feral - because there will be other unintentional animal deaths that DLNR will just consider collateral damage or cover up), it would be completely inhumane no matter how DLNR wants to justify it.

Thank you very much for your time.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:00:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Muehle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As a lifelong resident of Honolulu it breaks my heart that our system would support such an inhuman treatment of animals & such a disregard to life. It has also been proven time & again that a TNR (Trap, Neuter & Release) program is way more effective. TNR stabilizes feral cat colonies that don't produce litters, it has been proven that poisoning feral cats doesn't work & is hard to control. I know in the past there have been incidents of household pets (including dogs) getting accidentally poisoned during attempts to control the feral cat community in Hawaii Kai. It makes more sense to me that the smart & humane way to handel this issue is to provide more funding & resources to non-profit organizations who conduct TNR practices.

Mahalo for your consideration

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:01:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayano Ochiai	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing this testimony to vehemently oppose this measure as it basically results in the counting, rounding up and killing thousands of cats. There has to be a better way than this type of unnecessary execution. The measure cited community surveys that are almost 10 years old in addition to one sided evidence only supporting one method of addressing this problem.

I understand the issues, faced in regards to native bird populations and impact on other wildlife, but is killing the only way to control the population?

A quick google search for "best way to control feral cat populations" results in the following quote from VCA Hospitals:

"TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) programs are the hallmark of controlling feral cat populations." TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) programs are the hallmark of controlling feral cat populations. TNR programs are endorsed by the National Animal Control Association and the Humane Society of the United States, and have successfully reduced the population of feral cats.

Source: [https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/managing-feral-cats#:~:text=%22TNR%20\(Trap%2C%20Neuter%2C,to%20spay%20and%20neuter%20them.](https://vcahospitals.com/know-your-pet/managing-feral-cats#:~:text=%22TNR%20(Trap%2C%20Neuter%2C,to%20spay%20and%20neuter%20them.)

Instead of dedicating money towards killing innocent animals, why not work with local veterinarians, stake holders and and community efforts that are currently involved in TNR programs?

Let's exhaust all opportunities for feral cat population reduction without taking lives unnecessarily.

Thank you for your time.

Ayano Ochiai

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:01:14 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cyntha Thompson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to HB 1987 as currently drafted.

No one would oppose the preservation and protection of our precious endangered native species but this bill uses a machete in lieu of a scalpel to correct what is, after all, a man-made problem. The human record of introducing alien species, either by accident or intentionally, is embarrassing to say the least and all the more dangerous on a finite piece of land that is an island. But surely we are intelligent, creative and humane enough to compose a solution that respects the lives of all the species involved.

I would propose that a study group be formed on each island to consider all the options for control of the feral cat population, and to work with the local population in individual communities to assess the specific issues in each area and how best to address them. It is possible that some areas will need stronger mitigation measures while others may only need refining of existing programs already in place.

I live on a golf course where the feral cat population is trapped and neutered and then fed and given medical attention so that they can live out their lives peacefully. To be quite honest, the feral cats are less of a problem than the neighborhood domestic cats that are less well monitored and cared for.

Please eliminate this bill or have it rewritten to be more evenly respectful of all animal life.

Cindy Thompson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:02:42 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lila Jones	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I find it greatly disturbing that poisoning wildlife as a means of management is even an option. Poisons in food are indiscriminate and will kill many other creatures even some that are pets. It makes no sense to handle the feral cat population in this way when putting funding into spay/neuter programs could be just as effective and much more humane. The state is just looking for an easy out instead of looking into a method that is actually humane. Perhaps instead of putting the burden catch and release programs on non-profits, the state could use the same funding to actually contribute to those programs instead of opting for poison.

I oppose House Bill 1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:04:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Noelle Newhouse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Poisoning feral cats isn't how you do this. It's inhumane and there are better ways to go about this including supporting TNR through rescue organizations. Use the resources toward that instead.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:05:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
PAUL Alexander ROSENTHAL	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom this may concern, I completely oppose to the killing of pharaoh cats. I personally have adopted 4 cats and they are wonderful animals. So, I oppose to it 100%.

Invasive species on the Hawaiian Islands are absolutely a huge problem, especially to those endemic species with no defenses against introduced predators. I am not here to debate the ecological impact that cats and other non-native species have on the islands. There need to be measures in place that help defend and protect the local wildlife.

The problem I have with H.B. 1987 is the manner in which it suggests the cat population ought to be controlled: poison. There are many issues with using poison, primarily that it is not humane and that it may kill non-target and native species.

Firstly, we should examine the humaneness of killing an animal. A humane way to kill an animal is to euthanize it or shoot it in the head, a method to ensure that it dies quickly – if not instantaneously. There is little to no suffering involved and even problematic or invasive species can be dealt with humanely. This is not how poison works, however. The Australian government has information about Curiosity cat bait on its website, stating: “It is considered to be humane and death takes minutes to hours.”¹

So, let us imagine that your pet dog has cancer and needs to be put down. There are no more treatments that the vet can offer him save for euthanasia.

Your vet explains the procedure, telling you, “This toxicant, PAPP, converts the animal’s red blood cells to a form that cannot carry oxygen, causing death through oxygen starvation to the brain and other vital organs.”¹ The vet comes to you and tells you that it might take 45 minutes for your beloved pet to die from the injection. Would you allow him to receive that injection? What if the vet told you that it might actually take up to three hours for your dog to pass on. Would you accept that offer?

Chances are that if you have a heart (and you are being truthful with yourself), you would move on to another vet that can euthanize your dog quickly and humanely because a potential three hours of suffering is not in any way considered humane.

The use of poison baits on the Hawaiian islands is unlikely to cause much damage to the native species it is intended to protect (birds, predominantly) because the poison is targeted toward ground carnivores. However, we would be remiss not to consider that Hawaii has a much higher rate of pet ownership than the rest of the United States. “Estimates show that about 60% of households in [Hawaii] have at least one cat or dog, compared to a national average of 36.5%.”²

With a higher number of people owning pets on the island, there are undoubtedly going to be more interactions with the poison baits set out. And, as discussed before, there are going to be a lot of angry pet owners whose dogs accidentally ingested the poison, suffered for hours, and then died in their arms. There will be cases of a cat returning home at twilight after having eaten one of the Curiosity baits, then convulsing and dying on its owner's bed due to the poison.

I understand that the imagery may be graphic and as much as I hate to use it, it is the truth – and sometimes, the truth ain't pretty. This is what is going to happen if H.B. 1987 passes. What

1 “Curiosity® bait for feral cats.” Australian Government Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment. Retrieved from <https://www.awe.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/invasive-species/feral-animals-australia/feral-cats/curiosity-bait>.

2 “Pet Ownership Data.” Pet Hospitals of Hawaii. Retrieved from <https://pethospitalsofhawaii.com/phh-blog/2021/3/8/pet-ownership-data#:~:text=According%20to%20state%20data%2C%20Hawaii,a%20national%20average%20of%2036.5%25>.

contingencies are there in place for such situations? Are the owners to be compensated for their veterinary bills? Do you understand how many angry, pet-owning Hawaiians you are going to have protesting because the cat baits are killing their family members?

Furthermore, the use of poison is going to further compound the feral cat issue. What do I mean by that? If the poisoning route is opted for, an issue that will inevitably arise is this: the organizations that engage in TNR will stop operating. The fact of the matter is that no organization is going to put money into trapping, neutering, or spaying animals that could end up dead tomorrow; it would be a waste of money and resources that could be better spent elsewhere.

Why is this a problem?

Well, when those irresponsible pet owners leave their unaltered cats at the Kona dump, in a very short period of time, you will soon have another colony of cats – a result that could have been prevented if the TNR companies were still operating. The cat population will explode again and we will be back at square one with way too many feral cats. Once more, poison will have to be used and yet it will still not effectively eradicate the cat population.”

Lastly, I wonder why the poisoning aspect of H.B. 1987 is being suggested when the people of the islands have already expressed their preference for managing the feral cat populations as stated in the text of the bill: “Responses indicated that the most preferred technique for managing feral cats was the live capture and lethal injection technique” (H.B. No. 1987). This is not only a much more humane method of eradication but also one supported by your constituents. Is there a reason this method is not the one being proposed?

Again, there needs to be something done about the feral cat population, along with the populations of all non-native species on the islands. Keeping cats (and other invasive species) out of natural area reserves should be the top priority. “In the same year, another single, free-roaming cat killed at least nine endangered Hawaiian petrel (‘uau) chicks over the course of three days in a remote area of the Hono O Na Pali Natural Area Reserve on Kaua’i” (H.B. No. 1987). Cats like the one mentioned in the bill should be caught and removed from these protected areas. There is no argument there.

The argument I have is predominantly the cruelty with which poison kills as well as the threat to other, non-target animals, namely beloved pets who might take a bite of the wrong snack.

Understand that if H.B. 1987 passes, you are going to have a lot of angry pet owners who will come to you looking for answers when their pets die a horrible, completely preventable death. And now, you will not be able to state that you were not warned about this contingency and it was “an unforeseen and unfortunate accident.”

Poisoning is inhumane and, quite frankly, unacceptable. There are better, more humane solutions to the feral cat problem. I suspect you already know this.

Sincerely,
M.A.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:07:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Daniel M MONTGOMERY	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Feral cat populations on our islands, particularly here on the Big Island have become an imminent danger to our ecosystems, food resource structure and human health. The failure of Advocats and the Huamne Society at trap and neuter is apparent by the evergrowing number of feral cats on all islands. I would even encourage every legislative meber to read research studies here : <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/UW468>

Feral cats carry significant disease with toxoplasmosis which resides in their feces. Their eexcrement can carry the parasitic host for 5-10 days and the host can live for many months in grass, water resources, and home gardens. Their impact on the ecobalance of our islands is also threatened. Toxoplasmosis can cause sepsis in both human and canine species without a broad spectrum antibiotic early intervention. I ask the legislature to address the feral cat issue from a human health, environmental, and food resource standpoint, all of which are threateneed by uncontrolled populations of feral cats by eliminating the source of the problem at the host (feral cats). because all other spay and neuter programs have failed and the continued threat of the expanded population fo feral cats will have dire impact on both human health and our islands.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:08:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Denise Glass	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT pass HB1987! This is not a solution to the overpopulation to feral cats. Please look into a mass sterilization program as an alternative. Contact Alley Cats Allies Organization. Or the Humane Society of the United States.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:09:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ayano Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

GO TNR.

Choose to save rather than kill, please.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:09:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Barrios	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose to this bill, HB1987. This is absolutely inhumane and will hurt other animals and well as the land. This is not a solution for feral cats. Death by poison or any other means is absolutely horrible. The solution is more spay and neuter programs. Not to kill off cats. You will increase the population of more rats on our islands which we already have a major problem in rural areas. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:09:38 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Caitlin m tong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I think this is a huge and cruel mistake for the following reasons:

- 1) it is near impossible to only poison certain species and not others. Many animals pick at the food of others. You will inadvertently kill more of those you wish to protect.
- 2) you will inadvertently kill pets. Someone's dog darts into the woods, a cat gets loose. A split second accident will risk the life of pets, much to severe a consequence.
- 3) there are tried and tested ways to reduce the spread of such animals. Mainly by trapping and neutering. It is labor intensive, but there are many volunteers. By allowing caretakers to maintain an area, they are able to trap young and new comers and humanely reduce numbers.

No true animal lover can claim to do this for safety of others and be so cruel at the same time.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:10:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Florence K Lerback	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am adamantly against HB1987 as in my opinion this action clearly shows animal cruelty beyond understanding. At AdvoCats we Feed, Trap, Neuter/Spay, Return them to the Colony, which is the only "family" they know. The humane intent of AdvoCats is to lessen the kitten population. Many of these cats are abandoned pets by their human owners who didnt bother to spay or neuter or microchip their pets. However, is wiping their existence off the face of this earth the best method some humans believe will resolve the issue?! Are we just creating another workforce for DLNR and costing Tax Payers more money for Time Worked and Poison purchased and who knows what other costs will be involved later? Perhaps working on Regulations on Pet Owners, Pet Shops, etc. to deter abandoned pets might be a necessary first step to the Issue.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:12:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kathryn Ebata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:13:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Madeline L Scarafone	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a cat owner, it horrifies me to think that there are individuals considering mass murder. In 1883, Mongoose were introduced by the sugar industry to control rats in sugarcane fields on Maui, Moloka'i, and O'ahu. Now they are an invasive species due to the fact that they have no predators. Whenever we as humans intervene by the introduction or eradication of a species, there is always an unforeseen consequence. When wolves were hunted to the point of extinction, the increase in the deer population led to deforestation because the wolves were deer's natural predators. Would it not be better to focus resources on capturing feral cats in order to spay and neuter them? Would it not be less harmful to help with population control, instead of polluting the island with poison that is bound to be consumed by other animals, and end up in the water? Please think, there are other ways to combat the "problem," other than mass murdering one of mankind's companions.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:14:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sachiko sugita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My opinion is oppose.

Life is important.

The impact there are one side is good thing and another side is bad thhings.

Cats get food to live. We need to get food.

it is the same.

We alive in earth.

if to put it in an extreme way (I think too mamy is human than cats.What do you think about that?Will you be killed by poison. we are killing animals for convenient living)

I would like to say loudly The most important thing right now is an ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM. Hawaii is really really beautiful island in the world

ocean is supre buautiful there are awosome waves and good cona wind , water ,rain,flowers ... and so on. .Gots live in Hawaii. hawaii is dream island.

i dont want to break those.

so you should keep going cleaning osean, beach and everything.

when i will go to Hawaii again please do not dissapointed please,

you sould keep cleaning of enviroment.

it is NOT time of HB1987.

(for example you should beach cleaning until when all trash will be gone on the beach so small plastic, fishing line ,smoke.. lets help our eatrh first.)

Thank you for your understanding.

I hope that things from japan.

sachiko

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:14:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alysha Nagamine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my disagreement with the proposed HB 1987. It is understood that there is a feral cat problem in Hawaii, however, mass killing by poison is NOT the answer for this. This is a problem that was originated and is perpetuated by irresponsible humans. The cats should not have to suffer for our mistakes. You will probably read many letters of testimony by us in the cat community who are actively taking time out of our schedules (unpaid) to help control the cat population by Trap, Neuter, Release. Upon release, the population of cats will be controlled because they are sterile. These outdoor cat colonies are then closely managed by educated colony feeders who provide food and care for the cats to deter hunting. Our programs here are bare bones for TNR (not enough veterinarians or appointments) and most of the public has no idea that this is even a thing. More funds and information should be disseminated for TNR to make it more accessible and to assist advocates and rescue organizations who are participating in this. Secondly, the cat community is well aware of the dire need for a Cat Sanctuary here. Not every cat is able to be domesticated and found a suitable indoor home. A cat sanctuary is an enclosed (with cat proof fences) land area where street/feral cats can be housed for life with care provided. Lanai has a cat sanctuary, which has aided in saving native birds. Their efforts started with TNR, which then transitioned into building a cat sanctuary to house all the cats in one place. Please consider our plea to look at the risks of haphazardly using poison on these animals and find a harmonious solution that will save all lives. Let us also remember that our jurisdiction DOES have animal cruelty laws and just because a cat is “homeless” does not mean they should not be protected. Thank you for your time!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:16:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mokihana Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!

I am strongly AGAINST HB1987. I do believe that something must be done about the feral cat population on Maui. However, killing them should not be solution. As a fellow cat owner, I already live in fear that my cats will find a way to escape. I also fear that people will allow my cats to escape.

There have been multiple instances of people trapping house cats from their neighbors and releasing them to the feral cat colonies. Some of that cats are reunited with their owners after a few months or years. But during that time the owners are still constantly searching. Still hoping that their baby is out there. There also have been stories of people shooting or beating cats in the middle of the night.

I feel that the solution for the feral cat problem would be best to work with the fellow cat communities. Most of these colonies are well fed and spayed/neutered. Instead of using the money for euthanization, use it to help fund the people who want to help the cats by helping them TNR (trap, spay and neuter & release) or help them by spreading the word about adoption.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:17:19 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sheri Yamashita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I vote to stop this bill unless the animals are re-homed to a facility and not killed, and the root cause is addressed. Feral animals are the result of irresponsible owners. Instead of killing animals, focus must be placed on those who abandon the animals so that the cycle doesn't continue. If this bill only seeks to eliminate current feral animals, it is not addressing the root cause that allowed these animals to become feral; thus the same issues will reoccur. Set up hotlines for reporting irresponsible owners and advertise them as a way to reduce the feral population, as well as invest in spaying and neutering the current feral population. Allocate funds to these measures that will have a long-term positive outcome for all involved, rather than a short-term attempt that will only perpetuate. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:17:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Sayasane	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It's fantastic the state wants to help reduce the population of feral cats but if it means radical extermination that is inhumane to the cats, who were left to die by humans. It is not the cats fault and there are ways to manage these colonies besides killing the cats. The Humane Society and other organizations are doing a fantastic job with their neutering programs for ferals. If the state would give our local cat organizations like Love a Cat or Cat Friends to name a couple, that money would be used for more humane ways to solve the feral cat problem here on Oahu.

Please don't order these poor creatures a death sentence today.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:17:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachael Adams	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to using poison to kill the feral cats.

The cats can be caught and treated and kept alive!!

Please don't kill the cats!!

There are many animal rescue groups and concerned citizens that are willing to help.

Thankyou!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:18:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenneth Pringle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I most strongly oppose HB1987 as an inhumane and disgusting option to controlling feral cats. At present many groups are helping to control them by tnr and by trapping and domesticating and finding loving homes. Cats are domestic animals and it is the human to blame for the number of ferals on the Islands. Those who mistreat, allow to go unfixed, dump the cats when no longer wanted are the people who you should be concentrating on. There must be laws in that regard.

Do not go through with this horrible plan. Help those who have been neutering and spaying those tossed cats.

I represent myself and I am a resident of Hawaii.

Ken Pringle

I am opposed to HB1987 related to invasive species.

In Hawaii, there are a multitude of groups and clinics trying to humanely manage the cat population by Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM), a program supported by the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). (See explanation of this program from the HHS website below).

Programs like the Australian model suggested in this bill with its “Curiosity and Eradicate feral cat baits” kill cats.

Funding should be increased to support the TNRM programs and make spay and neuter programs free and readily available. Involving the community in a pro-active management plan is a positive, humane way to approach this issue.

Sincerely yours,
Roberta B. Cestare

What is TNRM?

Hawaiian Humane supports a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to free-roaming cats centered around targeted, community-based Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage (TNRM). TNRM is a practice where free-roaming cat caregivers trap cats in their neighborhood and bring them to a **participating clinic** to be spay/neutered, ear-notched, vaccinated, and microchipped. After recovery, they are returned to their colony and cared for. TNRM a humane strategy to improve cats' lives and address overpopulation. Colony management after spay/neuter is also very important as it reduces behavioral issues, allows caregivers to determine the time and location of feeding, and monitor colony health. A well-managed colony is one where the population is steady or in decline, and the feeding is controlled, minimizing cats getting into garbage and begging for food from the public.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:18:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Donya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha all,

On behalf of humane consideration of all creatures, I am horrified at this proposal.

Killing one species to protect another is savage and unethical.

Culling in Australia did not work.

Tourists will be heartbroken.

Community cats are credited for rodent reduction.

I started trapping & fixing cats in Honolulu, when I was a UH college student in the 70's.

This effective method had been proven to be the only effective program to control, and ultimately reduce cat population.

Let's continue to involve community volunteers managing their colonies with minimal cost of spay/neuter surgery...as described by Alleycat Allies, the national organization.

Donya Izbicki

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:20:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hitomi Yamazaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Do not support Animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:21:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fiona Beckley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no question but that the feral (or community) cat population is extremely out of control. It is much more evident to those of us engaged in trying to keep them healthy and fed. The wanton idea to euthanize them by poisoning in their food is so cruel and reflects badly on the legislative bodies suggesting it.

We are a no kill society here in Hawaii. Our Humane Society advocates that believe. The many Charitable cat organizations on the island work diligently to protect, monitor and manage the population of our felines.

Any plan going forward will demand all of us working together. Passing this Bill will alienate the vast amount of feline friends who care for them on a daily basis. We are the people you will rely on to gather your information and we want to help. But I will not assist in the Euthanasia of my feline community.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion.

fiona Beckley

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:21:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Judith A Mick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha- It is definitely important that we address the problem of feral cats in Hawaii. For many years I took in strays, had them fixed and found them homes. We must admire the hard work of many who have been trying through the spay/neuter program to get ahead of the problem. I would like to ask that rather than inhumanely killing these animals, the State commit to becoming a part of the spay/neuter program and expand it so the problem can be solved. I don't think we want to teach our children that when something bothers you, just kill it. That does not speak well for those of us living in the land of aloha. Mahal for your consideration. Judith Mick, Kailua

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:22:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Broderick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support this bill and find it offensive. Trap, Neuter, Return is a much better way to control the population. If you get rid of all the cats then we will have a much bigger problem with mice and rats. Cats are loving creatures by nature and I think this is horrible and a better way needs to be found.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:22:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lee Blackman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

My wife and I have been visitors, property owners and/or part-time residents in Hawaii generally, and on Hawaii Island specifically, for decades. We have first-hand experience with this issue.

So please consider our suggestion that this proposed legislation is a work of advocacy based on a results-oriented selection of bits and pieces of dated or marginally pertinent literature, along with the opinions of interest groups whose positions are equally tailored to persuade, not educate.

Let me suggest, as discussed below, that this legislation should be rejected as proposed because it provides extraordinarily limited justification for an extraordinarily draconian proposal to legitimize the default selection of lethal injections as the preferred “humane” method to accomplish an overbroad legislative order to eliminate the entire population of free-roaming cats, everywhere in the Islands (except for the somehow politically expedient reprieve for 50 percent of the free-roaming cats on Oahu), whether or not any particular cat represents a genuine threat to endangered fauna where that cat actually resides.

To demonstrate the bias that pervades this proposal, it is sufficient to point out that the evidence in support of this proposal is either dated, unvetted, related to other jurisdictions, and/or so general as to be unreliable as justification for the euthanasia the bill authorizes. For example, the proposal relies heavily on an unavailable and unvetted “2013 University of Hawaii survey” that addressed only the preferences of an unknown population of respondents who supported the vague idea that “the feral cat abundance should be decreased”, that feral cats should be permanently removed “from areas with threatened or endangered fauna“, and that “the most preferred technique for managing feral cats was the live capture and lethal injection technique”. While the survey could not have encompassed all Hawaii residents, the authors of this legislation assert that the survey revealed that “eighty-seven per cent of Hawaii residents agreed that feral cat abundance should be decreased.” The respondents provided three justifications: “dislike of seeing feral cats”, “lack of intrinsic value of feral cats”, and the “risk feral cats pose to native fauna”. So the legislation authorizes euthanasia of **all** free-roaming cats because people don’t like seeing them, they have no intrinsic value, or they threaten native fauna. Notably, authors selectively conceal the specific which would reveal what population of respondents was surveyed, where the respondents reside, the statistical method used to infer the views of the population not surveyed, the statistical reliability of the inferences, or even the number of respondent and percentage of respondents who found lethal injection preferable to trap-neuter-release. Nor do the authors of this legislation consider in any way the causes of excessive free-

roaming cats, as if the frequent release of formerly domesticated cats had no role in the problem and education of owners about programs to place abandoned cats with willing owners could have no role in solving the problem.

We could go on, but it is sufficient to say that the problem needs a tailored and genuinely humane solution. This legislation is not a genuine and even-handed effort to find it.

Lee Blackman and Kathryn Forte

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:22:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lilana novakovich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am disgusted by this bill. Killing innocent animals in any manner is unacceptable. I have been a regular visitor to Hawaii for 40 years coming 4 times a year and volunteer to feed for AdvocatsHawaii when there. I know that your tourism will suffer once Hawaii has blood on it's hands. The tourists at the hotels I stay at have always enjoyed the cats and the AdvoCat feeders make sure that they are fed every day. The cats are something tourists love to see in Hawaii. Instead of spending tax payer money on trying to count cats and kill them, a few established cat sanctuaries where the trapped, spayed/neutered cats can be taken is more humane. Lanai has managed to do this. I don't think tourists or locals will want to step over dead cats if you kill them. The infestation of flies, rodents etc with dead feral cats is a major health risk and you don't have enough staff to locate and dispose of them. I have personally sent emails and called animal rights groups in Canada and mainland plus the media since this bill merits international outrage and it will come. And, likely affect tourism. Please do not let this bill go through.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:23:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Pisani	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Measure HB1987 is inhumane. Who is to say by poisoning cats you won't be poisoning other animals. Where will it stop?? Poisoning stray dogs, birds, chickens and any other animal. The only humane and effective method is spay/neuter. So instead of rounding cats to poison try rounding them up to spay/neuter. I strongly object to this inhumane bill it is discussing and repugnant. Who ever wrote this must not care for humanity. Where will your poisoning end. Why not homeless people then elders criminals. Do younot have a soul?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:23:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Jerome	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to HB1987. The culling of feral or community cats is not successful as shown by one culling program in Australia. Cat populations increase post cull as more cats move in to the colony. This is due to the "vacuum effect", other cats which have not been spayed or neutered will simply take their place.

I am an active member of a Trap Neuter Release MANAGE program which is the ONLY effective way to reduce the cat population. It is imperative that we manage the existent population by sterilization, not eradication. Cat colonies are best managed by having successful TNR programs in place.

There are a lot of factors to be considered regarding free roaming cats. As long as irresponsible pet owners continue to dump their unneutered, unwanted pets, feral cats will continue to multiply. Owners dump their pets when they can no longer afford to care for them or cannot find pet friendly housing. The local humane societies MUST make available affordable spay/neuter appointments for pet owners and landlords MUST be willing to accept well behaved non threatening pets as part of the tenant's lease. Educating the public and pet owners to the importance of spaying or neutering their pets is vital as well.

Mass euthanasia or poisoning is not only incredibly inhumane, it is not practical, which is why so many local governments have resorted to TNR for better control of free roaming cat colonies. In addition, it is impossible to not have other animals, dogs, pet cats, birds, be poisoned as well. You are talking about widespread slaughter of thousands upon thousands of innocent animals.

The ASPCA endorses TNR as "the only proven humane and effective method to manage feral cat colonies." Trap, Neuter, Release, Manage is the ONLY reasonable way to handle the cat population here or anywhere. It has been PROVEN to work. Feral colonies provide natural rodent control as well.

I, along with countless other dedicated volunteers, work closely with the humane society here on Maui to trap, neuter, and release thousands of cats as we manage our locations. We need support to continue with this successful program. The cats are not the problem, irresponsible humans are.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:23:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Randy Simpson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill based on the following concerns.

-The 2013 survey of almost 90% of Hawaiian residents being against cats implies more interest in this program than exists. Though a high percentage of Hawaiian residents want to see something done, it does not mean that they want to poison all of the feral cats.

-Hawaii Island currently has NO OPEN INTAKE facility, and is barely supporting TNR, these are much better ways to deal with nuisance animals and to control the population.

-how much money will be apportioned? Again, if asked would residents want this amount spent?

-are solutions from Australia really going to work in Hawaii, or are we going to be left with more unintended consequences from the poison.

WE NEED LESS CATS, but we can decide to do it humanely, or not.

Randy Simpson

Hakalau, HI

-

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:24:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Christal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987.

This bill is cruel and inhumane.

Many colony cats are those that have been dumped by their owners, or those that have been “stolen” by vindictive neighbors and relocated to areas far from their homes. Many cats have been dumped by military members as they leave the island. Effective solutions come from a complete understanding of the problem, and the biggest problem, by far, is that people here adopt and then abandon. There is also an appalling lack of enforcement of abandonment laws.

Efforts should focus more on enforcing the existing penalties for animal abandonment. More funding should be made available to spay/neuter services. Several organizations on island strive to provide spay/neuter services, not just for abandoned cats but also for owned cats.

Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) programs work. Unfortunately, they are woefully underfunded and limited to one organization, HHS, which currently has a one-month waiting period to get a cat neutered.

I take care of colonies, spending hundreds of hours per year feeding, medicating, TNR’ing and looking for homes for the abandoned cats. I spend thousands of dollars per year doing the above. Their lives matter. Many are sweet, loving, and are in this predicament because people have let them down. I personally have found homes for many, and I have 3 abandoned cats, found in colonies, living in my home.

Again, I repeat my strong opposition to this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:24:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Chihiro Urayama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

No to murdering cats, there are other effective humane ways to solve the feral cat populations.

Money needs to be used for affordable spay neuter services and trap neuter return programs and also support non profit cat sanctuaries and Humane Society.

Please use our tax for more effective and humane way!!!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:25:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Jackson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

When I was told about this abhorrent bill I was disappointed in that I could not write sooner and forward to others who may be thinking like me.

In my opinion, a life is a life and we need to see if there is a better way to solve this problem.

We don't round up all of the homeless people and kill them because they are a resource drain on society, why should we do the same with cats?

Feral cat colonies can be controlled over the long run with spayed/neutring programs.

The quick and easy way is to exterminate these innocent creatures as if they were roaches, when in actuality irresponsible humans who dump their domesticated cats are a major part of the problem.

I hate to think of the social media outcry that result when the greater public gets wind of how our elected official didn't explore other humane means of addressing this problem that doesn't involve poisoning a bunch of cats.

Thank you for your time.

Ryan Jackson

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:24:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
arleen velasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We must protect our marine life and the feral cats have contributed to the death of several endangered monk seals. We must insure any killing of cats is done humanely, such as a lethal shot. We must not inflict any pain to the cats and any plan must insure that all consequences of the action taken are considered. The mongoose population on the island are a good example of poor planning. Poison is not a solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:25:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Thania Parry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

Please fix and release these cats to the same area but don't kill them! It is very inhumane to do this. Keeping the population low will help the issue plus a lot of people feed them.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Thania Parry

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:26:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryuko Miura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats have a right to live too. We should share this beautiful planet with them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:27:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Holly Elder	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It has been proven in the past and in other jurisdictions that trying to "eliminate" the feral cat population does not work because it is impossible to fully eliminate a species from an area. It will be a waste of government funding that could better be used for other programs that could be successful, such as Trap neuter release. TNR has been successful in lowering the feral cat population in many other jurisdictions. I encourage each of you to vote against this bill. If the government is going to put poisoned food in traps, then non feral cats that have homes and are neutered/spayed could eat it, so the government would be essentially poisoning local families' beloved pets. Other creatures could also eat the poison as well. Please, please, please vote against this bill. It is barbaric.

My name is Kathy Guyon. I am writing to oppose State Legislature Bill HB 1987. I have been a resident of Hilo on the Big Island for 22 years. During that time I have adopted or helped find homes for over 20 feral / stray cats and kittens. The most recent addition to our house is an adult feral male who had previously been part of a TNR (trap, neuter, release) program as he showed up in our back yard already neutered and ear tipped. It took some time and patience to convince him that we were his friend, but he is now a healthy, loving, indoor only cat. I am so thankful that he was not killed when he was trapped and that he was given a chance to live.



TNR is proven to be an effective and humane means to reduce feral cat population by curbing the explosive reproduction cycle. It also results in healthier feral cat colonies with fewer fights over territory and less energy going into producing kittens. I urge you to more fully explore the benefits of trap, neuter, release / rehome before you adopt a policy of cruelly poisoning these beautiful animals. One excellent example of successful TNR is the work done by the non-profit group TinyKittens (tinykittens.com). You can contact them for more information regarding feral cats and TNR at:

TinyKittens Society
P.O. Box 799
Fort Langley, BC V1M 2S2
Canada

hello@tinykittens.com

I have read HB 1987 and have several objections to the text, including:

- There is no information regarding the “respondents” to the 2013 survey referenced but it is telling that their first objection was that they did not like seeing feral cats. These respondents also indicated that they believed the feral cat population had no intrinsic value. They could not be more wrong! Every life matters. These are living, breathing creatures capable of feeling pain, and love! They are worth saving.
- The “baiting” method proposed is essentially poison wrapped in meat pellets. I found a reference to this which stated there was little evidence that it worked, and perhaps of equal

importance, there was no evidence how the baits negatively impacted non-target animals (<https://terrestrialecosystems.com/cat-baiting-using-eradicat-and-curiosity-is-it-working/>). There is no way to seed the islands with poison pellets while ensuring that people's pets, companion / work animals or an unforeseen animal population are not killed.

- The statements concerning toxoplasmosis are biased and misleading. The leading cause of toxoplasmosis comes from consuming undercooked or raw meat. Freezing meat prior to consuming or ensuring the meat is heated to recommended temperatures when cooking will nullify the chances for infection (https://www.cdc.gov/parasites/toxoplasmosis/gen_info/faqs.html).
- The statement regarding monk seals is inflammatory and misleading. 12 deaths attributed to toxoplasmosis in 20 years. During this same time frame how many monk seal deaths were there overall? How many were due solely to human negligence or cruelty? Feral cats are not a threat to monk seals.

I urge the legislature to reject this bill and explore other, humane means to protect the native bird population, including fencing and TNR programs in critical habitats. The government support of TNR programs in the community, many of which are currently funded by individuals, would help immensely and would result in a stable, healthy, and eventually smaller feral cat population on the Hawaiian Islands without resorting to cruelty and putting other animals at risk.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Guyon
Hilo Resident

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:29:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rosamonde Cook	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Commissioners:

I am opposed to the proposed legislation contained in HB1987. I know that feral cats are a serious threat to the native wildlife of Hawaii and appreciate your efforts to address it. However, I believe the use of poisons, distributed in the environment is 1) unlikely to be effective as the scientific literature suggests and 2) harmful to non-target wildlife, pets, and people. Studies on the use of the very same poisons proposed have been shown in field tests to have a minimal effect in reducing feral cat activity in the short term and zero effect on long term population control, suggesting the harm that could be done far outweighs the potential benefits. I urge you to use your resources to investigate safe, effective, long-term population control of feral cats in our precious islands. THis bill doesn't do it. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:30:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
perry gerhard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We object to the passage of this bill. The indiscriminate killing of all feral cats is both in humane, cruel and unnecessary.

We are aware that in many situations there are both local residents and visitors who make the effort to care for these cats on an ongoing basis.

We believe that spay/neuter is the humane way to deal with this situation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:31:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gary Wayne Christal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987.

This bill is cruel and inhumane.

Many colony cats are those that have been dumped by their owners, or those that have been “stolen” by vindictive neighbors and relocated to areas far from their homes. Effective solutions come from a complete understanding of the problem, and the biggest problem, by far, is that people here adopt and then abandon. There is also an appalling lack of enforcement of abandonment laws.

Efforts should focus more on enforcing the existing penalties for animal abandonment. More funding should be made available to spay/neuter services. Several organizations on island strive to provide spay/neuter services, not just for abandoned cats but also for owned cats.

Trap, Neuter and Release (TNR) programs work. Unfortunately, they are woefully underfunded and limited to one organization, HHS, which currently has a one-month waiting period to get a cat neutered.

I take care of colonies, spending hundreds of hours per year feeding, medicating, TNR’ing and looking for homes for the abandoned cats. I spend thousands of dollars per year doing the above. Their lives matter. Many are sweet, loving, and are in this predicament because people have let them down. I personally have found homes for many, and I have 3 abandoned cats, found in colonies, living in my home.

Again, I repeat my strong opposition to this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:35:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Diane Materi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Your HB1987 is obscene. Please do not give Hawaii a black eye by killing off a domesticated cat, yes even feral cats are domesticated animals. It is you the human being who has caused this problem and you already have dedicated rescues in Hawaii working to limit the number of cats by tnr and feeding stations. Many tourists are impressed by the cat colonies they find at locations and come back to see these mostly friendly cats.

Laws against dumping and not spay/neutering your animals should be policed. I realize this is difficult but it is lazy, uncaring residents who caused this problem to begin with.

Look at what has happened when humans intervened by bringing the mongoose to the islands. What about all the goats tearing up property?

Hawaii will be looked upon with disgust from many around the world if you pass this Bill. Tourists, Hawaiian residents and people who have never been to Hawaii will maybe change their plans to ever visit.

I strongly and most vehemently oppose such a cruel and abhorrent action. Please vote down this Bill 1987.

Diane Materi

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:37:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hisae Tsuchda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:37:43 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Imamoto Salazar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987. The eradication strategy is inhumane and a cruel attack on vulnerable cats who are living outdoors through no fault of their own. Please help and support the various organizations in our community who help these animals, who try their best to stop or slow the overpopulation of ferals with TNR, and who find homes for adoptable strays.

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please know that I am against this bill. The eradication strategy championed by this bill is inhumane, unrealistic and alienating to the only people who are actually doing anything to count or manage Free-Roaming cats on a large scale, animal welfare groups and TNR volunteers.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Michele Hope Velasco
1530 16th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. I have spent the last 30 years practicing trap/neuter/return and rehoming free roaming cats. I am so tired of being made to look like the bad guy. Until people stop abandoning/dumping cats, there will always be free roaming cats.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lisa Thompson
832 15th Ave
Honolulu, HI 96816

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

The solution to Hawai'i's free-roaming cat overpopulation is not an impractical, wildly unpopular, indiscriminate cull. Many individuals and organizations are working hard to deliver humane solutions (with almost no help from the state of Hawaii), and the rhetoric in this bill will only inflame the situation and make collaboration near impossible.

Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Daniel Roselle
45-1181 Kalehua Rd Apt Honokaa
Honokaa, HI 96727

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

Hi, I am Jennifer Wood, an advocate for animals, and I oppose Bill 1987. The tactics of managing cat populations through poisoning or eradication are inhumane! While populations must be controlled, that is NOT the way to do it. Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Jen Ho
2502 Henry St
Honolulu, HI 96817

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

I strongly oppose this bill. The people and feral cats of Hawaii would be better served by putting the money and other resources for counting and exterminating these animals into neutering programs.

Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Kim Tomey
45-551 Awapapa Pl
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Thursday, February 3, 2022

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

make it right

Free-Roaming cats are present in Hawaii due to the failings of human beings. Reducing their population can only be done effectively if the community works together toward that goal. This bill, with its inflammatory rhetoric and threats against innocent animals, only serves to confirm the worst fears of the volunteers who are trying to help these cats.

I would encourage the committee to recognize that this is a complex issue requiring a multifaceted response, a response that recognizes the amazing work being done by the volunteers who trap and sterilize Free-Roaming cats to prevent breeding.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

joanna milo

87-576 Manuu St

Waianae, HI 96792

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

I absolutely oppose House Bill 1987. It is totally inhumane and the cats are innocent victims. It is not their fault they are out there it is irresponsible people who cause all this and cats pay the price. This bill is barbaric and as I am involved in cat rescue and helping these cats along with the many others who help with trapping, spaying, neutering and keeping them healthy, I am in total opposition of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony.

Sincerely,

Kitty Ng
2499 Kapiolani Blvd
Honolulu, HI 96826

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

I have personally adopted 5 feral cats and they absolutely love indoor life without the need to hunt birds. Trap and neuter the animals and work with no kill shelters on the mainland to send them too if the population is too high, don't be barbarians.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cory Forson
92-1537 Aliinui Dr Unit 16A
Kapolei, HI 96707

Subject: OPPOSE HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

The eradication strategy championed by this bill is inhumane, unrealistic.

The Hawaiian Humane Society agrees that data is needed to better understand the state's Free-Roaming cat population. In fact, their team is presently coordinating the first ever scientific Free-Roaming cat census performed in Hawaii, working with the researchers who conducted the groundbreaking DC Cat Count.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats.

How to tell our children?

Poison animals !

Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ute Regan
55 S Kukui St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

Please do not poison Cats!!! It is cruel and inhumane! Stop this craziness

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Linda Groves
68-3883 Lua Kula St Apt 1804
Waikoloa, HI 96738

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am an elementary school student living in Honolulu and I am strongly against House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

Free-Roaming cats are here because of humans. Because of this, I don't think this bill will help with invasive species control. And, this is cruel toward these animals.

Also, I have an indoor cat that was a rescued cat and I am concerned that it will be a danger to pets if they get loose.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Luke Nagasako
1634 Makiki St
Honolulu, HI 96822

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

Homelessness, crime, inflation, and you want to waste time and \$ to kill cats abandoned by humans. And by the most inhumane way.

Aloha state where cats die writhing in pain, foaming in the mouth, and blood coming out of their noses.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Peggy Mitchell
77 Merchant St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

My name is H. "Josie" Josypenko, a volunteer at the Humane Society. My life's passion has been to make a positive difference in my community and when learning about HB1987, I felt compelled to raise my voice in opposition. HR1987 creates a biased, inflammatory view of the free-roaming cat population throughout our islands. The Bill does not supply methods to address the cause for growth of colonies, the lack of public education and the availability of non-lethal techniques for managing free-roaming cats. Eradication is not the answer.

In my community, a manage colony of free-roaming cats has shown a positive change in its size and in the behavior of the cats. Unfortunately, there are those who want instant results vice taking the time required to work toward controlling the colony. Proven methods to control free-roaming cats colonies exists. However, actions to include surveying the populations, deciding any risk to an area and a management program takes time. HB1987 is not a solution, it is an inhumane band aid.

Free-roaming cats did not materialize overnight. These animals were left to fend for themselves, thus, multiplying uncontrolled. HB1987 does not address the need for public support in resolving the matter. Support includes education and NOT fear mongering grandstanding with biased information. An example of this is the Bill's exaggerated wording on "toxoplasmosis" as it passes to humans. Toxoplasmosis can simply be avoided in humans by completely cooking foods which may have the parasite. HB1987 implies free-roaming cats are the ONLY carrier of the parasite, when indeed domesticated cats can carry the parasite. Should owners of domesticated cats get rid of their pets based on this?

Again, I am against HB1987. Please, do not vote for this biased, inhumane Bill. It does not create a humane approach to solve the problem of free-roaming cats in our islands. Thank you.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Josie Josypenko
47-169 Hui Akepa Pl Apt E
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Subject: Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Bridget Boyd
5224 Oio Dr
Honolulu, HI 96821

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

I am the owner of a once feral cat who was able to become part of our family. Eradication by culling feral cats will not address the population problem. Additionally, some cats in colonies were once pets that were dumped. These animals have the potential to be rehomed. Trapping, neutering and public education on neutering their own pets as well as finding humane Alternatives to maintaining their pets welfare and well-being when they no longer care for them are better options.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melanie Kim

2895 Kalakaua Ave Apt 1502

Honolulu, HI 96815

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Poisoning cats is cruel and inhumane. Spay and neuter programs as well as education for the communities on all islands need to be made more robust. This is a horrible bill and in the end, will not end the overpopulation of cats in Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Susan Collins
46-3991 Old Mamalahoa Hwy
Honokaa, HI 96727

Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

The bill is counterproductive and cruel. Poisoning animals should and never be an option and sure doesn't sound like the Aloha way.

The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alexandria Zinov
2118 Kuhio Ave Apt 301
Honolulu, HI 96815

Please Vote Against HB1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. While I understand the need to reduce the feral cat population I have to question the effectiveness of this proposal except perhaps in wilder areas where no humans are trying to manage the colonies. However note that there is no way to prevent native species from eating poisoned food once you put it out.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Martha Randolph
2571 Pacific Heights Rd
Honolulu, HI 96813

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

Please do not exterminate feral cats! We need people to spay/neuter their animals first and foremost. In the case of existing feral cats they, too, can be trapped and fixed at the Humane Society (usually about \$10) and then released back into their colony. The proactive way to solve this issue is to spay and neuter all the feral kitties and not kill them!

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Martha McDermott
1612 Alencastre St
Honolulu, HI 96816

Please defer House Bill 1987HB1987

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

Free-Roaming cats are present in Hawaii due to the failings of human beings. Reducing their population can only be done effectively if the community works together toward that goal. This bill, with its inflammatory rhetoric and threats against innocent animals, only serves to confirm the worst fears of the volunteers who are trying to help these cats.

I would encourage the committee to recognize that this is a complex issue requiring a multifaceted response, a response that recognizes the amazing work being done by the volunteers who trap and sterilize Free-Roaming cats to prevent breeding.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

K. Saiki

1441 16th Ave

Honolulu, HI 96816

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species.

We shouldn't kill feral cats.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ayaka Kobayashi
95-217 Ahunalii Pl
Mililani, HI 96789

Please defer House Bill 1987

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. **This bill if passed could potentially result in inhumane treatment of feral cats and other animals. Please support the Hawaii Humane Society's opposition to this bill, or any other bills that could harm animals.**

Free-Roaming cats are present in Hawaii due to the failings of human beings. Reducing their population can only be done effectively if the community works together toward that goal. This bill, with its inflammatory rhetoric and threats against innocent animals, only serves to confirm the worst fears of the volunteers who are trying to help these cats.

I would encourage the committee to recognize that this is a complex issue requiring a multifaceted response, a response that recognizes the amazing work being done by the volunteers who trap and sterilize Free-Roaming cats to prevent breeding.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hamid Jahanmir
915 Birch St Apt 106
Honolulu, HI 96814

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

I oppose House Bill 1987 TNR and spay education are humane and effective. Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg
1721 Young St Apt I
Honolulu, HI 96826

Please Vote Against HB1987 relating to Invasive Species

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

Please do not advance House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. Instead of killing the cats by poisoning them, why doesn't the state hire people to trap and get them spayed or neutered? Getting the cats "fixed" is a humane and logical solution to reducing feral cat populations. Instead of being responsible for helping the animals, this bill will give people permission to be cruel to animals. We share the planet with them. People who are cruel to animals are usually dysfunctional or suffer from some degree of mental illness. Another thing is what if someone's pet wanders into someone else's area & the pet is poisoned. Will the pet owner be able to sue?

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kelly Pilialoha-Cypriano
PO Box 604
Waianae, HI 96792

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1987

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE and Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Mark Hashem, Vice-Chair Amy Perusso and committee members,

Killing innocent animals as proscribed by House Bill 1987 is unconscionable.

The best solutions involve working with animal welfare and trap-neuter-return groups who are already tackling this issue. This measure has little hope of actually reducing the number of cats outdoors.

I urge the committee to reject HB1987 and the ineffective thinking it represents. Support the people who are already working to understand and reduce the Free-Roaming cat population in our state.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

Sincerely,

Sheri Iha
1176 Akuila Pl
Kailua, HI 96734

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Representative Hashem, Vice-Chair Representative Perruso, and Members of the Committee on Agriculture:

Against. TNRM is the most humane to maintain growing cat populations. Understand that care takers of the colonies do their best to maintain the numbers, however there are issues with people who DUMP their animals when they see these colonies thinking their animal will be cared for. These animals are not always fixed or microchipped. So lets pass a bill to spay or neuter the people who dump their animals into the wild when they are no longer "cute" or become cumbersome for them to care for.

This bill is counterproductive. The state cannot reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats in Hawaii if it alienates the community volunteers who trap and spay/neuter cats. Even counting cats, which by itself I don't oppose, cannot be done without the help of these volunteers. And they are not going to assist in an effort if the end goal is to kill cats.

I care about cats and wildlife. This is a cruel and wrong approach to a complex issue. Please vote against HB1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Shane Loui
1722 Young St
Honolulu, HI 96826

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, February 4, 2022

TIME: 10:00 a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to House Bill 1987 relating to invasive species. Please do not pass this bill!! There are other Humane solutions to our feral cat problem!! Poison, especially, is such and terrible terrible idea!! What about our livestock, our pets, our Aina? We can do better than this for Hawaii!

Free-Roaming cats are present in Hawaii due to the failings of human beings. Reducing their population can only be done effectively if the community works together toward that goal. This bill, with its inflammatory rhetoric and threats against innocent animals, only serves to confirm the worst fears of the volunteers who are trying to help these cats.

I would encourage the committee to recognize that this is a complex issue requiring a multifaceted response, a response that recognizes the amazing work being done by the volunteers who trap and sterilize Free-Roaming cats to prevent breeding.

Please defer this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Melodie Ulman

88 Maha Rd

Makawao, HI 96768

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:41:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mary Lillian Handwerk	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this barbaric culling of cats many of whom are spayed or neutered. In our public parks in Hilo and at The Safeway store parking lot, I have seen and spoken to Advocat persons who trap,spay, neuter, microchip and feed the cats.

A better use of the funds would be to support Advocats to establish a fenced and gated animal sanctuary on each island and to support spay/neuter clinics.

All animal control issues should be under county animal control so that numbers are properly tracked and reported. If there is an overpopulation problem, which there is, county animal control and reacues need more funding. Spay neuter funding should be your focus along with public service announcements to increase awareness of free spay and neuter clinics.

Also...no poisoning to eradicate when it is animal control policy to euthanize.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:38:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nathan Dube	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, & Esteemed Representatives-

I strongly support increasing efforts to reduce the feral cat population throughout the state. These invasive species have been detrimental to Hawaii's ecological health for years, and the first step is gathering data and devising a strategic plan to deal with this harmful threat.

Mahalo nui.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:41:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rei Awaji	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

If people kill the Hawaiian animals, do you kill the people?

I hope the way that not kill the cats. For example, expansion of shelter. If you need the money, you should try to collect money from people who oppose this matter.

Before you decide to kill the cats, we should try as much as we can.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:42:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joye Allen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Oppose! Cats are Not harming anyone! Save the Cats!!!!!! I save cats and have now adopted out 6 and and kept one which is my own!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:43:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail Slawson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a cat and dog owner and I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1987. Poisoning outdoor cats is inhumane and undermines the extensive efforts by the Humane Society, Cat People of Oahu and other similar groups to control the cat population. This bill is trying to inhumanely kill all outdoor cats, including ones that have been spayed/neutered and indoor/outdoor cats that belong to loving families like mine. I believe we need to conduct a study and deploy resources to control the population by spaying and neutering these animals. Through the Humane Society I have personally spayed and neutered at least 20 stray cats in my neighborhood. I also recently recused a pregnant cat off the streets, spayed & neutered all the kittens and mother, and personally placed them all in loving homes. The mother is now my personal indoor/outdoor cat. The problem we face is a human problem, not a cat problem. We need to educate people to be responsible pet owners and spay/neuter their pets. We need to supply the required resources for all families, regardless of income, to be able to spay/neuter their animals. We should make illegal the selling of unfixed cats & dogs. We should study the problem more carefully, engage the community more closely, and follow the lead of the experts in the pet industry. You may call on me to provide in person testimony. You can count on me to be part of the solution. Again, I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1987.

Testimony opposed to HB1987

I am terribly disappointed that this legislation has been introduced. There are several alternative methods to reducing feral cat population which are not as ill-considered and draconian as the ideas proposed here.

I have managed a feral cat colony before. Trap, spay, and release does work. Over time, the colony will die. Right now, I work with a group in Puna which feeds and implements a trap, spay and release program at the Keaau transfer station. We also provide medical treatment to ill cats and humane removal if necessary. All of this is done by volunteers at no cost to taxpayers.

Everybody wants to protect endangered birds. Everybody wants to protect monk seals. I do as well. However, this legislation and the approach of killing every cat one can find is horrible and not-humane.

This is the year of the water tiger. This is a year to help cats have good lives, not to kill them.

Renee Rabb

District 4, Pct. 1

PO Box 915

Keaau, TX 96749

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:44:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paige Henry	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am a resident of Hilo, Hawaii, and I strongly oppose this bill. I am sure it was made with good intention, due to the large feral cat problem on the islands. I moved the Big Island about one year ago to work for Hilo Medical Center. After noticing how big of a problem this really was, my long-term goal had changed from working as a registered dietitian to building a shelter to spay and neuter feral cats. Unlike many other places in the country, there are very few animal control resources currently available on the islands. This includes Ohio (the place I moved from), where there are over fifty humane societies and dozens of other organizations. I completely agree that this problem needs to be fixed, though not in this way. Killing feral cats is NOT the answer to this problem, as evident by the rest of the country. If you truly want to solve this problem, you MUST provide more resources/organizations to spay and neuter feral cats. Otherwise, you will be back in the same position in just a few years. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:45:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aldina Bumatay	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is so inhumane and cruel. I don't have much time I just found out about this bill. I would just like to share a story about what happened to me and my two cats. I am a responsible pet owner my cats are microchipped, vaccinated, and spayed. My neighbors took my cats and relocated and release them into what you call the feral community of cats. After 1 year and 3 months of searching 1 of my cats was found on February 1, 2022, by a person who traps and saves feral cats. If this bill passes cats like mine will be killed before they can be found because of ignorant people like my neighbors who do cruel, and inhumane things to animals. We should have a law to take care of this kind of people in our community. My last words are please don't pass this bill it is cruel and inhumane. Thank You. Aldina Bumatay

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:46:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa J Sims	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a cruel bill. Please do not pass it. Educate the people and the humans involved in allowing cats to be homeless and wild. There are other message I would gladly donate money and time to save these animals. There are other ways to resolve this situation and killing the animals is not one of them. There are plenty of people who are willing to help resolve this. Do not pass this bill please

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:46:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Barnett	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hawaii is already making progress on decreasing the feral cat population through humane means, namely trap/spay or neuter/release or continue partnering with organizations stateside to transfer for adoption and placement in barns. Killing is inhumane, and not in the spirit of aloha. I anticipate that when the killing strategy becomes more widely known, it will seriously damage Hawaii's reputation. One can tell a lot about a people by the way they treat animals. Please be kind and DO NOT PASS. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:46:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jill Voeks DVM	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am very much against HB1987. It neglects to take into account the cats that have already been fixed and are part of trap-neuter-release-manage programs. (fixed cats) These animals are part of the solution to homeless cat population control. They can benefit the bird population by controlling rodents. Rodents are active at night and prey on nestlings and eggs. In this way cats help more that they harm. Rodenticide use kills Hawaiian owls and other animals. This result is inhumane suffering.

The islands are human populated areas where fixed cats benefit the environment. Attempting to kill all the cats would be a disaster. If trap-neuter-release-manage cat colonies are halted, then a high turn over of unhealthy cats can exist.

Healthy cats are more likely immune to toxoplasmosis (see Merck Manual). No study has proven otherwise. Managed fixed cats are often treated for worms in the food. HB1987 fails to consider this critical part of cat population control.

Emotional damage to the kind folks who have seen a problem and been responsible for this solution. People suffer if they know an animal is starving. Stress and lack of sleep my even lead to human deaths.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions. I am a mobile Veterinarian on Oahu.

Jill Voeks DVM
Cat/Bird Vet Mobile
94-659 Ialeleiaka Pl
Mililani Hi 96789
(808) 551-7289

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:46:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Villamor	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed bill is outdated and lacks proof positive data. Proposing the extermination of "feral" cats is downright inhumane. There has been other countries to which an extermination of cats were done, and it created an increase of other invasive species that caused an imbalance of the ecosystem. Killing "feral" cats will open a new can of worms where rats, mice and mongoose will then have the opportunity to thrive. Each species is here to maintain balance within the ecosystem and this is not a valid solution.

The community needs to have more outreach and education to prevent them from abandoning their pet cats and letting them fend for themselves.

The state should be focusing more on the management by using trap-neuter-release as a long term solution. Over time, the "feral" cat population will naturally decline on its own.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:47:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Viktoriia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello. I oppose this bill as this is not humanely right choice and we have other much more important issues to focus on. Like feeding and housing the homeless for example. Street cats are being fed, given water and humans who feed them get them sterilized as well to stop unwanted reproduction. They pose no danger and sometimes provide comfort for people seeking it. Like the homeless and elderly and I personally see children play with them all the time. Respectfully, Viktoriia.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:47:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber Ricci	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been part of the spay and neuter program with the Humane Society for over 25 years here and I work regularly to catch and fix the many cats in the many colonies here. We absolutely need more support and finding homes and Haven's for these kitties but I do not agree that poisoning them or killing them is the right answer. These are innocent domesticated animals, many of them have been dumped by irresponsible owners. They deserve to live their lives in peace and be managed and helped by the people here who care for them. If this bill is passed it would affect Hawaii's tourism and the local communities in a adverse way to know that the state would advocate killing these animals. It is cruel and inhumane .

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:47:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Christine morse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am raising my voice to advocate against killing the feral cat population.

TNR, trap, neuter, release, is the solution! Please work with Advocats Hawaii for a humane solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:48:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kellie Gatney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

I would like to submit testimony on HB 1987.

Killing feral cats does not eliminate the problem of feral cats, unfortunately, and decades of others trying this method have demonstrated this time and again. What happens is that when colony cats are killed, the stress levels increase in the remaining members and the females, now in survival mode, are triggered into producing even MORE offspring as their biology kicks into gear. They produce up to three times as many litters per year with up to three times as many kittens in each litter, exacerbating the problem and accelerating it.

Additionally, there is what is known as the ‘vacuum effect’ - in short, this is when surrounding cats from neighboring areas immediately fill a vacated colony area because of the increased availability of resources. The speed with which this phenomenon occurs is stunning, and evidence that the only true solution, as evidenced by the failure of multiple attempted eradication methods, is the “TNR” method- Trap, Neuter, Return.

There are many organizations in Hawaii that are doing exactly this- trapping, spaying and neutering, adopting out kittens and tame cats that have simply been abandoned by their owners (far more common than you’d realize), and returning the rest to live a calm, quiet life around a food bowl that is in a hidden location and filled each day by a caregiver. This is the only method that has proven successful.

Additionally- imagine how overrun we would be with mice and rats if there were no cats? If cats were poisoned, consider how many pu’eo owls and other birds (whom the bill is supposedly attempting to protect) would also inadvertently be killed? Eliminating one species has far reaching ramifications on the whole ecosystem and food chain. It does not just ‘solve’ one problem, it creates far greater problems than one ever imagined. Consider: “In a letter to Nature, biologists Kevin R. Crooks and Michael E. Soulé explain that when large mammalian carnivores

disappear (or in the case of eradication programs, they are lethally removed), this causes small carnivores, or mesopredators, to increase (Crooks and Soulé, 1999). In other words, when a top predator, such as the cat, is removed from the food chain, smaller predators like rats—along with prey animals like rabbits—increase in abundance, which is often bad news for an ecosystem.” While we don’t have many rabbits on the Big Island, we certainly have rats.

Marion Island near South Africa is only 15 miles long and 10 miles wide, yet it took 19 years to kill 3,400 cats (Bester et al., 2002). Additionally, it cost \$1.3 billion to eradicate the cats living on Ascension Island (located in the South Atlantic Ocean), which is only 34 square miles (Veitch et al., 2011).

These eradication programs that are deemed “successful” within the scientific community have been carried out on small, isolated islands with little to no human inhabitants. Attempting to eradicate an entire population of feral cats on a continent, with far more variables and unpredictable outcomes would be futile. The number of families who unfortunately abandon their cats or simply do not spay or neuter them and allow them to roam free- will immediately fill any void left from any eradication efforts.

There is a great deal of research out there detailing not only the science proving eradication efforts do not work, but that they are cruel and inhumane, causing the animal to die a slow and very painful death, and I strongly advise consulting national animal welfare organizations and scientists who have specifically researched this before you decide to delineate our state as the Killing State instead of the Aloha State. Get the facts straight. Do not rely on the simple verbiage created by a politician with a hidden agenda which does NOT represent his constituents.

This bill is cruel, inhumane and most importantly, it will not be effective in achieving its intended purpose and as such, it should not proceed. Spend our tax dollars on something worthwhile like EDUCATION.

Sincerely,

Kellie Gatney

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:48:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jasmine Yoshida	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT kill community cats!
MANAGE AND REDUCE their populations!

Murdering these innocent creatures is not going to work long term and will just create a vacuum that other cats will breed to fill in.

Do not exasperate the problem, please help and support intensive Trap/Neuter/Release efforts by Hawaiian Humane Society and other rescue organizations.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:49:32 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Steve Scott	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am commenting on HB 1987.

Hawaii has been aware of the feral cat problem for decades, yet nothing humane has been done to improve the feral cat problem. Statewide spay neuter programs and education of adults and children about spay neuter should have been started decades ago. The bill states that they will be killed humanely, but bait and poison is despicable! It's barbaric and absolutely not humane. Anybody who believe that it's humane to poison cats DOES NOT BELONG IN GOVERNMENT!

There is a massive rodent problem on farms in Australia as a result of culling the feral cat population! Rats also kill young birds and destroy their eggs.

Hawaii must to support TNR (Trap Neuter Return). It takes time, but it's been proven over and over that it works. Hundreds, if not thousands of Hawaii residents have been volunteering their time and money to humanely and effectively reduce the cat population for years. I have spent a lot of time and my own money to TNR approximately 50 cats in the past 10 years.

The fact that some members of Hawaii government want poison these very same cats is appalling! SHAME ON THEM, and anybody who supports this heinous activity!

Will the cats be checked for a microchip before they are poisoned? They certainly should be, or you may be cruelly killing someone's pet!

Hawaii should have started supporting TNR and educating residents about spay neuter long ago. Please crush this cruel, despicable bill, and enact another bill strongly supporting TNR

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:50:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heather Woltz-Winfrey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not believe poisoning is a humane way to reduce the cat population, this is unacceptable, and we can do better. Besides that, you would possibly be killing pets that get outside, this is a horrible way to die. I do believe the sick ones that were trapped could be euthanized humanely if no owner is found.

Trap Neuter Release does indeed slow and decrease the population over time. However, if this is not fast enough, if i may submit a solution: to work with the Hawaii islands numerus rescues (and volunteers) to trap and relocate cats to a fenced/colony that can be managed by caretakers and volunteers. There would need to be funds for the creation of such a place (or an expansion), but I know that there are lots of people on the island that are already donating their time to keep up this good work.

Also - if you were to offer some sort of incentive for reduced cost on fencing for building a catio (enclosed cat patios) i am sure many folks would setup and take in cats to their family). I know this may take a little more effort but overall would be a more humane solution. This would also allow folks who have indoor/outdoor cats to be indoor instead of outside.

Being that this is discussed due to the love of the endangered animals, i do not see any reason why the opposite action (murder) should be taken. Please consider utilizing the resources on the island and create a safe place for the fixed animals to live out their life.

I also firmly believe that if we can educate people on the need for fixing their cats, not dumping and adopting from rescues this would also help keep the feral population down.

In the end there will be many less feral cats loose, but through trapping, fixing, RELOCATING to a sanctuary (or multiple) as well as education, this will be a better and humane resolution in the long term. Having a process in place and a place to move them is key.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:50:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aleisha Swartz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a veterinarian of 20 years working in small animal practice and animal welfare, I strongly oppose this bill. It proposes inhumane methods of killing small mammals that would not be cat selective. Other mammals, including dogs and pigs that are hunted and consumed by humans, would be vulnerable to being poisoned. Spreading poison on the aina is not the way to restore a healthier environment for Hawaii's native and protected species. There is no way to tell a feral cat from a pet that is outdoors, lost or otherwise. This is not a responsible use of taxpayer funds and evidence-based harm mitigation strategies developed with multiple expert stakeholders should be pursued instead.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony re SB1987

Adding** Credentials

I am a Licensed Clinical Psychologist in the States of Hawaii and California, and have been a resident of Hawaii for over 15 years. I have a private practice on the Windward side of O'ahu.

I oppose HB1987 and believe it to be a form of animal cruelty, which also can inflict cruelty on others – as animal cruelty has a strong link to sociopathy, domestic violence and it has a deleterious effect on society. It punishes altruism and humane approaches, while supporting a draconian and cruel approaches. I have to take a strong stand against the 'literature' published in this bill as being, in my view, highly skewed.

Harm / Cruelty to Animals / Links to sociopathy and also to domestic violence.

A point that I really wish to state – harming animals, including cats, has shown to have a link to making it easier to develop sociopathy, and a strong link between harm to animals and also domestic violence and violence to children. There is a great number of research articles and data in scientific journals on the link between animal abuse and the development of sociopathy and the harm to children for witnessing animal abuse and /or cruelty.

***We are role models to our keiki. How we choose view, and solve our issues affects them and their intellectual, developmental, emotional and physical development greatly. ***

A large part of my education and training has to do with research, research design and understanding what types of research people pull to draw conclusions from.

With all due respect, I am alarmed at the measures called for in SB1987. Brief thumbnail: anyone can take research from where they like – 'cherry picking it'- and the printout being used as the rationale for SB1987 seems riddled with this such cherry picking to 'prove an agenda'. A more balanced set of data would show otherwise. I can find far more research and facts with reams of backup data that would oppose and otherwise state what a more effective, popular and humane approach ought to be for cats of all things. The printout supporting SB1987 can be easily challenged with more up to date and pristine research and data supplied.

It is so important what we teach our keiki. And cruelty of this nature, to animals, has a strong link to domestic and other types of violence. I am not in support of HB1987

Labels.

There is a controversy about what label cats should have – Domesticated animals, or 'invasive species'. Looking this up, can see the definitions can be what you want them to be. And a definition 'matters'. I

would believe that cats have been on the Hawaiian islands for a long enough period of time to qualify them as domestic animals, loved by many, and adapted into many homes. There is on the islands, however – the transitory nature of the cat owners, high volume of abandonment of cats, not spaying or neutering cats, neighbors who steal and dump their neighbors cats, and laws that do not uphold these measures for responsible pet ownership and incentives for landlords to accept pets.

Some years back, the DLNR changed the ‘definition of cats’ and ‘laws regarding cats’ and wrote them into legislative laws, which were very much against the cats. Also at that time tv commercials were aired blaming ‘The Humane Society’ for not wanting to be involved and help out for some of those changes, in my recall, for having had to change the laws and definitions. Having had dialogue with The Hawaiian Humane Society, I would disagree with that and say that both HHS and other volunteers would very much love to assist and help the abandoned cats and can be tasked with creative ways and numerous volunteers.

There has been a noticeable uptick in harm to animals, cruelty to cats, in the news, and seeing them as ‘objects to harm’ rather than as living abandoned or mismanaged pets. Once you label something as ‘bad’, it becomes extremely easy to harm or ‘exterminate’ them. That is psychology (and this goes for humans too). Unfortunately there is far too much of that in our society these days. Is this what we want?

This can actually increase the cat population as people can feel entitled to dump cats, steal their neighbors cats and relocate them so they will starve, knowing the State will condone this behavior, and punish and kill the cats, rather than legislate for people to be responsible pet owners, and hold the pet owners as responsible.

“ ‘The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.’ ” Mahatma Gandhi –

Harm to the Environment

I’ve reached out to NOAA and other mammal care veterinarians. I’ve asked, but It has not been explained how during many years the monk seal population has grown and thrived, and not died off since DLNR and the State seem to be pointing to the finger at cats alone and not commenting on many years of growth of the monk seals population while there are still feral cats.

DLNR and the State choose to point to research in Australia. – I suggest to please look at research and solutions from California, which is the opposite approach and labeling than Australia – a no kill state now, where feral cats have been successfully reduced and animal cruelty is not tolerated. They also do not name cats in a villainous way, which is the first step to creating inhumane treatment. (this psychological concept goes for humans too – once we label something as ‘bad’, it becomes easy to aggress against it).

UH Manoa Research or survey

They pointed to a survey from UH Manoa. During the public votes a few years back, there was an overwhelming and emotional response in favor of the cats by the public. There was also a pilot study at UH Manoa with the abandoned cats which succeeded in bring the population down and making it manageable which was not cited by DLNR and State.

Solutions: Humans are to blame, and Humans are the ones to fix this: Humans are to blame for dumping, not regulating, not making laws that have repercussions for responsible animal ownership, as it should be legislated for stronger laws on animal ownership and all the responsibilities that go with animal ownership, as well as incentives for landlords to allow their tenants to have pets. Pets are comfort and companionship to elderly / kapuna and to families.

We can enlist the help the of Hawaiian Humane Society and an 'army' of volunteers to trap and neuter, and find the best homes which is an actual way to reduce cat populations, in addition to creating or legislating for strong laws for pet owners and against pet abandonment, pet dumping, pet stealing and dumping.

We can encourage landlords to allow pets with applicable rules and fees, and encourage responsible pet ownership. Kapuna and others benefit from the companionship of cats and dogs.

I feel very strongly that showing and modeling for children as how to solve issues in the most humane and positive way, can only improve society, increase thoughtful approaches to complex issues, and increase humane responses, and not 'labeling as bad' things we wish to be easily rid of.

Mahalo for taking the time to read from another perspective in support of the cats to find humane solutions that involve people, as people are the ones creating the problems by not having strong laws to follow about ownership, dumping, and more areas to be a pet owner if you have to move on island. It is cruel to make cats suffer for that.

Thank you again for your time and consideration.

“ “The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated.”” Mahatma Gandhi –

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:51:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Cook-Fujioka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Mass poisoning is never the answer. Even if we eliminate the entire feral/outdoor cat population, it won't stop people from abandoning or dumping their animals and we will be in the same situation within a year.

If the smaller rescues and shelters received even a small portion of what the State provides to the Hawaiian Humane Society, they works be able to sterilize every cat on the island. They would also be able to feed and take care of the existing colonies so that they do not spread disease or need to hunt. Anyone who owns a housecat knows that they stop hunting when well fed.

Also, the native bird population was decimated by humans and mongoose, not cats. Same with Hawaiian monk seals. The most recent, of not all, premature seal deaths were caused by humans, not toxo.

All of the animal rescues, regardless of size, need to be brought into this conversation, at the very least. They deal with this issue everyday and know what works and what doesn't. To just try and burn everything to the ground is a cop out, an ready way to say we did something when in actuality, will only be a horrible band aid. We need alternate solutions. Some of these rescues partner with mainland shelters to ship cats there, where they are desired and more easily adopted out. Providing funding for this would be a much better use of money, with the same results, and wouldn't result with the horrific poisoning death of hundreds of thousands of lives.

Aloha, I oppose this bill on many levels. #1 Again the old kill solution, that has never worked or else we would not be here again today. #2 Divisive- pitting cat lovers against bird lovers. #3 waste of money and time. #4 Poison - horrible death.

Included in this testimony is info on Poison Baiting and Australia....

points are highlighted. Vivian Toellner, PO Box 6894, Hilo HI 96720

Assessing Risks to Non-Target Species during Poison Baiting Programs for Feral Cats

Tony Buckmaster, Christopher R. Dickman, Michael J. Johnston

Published: September 17, 2014 • <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788>

Abstract

Poison baiting is used frequently to reduce the impacts of pest species of mammals on agricultural and biodiversity interests. However, baiting may not be appropriate if non-target species are at risk of poisoning. Here we use a desktop decision tree approach to assess the risks to non-target vertebrate species in Australia that arise from using poison baits developed to control feral house cats (*Felis catus*). These baits are presented in the form of sausages with toxicant implanted in the bait medium within an acid-soluble polymer capsule (hard shell delivery vehicle, or HSDV) that disintegrates after ingestion. Using criteria based on body size, diet and feeding behaviour, we assessed 221 of Australia's 3,769 native vertebrate species as likely to consume cat-baits, with 47 of these likely to ingest implanted HSDVs too. Carnivorous marsupials were judged most likely to consume both the baits and HSDVs, with some large-bodied and ground-active birds and reptiles also consuming them. If criteria were relaxed, a further 269 species were assessed as possibly able to consume baits and 343 as possibly able to consume HSDVs; most of these consumers were birds. One threatened species, the Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) was judged as definitely able to consume baits with implanted HSDVs, whereas five threatened species of birds and 21 species of threatened mammals were rated as possible consumers. Amphibia were not considered to be at risk. We conclude that most species of native Australian vertebrates would not consume surface-laid baits during feral cat control programs, and that significantly fewer would be exposed to poisoning if HSDVs were employed. However, risks to susceptible species should be quantified in field or pen trials prior to the implementation of a control program, and minimized further by applying baits at times and in places where non-target species have little access.

Citation: Buckmaster T, Dickman CR, Johnston MJ (2014) Assessing Risks to Non-Target Species during Poison Baiting Programs for Feral Cats. PLoS ONE 9(9): e107788. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788>

Editor: David L. Roberts, University of Kent, United Kingdom

Received: June 27, 2014; **Accepted:** August 22, 2014; **Published:** September 17, 2014

Copyright: © 2014 Buckmaster et al. This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Attribution License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/), which permits unrestricted use, distribution, and reproduction in any medium, provided the original author and source are credited.

Data Availability: The authors confirm that all data underlying the findings are fully available without restriction. All relevant data are within the paper and its Supporting Information files.

Funding: This work was supported by the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (Now Department of the Environment <http://www.environment.gov.au>) and the Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre (<http://www.invasiveanimals.com/>). The funders had no role in the study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish or preparation of the manuscript

Competing interests: Funding for this project was provided by way of a consultancy by the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. This Department was also funding the development of the bait chosen. The funding arrangements for this research do not alter our adherence to all PLOS ONE policies and on sharing data and materials.

Introduction

Invasive mammalian predators pose problems for agricultural production and especially for the conservation of biodiversity in many parts of the world [1]. Prey species that have evolved on islands in the absence of mammalian predators often are highly susceptible to the arrival of new invasive forms [2], but even prey inhabiting large mainland areas can be driven to extinction if a new predator 'archetype' is introduced [3], [4]. In Australia, small native mammals and birds have experienced depredation by carnivorous marsupials (0.5–10 kg) since Miocene times to the present [5], yet many species in these prey groups have suffered serious population declines or extinction following the arrival of two novel predators, the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) and feral house cat (*Felis catus*) [6]–[9] in the wake of European colonization. Meta-analyses confirm that invasive alien predators have more strongly negative effects on prey species than do native predators, although the effects of foxes and cats in Australia generally are more pronounced than the impacts of invasive predators elsewhere in the world [10], [11].

In Australia, the control of invasive predators for the conservation of biodiversity and protection of primary production assets is conducted principally through the use of poison baits [12]. However, a key consideration when using a toxicant for the control of any species is the likelihood that non-target species will take the bait [13], [14]. Consumption of baits by non-target species can have unintended consequences ranging from incapacitation to death [15]–[17], to limiting the efficacy of the control program through

monopolization of baits [18]. Baits also are used for the delivery of oral vaccines for disease control [19], [20] and potentially for the dissemination of immuno-contraceptives [21]. In line with community expectations [22], the development of new baits should be as target-specific as possible.

Because of its acute toxicity to most mammals, the poison sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) is used widely to control mammalian pests; in Australia, it is the only toxicant that is currently registered and commercially available for predator control [23]–[26]. Many native mammal species in western and north-western Australia are relatively tolerant to this toxicant as they coevolved with endemic plant species that contain naturally occurring fluoroacetate compounds [27]–[29]. However, mammals in eastern Australia are less tolerant and more susceptible to 1080 toxicosis than their western counterparts and, as a result, 1080 baits laid in eastern Australia are generally buried to minimize the potential for non-target species to access them [28], [30]. Bait burial provides little obstacle for canid species as their acute olfactory senses allow them to detect buried baits which are then excavated and consumed [31]. Baits buried at 15 cm are excavated readily by foxes but less so by native species [32], and can be very effective at reducing the activity and numbers of foxes over large areas [33], [34].

Feral cats, by contrast, do not possess the same acute olfactory senses as canids and rarely locate and excavate buried baits [35], preferring live prey over carrion or dried meat baits [36]. Therefore baits intended for feral cats must be surface-laid, attractive and palatable [35], [37]. However, surface application increases the potential for non-target species to encounter the baits and consume lethal amounts of toxicant [14].

To improve the efficiency of using poison baits for feral cats while reducing risks to non-target species, three sets of trials have been initiated in Australia. First, research has focused on developing a bait medium that is attractive and palatable to feral cats. The most effective medium to date, Eradecat, is manufactured by the Department of Parks and Wildlife in Western Australia (Patent number AU 781829). It consists of moist kangaroo meat, chicken fat, digests and flavour enhancers and is presented on the soil surface in the form of chipolata-style sausages ~15 g in weight and 10 cm in length [17], [35]. In Western Australia, Eradecat baits are injected directly with 4.5 mg of 1080 and, depending on bait density and environmental conditions, can reduce cat activity by >80% [35], [37]. Despite the efficacy of these baits, however, the manner of their poison delivery means that they are not suitable for use in areas with 1080-susceptible non-target fauna.

Second, para-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) has been developed as an alternative toxicant for 1080 in at least some control applications [26], [38]–[40] as its adoption will lead to improved safety for the humans preparing baits along with a more humane toxicosis in the feral cat based on the observable symptoms. For many species, LD₅₀ rates—the amount of toxicant needed to kill 50% of the sample group—for PAPP are far higher than those for 1080. For example, the LD₅₀ for PAPP for *F. catus* is 5.56 mg kg⁻¹ [41] while for 1080 it is 0.28 mg kg⁻¹ [42] to 0.4 mg kg⁻¹ [43]. Having a lower toxicity, non-target species must consume more toxicant to obtain a lethal dose than would be required if using 1080. While the LD₅₀ in cats for PAPP is an order of magnitude higher than that for 1080, sufficient toxicant is contained within a single bait. As a result, only a single bait needs to be consumed by cat to result in death. Multiple bait consumption has been observed in field efficacy studies and has prompted consideration about optimising the bait density and procedure for aerial application [44].

Third, encapsulation of toxicant (of PAPP initially, but more recently of 1080) within bait media is being trialled as a means of minimizing the exposure of non-target species to the toxicant [17], [45], [46]. Here, toxicant is sealed within a hard, acid-soluble polymer capsule known as a hard shelled delivery vehicle (HSDV), and the HSDV is then inserted into the bait prior to it being laid. The HSDV exploits differential feeding behaviour between the target and many non-target species to minimize exposure of the non-target species to the toxicant [45]. Many animals gnaw at baits rather than consuming them with a single, or several, large bites [17]. Given this feeding behaviour, native animals are more likely to reject or spit out the HSDV rather than consume it. [17], [45]. However, if consumed the HSDV dissolves in the stomach and releases the toxicant.

Statutory authorities that approve and register new baits or methods of bait presentation require extensive field and pen trials to determine which non-target species will take baits [47], [48]. This information will be crucial in any future feral cat-control programs that use surface-laid baits containing PAPP [49]. Here, we use a desktop risk assessment approach to identify non-target species that are likely to take such baits based on key aspects of their biology, and thus reduce the number of species that need to be subjected to field or pen-trial tests. We focus on native Australian species owing to the imperative to reduce ongoing impacts on the many species that feral cats threaten [6], [49], but emphasize that our methodology is generic and can be applied to any situation where similar approaches to feral cat-control are being considered. We first examine the likelihood that potential prey species will eat bait media presented to feral cats, and then assess the likelihood that they may ingest an HSDV with toxicant that has been embedded in the bait. We evaluate all Australian species, but also highlight those listed as vulnerable or endangered as these frequently are the species that poison baiting programs seek to protect. Based on the results, we provide suggestions to managers about how best to minimize the possibility of poisoning non-target species during campaigns to control feral cats. We stress that the process we have used is not a replacement for carefully designed and rigorously undertaken pen and field trials, but rather is an initial step in the process of managing and minimizing non-target access to toxicants during a baiting program. The process should also not diminish the requirements for selecting target-specific bait and appropriate bait placement.

We define feral cats as cats that live and reproduce in the wild and survive by hunting or scavenging, with none of their needs satisfied intentionally by humans [50].

Methods

Study area and species

We evaluated vertebrate species that occur in all parts of mainland Australia, Tasmania and offshore islands, and also species that occur on Australian external territories. These include Ashmore, Cartier, Christmas, Cocos (Keeling), Coral Sea, Lord Howe, and Norfolk Islands in the Indian and Pacific Oceans, as well as the sub-Antarctic Heard, McDonald and Macquarie Islands.

Bait and HSDV capsule

The bait medium we chose for this analysis was based on Eradicat, but without the injected 1080 poison and with buffering to pH 7.5 to ensure stability of the HSDV within the bait. The HSDV capsule we selected is a proprietary product manufactured by Scientec Research Pty Ltd (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) and designed specifically to encapsulate PAPP toxicant formulation (Provisional Patent No. 200890357). This HSDV measures 6 mm in diameter and 8 mm in length. It is formulated to dissolve swiftly in stomach acid [46], [51]. Used together, the bait medium with implanted HSDV is being commercialized as Curiosity bait; preliminary trials show that it can be attractive to feral cats and effective in reducing their numbers [26], [46], although variable efficacy occurs in relation to other factors, such as alternate food availability [52].

Lists of potential non-target species

Comprehensive lists of all Australian terrestrial vertebrate species and subspecies were obtained from the Australian Biological Resources Study (ABRS) within the Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (now Department of the Environment) for the four taxonomic classes analyzed: Amphibia [53], Aves [54], Mammalia [55], and Reptilia [56]. These lists are accessible at (<http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/index.html>) and are assumed to be comprehensive and to provide the most current scientific name for each species and subspecies. The lists include accidental and occasional visitors to the Australian mainland and offshore islands. The species data files were downloaded directly from the ABRS website as CSV files and then converted into Excel spreadsheets. Superfluous data (for example, species synonyms, details of amendments to species' common and scientific names and historical nomenclature) were removed. The remaining data included for each species: common name, current scientific name and recognized subspecies. All assessments were undertaken using these modified lists.

To assess the likelihood of native species consuming baits, with or without HSDVs, we gathered information on animal size, habits, diet, conservation status and other aspects from a wide variety of field guides, checklists and other published sources (see below). Due to the continual and ongoing revision of the taxonomy of Australian vertebrates [e.g. 57, 58], we took care to ensure that all species referred to in the literature were the same as those on the ABRS CSV files. In several instances the ABRS database listed animals that were not described in any guides or checklists; for these taxa we searched recent literature to obtain information on their body size and other biological characteristics. Generally such discrepancies arose when a previously described species had been reclassified into multiple new species for which no descriptions were available outside the primary source. Common names for species were taken from the ABRS data files. We undertook the final analysis on species lists as they stood with the ABRS as of 9 March 2009; any subsequent taxonomic revisions of Australian vertebrates have not been included.

Potential for non-target species to take baits or HSDVs

As we did not carry out any field or pen-trial testing of animals for this analysis, we assessed the bait-take potential for each species using decision tree analysis [59], with assessment criteria listed in [Appendixes S1](#) and [S2](#). The criteria were developed to assess the potential for each species to consume either the chipolata-style bait medium and/or the implanted HSDV, and included diet, feeding behaviour and animal size.

In general, we assumed that mammals would be likely to encounter and consume surface-laid chipolata-style bait media if they were terrestrial and broadly insectivorous or carnivorous, whereas classes of other terrestrial vertebrates with similar diets would likely consume baits only if they were large enough to do so ([Appendix S1](#)). This size-based difference recognizes the ability of small mammals to gnaw large food items; other small vertebrates lack the teeth to do this. We assumed that omnivores that eat mostly green plants or fungi (e.g. potoroids) could possibly take baits, but that herbivores, species specializing on other plant products such as nectar or seeds, and species that feed on the wing and in or above water, would not be at risk of either taking baits or of consuming dead animals that had eaten baits ([Appendix S1](#)).

In identifying animals that might consume HSDVs, we included only those species that were assessed in the decision process as being at least possibly able to consume the bait media. For these species, we assumed that a broadly carnivorous, insectivorous or generalist diet would be likely associated with HSDV consumption, but only in animals that were large enough to swallow a HSDV capsule ([Appendix S2](#)).

We obtained relevant information for the assessment criteria from morphometric data, dietary and habitat preferences listed in species guides for mammals [60], amphibians and reptiles [61], [62], and birds [63]. We used maximum weights (g) for mammals or, where available, maxima for the usual weight range. For birds we used total length (cm) inclusive of the tail, for snakes and turtles the combined body plus tail length, and for other reptiles and amphibians we used snout – vent length (cm). Information on diet and habitat use was available for most mammal species, but for many other vertebrates it was given only at the family level; hence our assessments also were undertaken at this level. After data compilation, we checked our results against those of the few field or pen-trial studies in which species have been presented with baits and HSDVs (e.g. [17], [45]) to confirm the reliability of our assessment approach. We also contacted researchers with as-yet unpublished results from field or pen-trial studies on other species to provide a further check on the accuracy of our assessments. Each species' national conservation status was based on listings of threatened (vulnerable or endangered) taxa from Clayton et al. [64], as defined by the Commonwealth *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*.

Analysis

Results are presented largely as tallies of species assessed as able, or possibly able, to consume sausage-style baits, and tallies of species at further risk of ingesting HSDVs. We used chi-squared tests to compare the numbers of species in these two categories, with Yates' correction for comparisons with one degree of freedom.

Results

In total 3,769 native Australian vertebrate species and subspecies were evaluated in this review, and 490 were determined as able to consume, or possibly able to consume, the Curiosity bait media if deployed on the ground surface. Of these, only 47 species were assessed as able to consume HSDVs within the bait media, although consumption was judged to be possible for a further 343

species (Table 1) based on the criteria in Appendixes S1 and S2. Electronic supplementary material contains a complete list of all species used in this analysis and the complete results listed by taxonomic class.

Group	No. assessed	Bait		HSDV	
		WFL consume	Possibly consume	WFL consume	Possibly consume
Mammalia	563	157 (27.7)	20 (3.6)	213 (38)	69 (12.3)
Fera	1,872	24 (1.3)	239 (12.8)	12 (0.6)	239 (12.8)
Birdia	1,288	47 (3.7)	18 (1.4)	14 (1.1)	81 (6.3)
Reptalia	229	9 (4)	9 (4)	9 (4)	9 (4)
Total	3,769	227 (6)	288 (7.7)	47 (1.2)	343 (9.1)

Assessments are based on decision criteria in Appendixes S1 and S2. The values in brackets is the percent of the total number assessed for each group.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.t001

Table 1. Numbers of native Australian vertebrate species in four taxonomic classes evaluated in this analysis and the numbers within each class assessed as able to consume, or possibly able to consume, sausage-style bait media and toxicant encapsulated in a hard shelled delivery vehicle (HSDV).

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.t001>

Within classes, mammals generally were assessed as best able to consume baits and HSDVs, but more birds were judged as possible consumers. Dasyurid and peramelid marsupials and murid rodents showed strongest potential to consume baits, but only the larger members of these families appeared likely to consume HSDVs too. Large, ground-active birds such as ardeids and megapodes were the likeliest consumers of both baits and HSDVs, with generalist foragers such as corvids being represented strongly also. Among the Reptalia, some snakes, varanids and large skinks were assessed as being able to consume baits or HSDVs, but no Amphibia were assessed as potential consumers (Table 1).

Overall, far fewer species were judged able to consume HSDVs within baits than the chipolata-style bait media alone ($\chi^2_3 = 140.7$, $P < 0.001$). This effect was strongest for mammals, which showed a >7-fold reduction in the number of species able to consume baits compared with HSDVs ($\chi^2_1 = 913.7$, $P < 0.001$), but equivalent 2–3-fold reductions were significant also for birds ($\chi^2_1 = 12.1$, $P < 0.001$) and reptiles ($\chi^2_1 = 48.9$, $P < 0.001$).

The Tasmanian devil (*Sarcophilus harrisii*) was the only threatened (endangered) species assessed as definitely likely to reliably consume chipolata-style baits with implanted HSDVs. However, a further 21 threatened species were possible consumers of HSDVs (Table 2) based on their diet and feeding behaviour (Appendixes S1 and S2). Five of these were birds, the others dasyurid, peramelid and potoroid marsupials.

Common name	Scientific name	Status
Southern brown bandicoot	<i>Quoyia cinerea</i>	E
Woollyrat	<i>Lepus arizonae</i>	V
Eastern brown bandicoot	<i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	E
Western brown bandicoot	<i>Macrotis stuartii</i>	V
Red kangaroo	<i>Macropus rufus</i>	V
Eastern grey kangaroo	<i>Macropus giganteus</i>	V
Western grey kangaroo	<i>Macropus fuliginosus</i>	V
Eastern wallaby	<i>Macropus agilis</i>	E
Western wallaby	<i>Macropus parvicornis</i>	V
Eastern quoll	<i>Dasyurus vivax</i>	E
Western quoll	<i>Dasyurus geoffroyi</i>	V
Northern quoll	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	E
Southern quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern barred bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western barred bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern spotted bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western spotted bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern long-eared bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western long-eared bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern pygmy possum	<i>Phascogale carolinensis</i>	V
Western pygmy possum	<i>Phascogale carolinensis</i>	V
Eastern quoll	<i>Dasyurus vivax</i>	E
Western quoll	<i>Dasyurus geoffroyi</i>	V
Northern quoll	<i>Dasyurus hallucatus</i>	E
Southern quoll	<i>Dasyurus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern barred bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western barred bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern spotted bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western spotted bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Eastern long-eared bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V
Western long-eared bandicoot	<i>Peramecus maculatus</i>	V

Status: Extinct (E), Endangered (E), Vulnerable (V), Near threatened (NT), Least concern (LC). V = vulnerable was obtained from Clayton et al. (91), as defined under the Commonwealth Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999.
doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.t002

Table 2. Threatened species of native Australian vertebrates assessed as being possibly able to consume baits containing hard shelled delivery vehicles during ground surface baiting campaigns for feral cats.

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.t002>

Discussion

Our analyses reveal that most native Australian vertebrates would not be exposed to non-target poisoning if surface-laid baits are used during programs to control feral cat populations. Significantly fewer non-target species would access toxicants that are enclosed within HSDVs than would occur if the toxicant was injected directly into the bait media, as is the current practice with Eradicator bait. In pen trials, Hetherington et al. [17] confirmed that use of HSDVs would reduce the potential impacts of poisoning campaigns on western quolls (*Dasyurus geoffroyi*), brush-tailed bettongs (*Bettongia penicillata*) and southern brown bandicoots (*Isodon obesulus*), while Marks et al. [45] found that HSDVs reduced the ability of northern quolls (*Dasyurus hallucatus*) to access toxicants within feral cat baits. More recent studies with HSDVs containing rhodamine-b dye have helped to confirm that these devices are consumed by few non-target species [65].

Although baits with HSDVs could be expected to reduce non-target mortality, there were nonetheless large differences in the likelihood of bait and HSDV uptake among vertebrate classes. Mammals, particularly carnivorous marsupials, were judged to be the most susceptible group, followed by reptiles and birds, although more birds were rated as being possibly able to take baits and HSDVs than other vertebrates. Amphibians were considered too small to be able to swallow baits, and hence would not be at risk during any campaigns using the Curiosity bait. The higher risk of carnivorous marsupials to baits is not surprising; these animals are ecologically most similar to the feral cat, for which the Curiosity bait has been designed. Most prefer to hunt live prey, but many also have been recorded to scavenge and will readily eat moist minced meat in captivity [66], [67]. However, far fewer species were judged likely to consume HSDVs compared with the bait media, and only *Sarcophilus harrisii* among the threatened taxa was rated able to take an HSDV with any degree of certainty. Although 16 other species of threatened marsupials were assessed as possibly able to ingest HSDVs (Table 2), for most of these the likelihood of actual consumption probably is very low. *Parantechinus apicalis*,

for example, will readily consume the carcass of a 15 g house mouse (*Mus musculus*) in the field, but not the hard bones of the jaw or limbs that most resemble HSDVs in size and hardness [68]. Relatively few birds and reptiles were judged as able to consume HSDVs, and all of these were large terrestrial species capable of swallowing baits whole. Of the threatened bird taxa possibly able to consume HSDVs (Table 2), risks are likely measurable for the ground-fossicking *Casuaris casuaris* and *Leipoa ocellata* but negligible for the remaining three taxa. These latter species occupy islands where cats do not occur [69] or have been recently eradicated [70].

Because of the desktop nature of our analyses, there were several questions that we did not address. First, we did not consider the possibility of unintentional consumption of bait media in our analyses. For example, a large obligate herbivore would not actively seek out and consume a meat-based bait, but may unintentionally consume one while foraging. To quantify the probability of such occurrences more precisely would require extensive field or pen testing, and was beyond the scope of this analysis. However, such events would likely be very rare and certainly not lead to population level declines through unintended poisoning of non-target species. Second, we did not address whether bait density, bait placement or habitat might affect the likelihood of species encountering and consuming baits, even though these aspects are important in field programs [37]. Because we evaluated the likelihood of bait consumption only when baits had been encountered, it is possible that our assessments identified more species as being at potential risk than would be the case in the field. However, such bias is arguably warranted from a precautionary perspective [71]. Third, we did not assess the possibility of toxicants leaking into the bait media after gnawing or degradation of the HSDV capsule, resulting in the encapsulated toxicant becoming available to non-target species. Although this is possible, it is unlikely to be a persistent problem; the manufacturing process is being modified to harden the HSDV material (M. O'Donoghue, Scientec Research Pty Ltd, personal communication). As HSDVs alone are unattractive and have no energetic or nutritional value, they are not likely to pose any threat to non-target species if they are removed or ejected from bait media by other foragers.

By examining the behaviour and feeding patterns of possible non-target species, it should be possible to minimize the potential for bait-take by these species still further. For example, many carnivorous marsupials occupy relatively small and stable ranges during spring as invertebrate food resources become active [72], suggesting that they would be less likely to encounter and eat baits if set during this season. Large varanid lizards, which have a high potential to consume Curiosity bait media and HSDVs, similarly are less active in winter than in warmer months, and would likely be little affected by a baiting campaign in late winter in south-eastern Australian states. As feral cats also are likely to be food stressed in winter and more likely to take baits at this time [35], [73], the winter period thus could provide a window of opportunity to minimize bait-take by non-target species and maximize uptake by feral cats.

In addition to optimizing timing, non-target bait-take could be minimized by careful placement of baits. For example, many non-target mammal species that are likely to consume baits are small (<200 g) and terrestrial, and unlikely to access baits placed above ground. Algar and Brazell [18] devised a simple gantry device to suspend baits 30–40 cm above ground and out of the reach of black rats (*Rattus rattus*), wild chickens (*Gallus domesticus*) and land crabs (*Cardisoma carnifex*) on Christmas Island. This device minimized bait-take by rats, birds and crabs, but kept the baits available for feral cats [18], [46]. Modifications might be possible to heighten the gantry to place baits out of reach of large murids and peramelid marsupials, or to place it in different microhabitats where particular non-target species are less active [18].

Management implications

Our results suggest that many of the risks to non-target species that arise using surface-laid baits (including aerial applications) for invasive pest animals can be reduced, but not negated entirely, by encapsulating toxicant within HSDVs. We suggest further that successful encapsulation may even allow other compounds such as alternative toxicants, vaccines or other drugs that usually cannot be used in surface-laid baits to be considered for use in future. More generally, we have shown that a decision tree process can provide a simple, transparent and repeatable assessment method for identifying species that are likely to take baits and/or HSDVs. This approach also allows for the incorporation of new data when they become available, and could be adapted for use with other bait types or other invasive pest species. We emphasize that this method of assessment should not be seen as a replacement for rigorous bait-take trials in pens or the field. However, we suggest that it can provide the initial steps in a considered process of managing and minimizing risks to non-target species that might otherwise be harmed in control programs for invasive or other pest species.

Supporting Information

Appendix S1.

Criteria used for assessing the potential to consume chipolata-style (Curiosity) baits designed for feral cats. Assessment is modified by each subsequent level. For example, a carnivore that feeds predominantly at sea will be assessed as having no potential to consume a bait. When a “No” assessment is made, decision analysis for that animal ceases.

[10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.s001](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.s001)
(DOCX)

Appendix S2.

Criteria used for assessing the potential to consume toxins encapsulated in hard shelled delivery vehicles (HSDVs) implanted within chipolata-style bait media intended for feral cats. Assessment is modified by the subsequent level. For example, a large carnivore that has demonstrated complete HSDV rejection in field or pen studies will be assessed as having no potential to consume the HSDV. When a “No” assessment is made, decision analysis for that animal ceases.

[10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.s002](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0107788.s002)
(DOCX)

Acknowledgments

We thank all the researchers who freely gave us their unpublished data on acceptance or rejection of baits and hard shelled delivery vehicles and allowed us to use them, in particular Dave Algar, Sue Robinson and Robert (Bob) Anderson. We thank Jo Buckmaster for assistance with data entry, and Julie Quinn for her assistance in obtaining and arranging funding from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (now Department of the Environment).

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: TB CRD MJJ. Performed the experiments: TB. Analyzed the data: TB. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: TB CRD MJJ. Contributed to the writing of the manuscript: TB CRD MJJ.

References

1. Long JL (2003) *Introduced mammals of the world*. Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. 612 p.
2. King C (1984) *Immigrant killers: introduced predators and the conservation of birds in New Zealand*. Auckland, New Zealand: Oxford University Press. 224 p.
3. Cox JG, Lima SL (2006) Naiveté and an aquatic–terrestrial dichotomy in the effects of introduced predators. *Trends Ecol Evol* 21: 674–680.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
4. Banks PB, Dickman CR (2007) Alien predation and the effects of multiple levels of prey naiveté. *Trends Ecol Evol* 22: 229–230.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
5. Wroe S, Argot C, Dickman C (2004) On the rarity of big fierce carnivores and primacy of isolation and area: tracking large mammalian carnivore diversity on two isolated continents. *Proc R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 271: 1203–1211.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
6. Dickman CR (1996) *Overview of the impacts of feral cats on Australian native fauna*. Canberra, Australia: Australian Nature Conservation Agency. 92 p.
7. Risbey DA, Calver MC, Short J (1999) The impact of cats and foxes on the small vertebrate fauna of Heirisson Prong, Western Australia. I. Exploring potential impact using diet analysis. *Wildl Res* 26: 621–630.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
8. Risbey DA, Calver MC, Short J, Bradley JS, Wright IW (2000) The impact of cats and foxes on the small vertebrate fauna of Heirisson Prong, Western Australia. II. A field experiment. *Wildl Res* 27: 223–235.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
9. Burbidge AA, McKenzie NL, Brennan KEC, Woinarski JCZ, Dickman CR, et al. (2008) Conservation status and biogeography of Australia's terrestrial mammals. *Aust J Zool* 56: 411–422.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
10. Salo P, Korpimäki E, Banks PB, Nordström M, Dickman CR (2007) Alien predators are more dangerous than native predators to prey populations. *Proc R Soc Lond B Biol Sci* 274: 1237–1243.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
11. Salo P, Banks PB, Dickman CR, Korpimäki E (2010) Predator manipulation experiments: impacts on populations of terrestrial vertebrate prey. *Ecol Monogr* 80: 531–546.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
12. Olsen P (1998) *Australia's pest animals: new solutions to old problems*. Canberra, Australia: Bureau of Resource Sciences and Sydney, Australia: Kangaroo Press. 160 p.
13. Calver MC, King DR, Bradley JS, Gardner JL, Martin G (1989) An assessment of the potential target specificity of 1080 predator baiting in Western Australia. *Wildl Res* 16: 625–638.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
14. Glen AS, Gentle MN, Dickman CR (2007) Non-target impacts of poison baiting for predator control in Australia. *Mammal Rev* 37: 191–205.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
15. Dexter N, Meek P (1998) An analysis of bait-take and non-target impacts during a fox-control exercise. *Wildl Res* 25: 147–155.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
16. Martin GR, Twigg LE, Marlow NJ, Kirkpatrick WE, King DR, et al. (2002) The acceptability of three types of predator baits to captive non-target animals. *Wildl Res* 29: 489–502.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

17. Hetherington CA, Algar D, Mills H, Bencini R (2007) Increasing the target-specificity of ERADICAT for feral cat (*Felis catus*) control by encapsulating a toxicant. *Wildl Res* 34: 467–471.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
18. Algar D, Brazell RI (2008) A bait-suspension device for the control of feral cats. *Wildl Res* 35: 471–476.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
19. Olson C, Mitchell K, Werner P (2000) Bait ingestion by free-ranging raccoons and nontarget species in an oral rabies vaccine field trial in Florida. *J Wildl Dis* 36: 734–743.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
20. Steelman HG, Henke SE, Moore GM (2000) Bait delivery for oral rabies vaccine to gray foxes. *J Wildl Dis* 36: 744–751.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
21. Miller LA, Johns BE, Elias DJ, Killian GJ (1999) Oral vaccination of white-tailed deer using a recombinant bacillus calmette-guerin vaccine expressing the borrelia burgdorferi outer surface protein A: prospects for immunocontraception. *Am J Reprod Immunol* 41: 279–285.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
22. Johnston MJ, Marks CA (1997) Attitudinal survey of vertebrate pest management in Victoria. Vertebrate Pest Research Unit Report Series Number 3. Victoria, Australia: Department of Natural Resources and Environment. 35 p.
23. Mcllroy JC (1981) The sensitivity of Australian animals to 1080 poison. I. Intraspecific variation and factors affecting acute toxicity. *Wildl Res* 8: 369–383.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
24. Mcllroy JC (1981) The sensitivity of Australian animals to 1080 poison. II. Marsupial and eutherian carnivores. *Wildl Res* 8: 385–399.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
25. Mcllroy JC (1982) The sensitivity of Australian animals to 1080 poison. IV. Native and introduced rodents. *Wildl Res* 9: 505–517.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
26. Johnston MJ, Algar D, O'Donoghue M, Morris J (2011) Field efficacy of the Curiosity feral cat bait on three Australian islands. In: Veitch M, Clout M, Towns DR, editors. *Island invasives: eradication and management*. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN. pp. 182–187.
27. Twigg LE, King DR (1989) Tolerance to sodium fluoroacetate in some Australian birds. *Wildl Res* 16: 49–62.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
28. Twigg LE, King DR (1991) The impact of fluoroacetate-bearing vegetation on native Australian fauna: a review. *Oikos* 61: 412–430.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
29. Martin GR, Twigg LE (2002) Sensitivity to sodium fluoroacetate (1080) of native animals from north-western Australia. *Wildl Res* 29: 75–83.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
30. Fairbridge D, Anderson R, Wilkes T, Pell G (2003) Bait uptake by free living brush-tailed phascogales *Phascogale tapoatafa* and other non-target mammals during simulated buried fox baiting. *Aust Mammal* 25: 31–40.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
31. Bradshaw JWS (2006) The evolutionary basis for the feeding behaviour of domestic dogs (*Canis familiaris*) and cats (*Felis catus*). *J Nutrition* 136: 1927S–1931S.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
32. Hughes C, Gaffney R, Dickman CR (2011) A preliminary study assessing risk to Tasmanian devils from poisoning for red foxes. *J Wildl Manage* 75: 385–392.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
33. Mahon PS (2009) Targeted control of widespread exotic species for biodiversity conservation: the red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) in New South Wales, Australia. *Ecol Manage Restor* 10: S59–S69.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
34. Diment AN (2010) Monitoring the ecological impacts of invasive predator control. PhD thesis, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia.
35. Algar D, Burrows ND (2004) Feral cat control research: *Western Shield* review - February 2003. *Conserv Sci West Aust* 5: 131–163.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
36. Leyhausen P. (1979) *Cat behavior: the predatory and social behavior of domestic and wild cats*. New York, NY, USA: Garland STMP Press. 340 p.

37. Algar D, Angus GJ, Williams MR, Mellican AE (2007) Influence of bait type, weather and prey abundance on bait uptake by feral cats (*Felis catus*) on Peron Peninsula, Western Australia. *Conserv Sci West Aust* 6: 109–149.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
38. Murphy EC, Eason CT, Hix S, MacMorran DB (2007) Developing a new toxin for potential control of feral cats, stoats, and wild dogs in New Zealand. In: Witmer GW, Pitt WC, Fagerstone KA, editors. *Managing vertebrate invasive species: proceedings of an international symposium*. Fort Collins, Colorado, USA: National Wildlife Research Centre. pp. 469–473.
39. Johnston MJ, Algar D, Hamilton N, Linderman M (2010) A bait efficacy trial for the management of feral cats on Christmas Island. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series Number 200. Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia: Department of Sustainability and Environment. 16 p.
40. Fisher P, O'Connor CE, Murphy EC (2005) Acute oral toxicity of *p*-aminopropiophenone to stoats (*Mustela erminea*). *NZ J Zool* 32: 163–169.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
41. Savarie PJ, Pan HP, Hayes DJ, Roberts JD, Dasch GJ, et al. (1983) Comparative acute oral toxicity of *para*-aminopropiophenone (PAPP) in mammals and birds. *Bull Environ Contam Toxicol* 30: 122–126.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
42. Eason CT, Frampton CM (1991) Acute toxicity of sodium monofluoroacetate (1080) baits to feral cats. *Wildl Res* 18: 445–449.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
43. McLroy JC (1982) The sensitivity of Australian animals to 1080 poison. III. Marsupial and eutherian herbivores. *Wildl Res* 9: 487–503.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
44. Johnston M, Bould L, O'Donoghue M, Holdsworth M, Marmion P, et al.. (2014) Field efficacy of the Curiosity® bait for management of a feral cat population at Roxby Downs, South Australia. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series No. 253. Heidelberg, Victoria. Department of Environment and Primary Industries. 38 p.
45. Marks CA, Johnston MJ, Fisher PM, Pontin K, Shaw ML (2006) Differential particle size ingestion: promoting target-specific baiting of feral cats. *J Wildl Manag* 70: 1119–1124.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
46. Johnston MJ, Algar D, O'Donoghue M (2009) Field efficacy trials of the Curiosity feral cat bait on Christmas Island. Progress report: August - November 2008. Melbourne, Victoria, Australia: Department of Sustainability and Environment.
47. Brunner H (1983) Bait acceptance by non-target mammal species in simulated rabbit poisoning trials. *Wildl Res* 10: 129–138.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
48. Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (2010) The registration process: fact sheet. Available: http://www.apvma.gov.au/publications/fact_sheets/docs/registration_process.pdf. Accessed 2010 December 30.
49. Denny EA, Dickman CR (2010) Review of cat ecology and management strategies in Australia. Canberra, Australia: Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. 75 p.
50. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2008) Background document for the threat abatement plan for predation by feral cats. Canberra, Australia: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. 31 p.
51. Johnston MJ, Algar D, Onus ML, Hamilton N, Hilmer S, et al.. (2008) Field trial of a new bait and toxicant for feral cat management on French Island, Victoria. In: Saunders G, Lane C, editors. *Proceedings of the 14th Australasian Vertebrate Pest Conference*, Darwin. Canberra, Australia: Vertebrate Pests Committee and Invasive Animals Cooperative Research Centre. p. 114.
52. Johnston MJ, O'Donoghue M, Holdsworth M, Robinson S, Herrod A, et al.. (2013) Field assessment of the Curiosity bait for managing feral cats in the Pilbara. Arthur Rylah Institute for Environmental Research Technical Report Series Number 245. Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia: Department of Sustainability and Environment. 49 p.
53. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2009) Australian Biological Resources Study: Australian faunal directory, names list for Amphibia. Available: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/fauna/afd/taxa/AMPHIBIA/names>. Accessed 2009 March 9.
54. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2009) Australian Biological Resources Study: Australian faunal directory, names list for Aves. Available: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/fauna/afd/taxa/AVES/names>. Accessed 2009 March 9.
55. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2009) Australian Biological Resources Study: Australian faunal directory, names list for Mammalia. Available: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/fauna/afd/taxa/MAMMALIA/names>. Accessed 2009 March 9.
56. Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (2009) Australian Biological Resources Study: Australian faunal directory, names list for Reptilia. Available: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/abrs/online-resources/fauna/afd/taxa/REPTILIA/names>. Accessed 2009 March 9.
57. Oliver PM, Hutchinson MN, Cooper SJB (2007) Phylogenetic relationships in the lizard genus *Diplodactylus* Gray and resurrection of *Lucasium* Wermuth (Gekkota, Diplodactylidae). *Aust J Zool* 55: 197–210.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

58. Christidis L, Boles WE (2008) Systematics and taxonomy of Australian birds. Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. 288 p.
59. Dickman CR, Denny E, Buckmaster AJ (2010) Identification of sites of high conservation priority impacted by feral cats. Canberra, Australia: Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts. Available: <http://www.environment.gov.au/biodiversity/invasive/publications/feral-cat-impacted-sites.html>. Accessed 2011 January 10.
60. Menkhorst P, Knight F (2001) A field guide to the mammals of Australia. Melbourne, Australia: Oxford University Press. 269 p.
61. Cogger HG (2000) Reptiles and amphibians of Australia. Sixth edition. Sydney, Australia: Reed New Holland. 796 p.
62. Wilson S, Swan G (2008) A complete guide to the reptiles of Australia. Second edition. Sydney, Australia: New Holland Publishers. 512 p.
63. Pizzey G, Knight F (1997) Field guide to the birds of Australia. Sydney, Australia: Angus and Robertson. 576 p.
64. Clayton M, Wombey JC, Mason IJ, Chesser RT, Wells A (2006) CSIRO list of Australian vertebrates: a reference with conservation status. Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. 162 p.
65. Forster G (2010) Non-target species uptake of feral cat baits containing rhodamine B. Honours thesis, La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia.
66. Woolley PA (1982) Laboratory maintenance of dasyurid marsupials. In: Evans DD, editor. The management of Australian marsupials in captivity. Melbourne, Australia: Zoological Board of Victoria. pp. 13–21.
67. Croft DB (2003) Behaviour of carnivorous marsupials. In: Jones M, Dickman CR, Archer M, editors. Predators with pouches: the biology of carnivorous marsupials. Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. pp. 332–346.
68. Dickman CR (2014) Micro-carnivores: the ecological role of small dasyurid predators in Australia. In: Glen AS, Dickman CR, editors. Carnivores of Australia: past, present and future. Melbourne, Australia: CSIRO Publishing. pp. 241–262.
69. Garnett S (1992) Threatened and extinct birds of Australia. Melbourne, Australia: Royal Australasian Ornithologists Union. 212 p.
70. Bergstrom DM, Lucieer A, Kiefer K, Wasley J, Belbin L, et al. (2009) Indirect effects of invasive species removal devastate World Heritage island. *J Appl Ecol* 46: 73–81.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)
71. Harding R, Fisher L (1994) The precautionary principle in Australia. In: O'Riordan T, Cameron J, editors. Interpreting the precautionary principle. London: Earthscan Publications. pp. 252–261.
72. Dickman CR, Vieira EM (2006) Ecology and life histories. In: Armati PJ, Dickman CR, Hume ID, editors. Marsupials. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. pp. 199–228.
73. Molsher R, Newsome A, Dickman C (1999) Feeding ecology and population dynamics of the feral cat (*Felis catus*) in relation to the availability of prey in central-eastern New South Wales. *Wildl Res* 26: 593–607.
[View Article](#) • [Google Scholar](#)

PRESS RELEASE

Mainland Australia's largest feral predator-free haven declared at Mallee Cliffs National Park



08 SEP. 2020

© Brad Leue/AWC

[Home](#) | [Newsroom](#) | [Mainland Australia's largest feral predator-free haven declared at Mallee Cliffs National Park](#)

Australian Wildlife Conservancy (AWC) has completed the total eradication of feral cats and foxes from a vast 9,570-hectare fenced area at Mallee Cliffs National Park, creating the largest feral predator-free safe haven on mainland Australia and triggering the largest re-wilding project ever to be undertaken in New South Wales.

This major milestone was achieved as part of AWC's partnership with NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS). The partnership – the first of its kind in Australia – involves restoring at least 10 locally-extinct mammals to Mallee Cliffs under the NSW Government's Saving our Species program.

Supporting one of the most important threatened species projects in the country, Environment Minister Matt Kean said this project alone will see at least 10 species, currently listed as extinct in NSW, returned to the wild.

"Feral cats and foxes are the primary reason why Australia has the worst mammal extinction rate in the world. Feral cats alone kill 1.4 billion native animals across the country every year," Mr Kean said.

Establishing the feral-free area at Mallee Cliffs has been a major undertaking, involving construction of a 37.2-kilometre fence, consisting of 8,400 posts, more than half a million clips, 378 kilometres of wire and 42 kilometres of mesh. Although this is one of the State's longest feral predator-proof fences, AWC completed construction in just 12 weeks. This was followed by a prolonged period of intensive feral predator eradication, with one sly interloper outfoxing AWC's feral animal control officers for six months.

"We began the eradication program in August last year, but didn't trap that last fox until February," said Bruce Summerfield, AWC's Operations Manager at Mallee Cliffs.

"We also had some foxes digging under one part of the fence so we installed about 11 kilometres of skirt extension into the ground. That stopped them in their tracks."

Mr Summerfield said the last fox was finally trapped on 20 February, but to ensure the area was indeed feral predator-free, months of intensive monitoring was undertaken after this.

"The team did an awesome job over four months of monitoring, sweeping more than 1,000 kilometres of tracks to check for feral cat and fox prints. We also deployed motion camera traps both inside and outside of the fence," Mr Summerfield said.

"Even though this project is still in its infancy, it's already delivering a positive ecological 'return' for the people of New South Wales" Tim Allard, AWC's Chief Executive said.

– now the largest on mainland Australia. The Bilbies will soon be joined by Greater Stick-nest Rats, and in coming years Quoll, Red-tailed Phascogale, Numbat, Western Barred Bandicoot, Bridled Nailtail Wallaby, Burrowing Bettong, Brush-tailed Bettong and Mitchell's Hopping-mouse. Most of these species have been absent from NSW national parks for almost a century – and nearly all are threatened with extinction across their entire range.

“This is the most ambitious re-wilding program ever undertaken in New South Wales and we feel very proud to be a part of it,” Mr Allard said.

AWC Chief Science Officer Dr John Kanowski says that Australia’s mammals urgently need special conservation attention. Australia is ahead of the pack in terms of mammal extinctions – we have the worst rate on the planet – with predation by feral cats and foxes being the primary driver of native mammal extinctions in this country.

“Through projects like this one at Mallee Cliffs, AWC is demonstrating that the eradication of foxes and cats is a critical part of mammal conservation,” Dr Kanowski said.

“By putting Australia’s digging animals back into the landscape, we’re not only halting the decline of Australia’s wildlife, we’re restoring important ecosystem processes as well.”

Bilbies are prodigious diggers, with each individual turning around 20 tons of soil per annum. By burrowing and turning the soil, they help to retain moisture and nutrients and disperse seeds and spores.

“Conservation is getting these animals back in the landscape because they all contribute. They’ve been part of this country for millions and millions of years and they’ve only been gone for a century. People forget that.”

“We are the custodians of Australia’s unique natural capital,” Mr Allard said.

“This project represents an incredibly important opportunity to stop the decline and restore Australia’s wildlife populations for future generations of Australians.”

Subscribe to receive our latest news

First name

Last name

Email

[Subscribe](#)



I'm appalled at this shameful, inhumane bill to kill feral cats!! I can't believe this has even been proposed!!

Concerns for extinction of native species must be addressed in a non-killing humane way. ..and NO! Killing feral cats is NOT humane! - no matter how you do it! - this bill is immoral!

This bill says that a UH survey showed that “..nearly eighty-seven per cent of Hawaii residents agreed that feral cat abundance should be decreased.”

If I had taken that small limited survey, I would have been among the nearly 87%, **but I am vehemently apposed to this horrific bill!** Catch, neuter, and release is the moral way to accomplish reducing the abundance of feral cats and I'm sure that the majority of Hawaii residents would agree; and would not condone this bill and killing!

The bill conveniently blames feral cats for an array of items to try to justify an inhumane agenda for killing them. The bill says that in the limited survey, there were a percentage of respondents who supported permanently removing feral cats from areas with threatened or endangered fauna - I have no issue with removing them from the areas in a humane way by relocating them. The bill goes on to say that a portion of the group surveyed indicated that “..the most preferred technique for managing feral cats was the live capture and lethal injection technique, whereas the trap-neuter-release method was the least preferred technique.” Regarding these particular

respondents, the bill says that two of the “..most common explanatory variables for respondents' stated desires were the dislike of seeing feral cats, lack of intrinsic value of feral cats..” - these are weak excuses for a killing spree of a species!

As far as the bill expressing concern over feral cats spreading diseases - **all species spread disease, including humans!** It doesn't mean the species (in this case feral cats) should be eradicated; the focus should be on eradicating the disease not the species. Antibiotics could be implemented in the catch and release program for any animals that have toxoplasmosis. Blaming cats for disease is a cheap shot and excuse for pushing an inhumane killing spree. People contract toxoplasmosis through undercooked meat, but the bill isn't proposing that people stop eating meat. There are many other diseases as well that other animals & people spread, get sick & die from; but the bill isn't proposing the killing of other animals and humans that spread other diseases that harm native species. Singling out cats for disease is done in this bill to try to excuse the horrific killing of them. The bill also fails to mention the fact that feral cats actually help stop the spread of disease by helping to control rodent populations, like rats.

This bill also puts our domestic cats that are part of our families at risk of being killed. They could easily be caught by baited traps and mistaken for feral cats & killed.

I only became aware of this bill late afternoon on 2/2/22, and I'm sure the majority of Hawaii residents & voters will not be aware of it by the public comments due date of 2/3/2022, but as more become aware, more will be OUTRAGED! With back

lash from residents and animal rights groups, aside from the moral responsibility to END this bill, the state & DLNR could find themselves in legal ramifications for animal cruelty if they do not put a stop to this proposed killing spree. Any state representatives that continue to support this bill and who aren't active in putting a stop to it will find back lash by residents who are appalled by it! Residents who will work together, with animal rights groups and supporters to hold any legislative members who support it accountable; and thus pursue resignations and campaign against them in elections. As I do, I'm sure the majority of residents and voters will find this bill reprehensible!! I am sickened by this bill! And I'm sure others will be as well. Cats are one of the most popular household pets, many of them are a part of our families, and many were feral at one time. I am certain that the majority of Hawaii residents, pet owners, and voters will be HORRIFIED at this bill to kill feral cats!! I'm pleading with all who are involved to see reason, be humane & put a STOP to this bill and it's proposed unconscionable acts!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:54:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuya hasegawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider sheltering of these cats at the humane society, by increasing space for the helpless cats. Please give them every chance to live at home of someone as a part of the family.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:54:47 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle S	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do recognize that something needs to be done about the feral cat population, but I do not think we should consider killing them. I think the government needs to support the mitigation (TNR) technique and enforce the law of dumping cats. Killing the feral cats with poison or trapping and lethal injection is not humane and will ultimately not stop the problem long term.

The cats did not live outside by choice. Humans are the species that started this problem. If the government supported and would help fund the TNR movement by bringing in Veterinarians from out of state to help to a mass TNR, I believe this would help mitigate the feral population long term. With the epidemic of COVID 19 affecting our hospitals, our government helps by bringing in out of state nurses to help out. I believe the same should be done with our feral cat population.

I also think it is important to make a cat sanctuary, and or, an additional SPCA with support of the government. If we can TNR, and have additional resources to house the cats, we could send the friendly cats, in need of home, around the world.

It is not the cats fault that they live outside. Why should we kill them ? It is unhumane to kill a species for living the way they were intended to. Instead we should find a way to support the TNR. If we decide to kill them off, what is that saying to the public? Is it saying that it is OK to kill animals. **All animals deserve grace, for the feral cat population wouldnt exist if humans did not dump unwanted,unfixed cats in the wild.**

I believe that humans should be the ones punished, not the cats. While the cats may negatively affect the wildlife here in Hawai'i, they are still the victims. I have been helping the problem. I myself have taken home 3 feral cats, have neutered them, and have kept them inside as pets. I also have adopted two cats from the humane society. Instead of killing innocent animals, **(1)we should enforce stricter laws against dumping cats, and (2) use tax payers money to support the TNR movement.** This is the only humane way, and we are the ones who should pay, not innocent animals. I would be willing to pay extra taxes in order to humanely deal with the feral cat problem. **As soon as you KILL it is INHUMANE.**

Putting out poison for feral cats does not sound safe for the environment either. The poison could soak in the soil, shed in feces or other bodily fluids, and kill more wildlife. Not only is this inhumane, it could kill someones pet cat or dog, and additional wildlife. I also do not believe that this will stop the problem. **The only way to stop this problem is at the source, human beings.**

In order to stop this at the source, the government will need to make "dumping cats" a felony, and it needs to be enforced. Right now the current law is "people in Hawaii who dump their unwanted pets **face a petty misdemeanor with a \$50 fine. ...** " **How can we resort to killing an innocent animal before enforcing the law. If the government made dumping unwanted pets a felony, instead of a petty misdemeanor, then they can eventually stop this problem for good. No one is being punished, therefore, it will continue to happen.**

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:55:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Mitelman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is shameful. Cats are animals highly regarded in the world and deserve better treatment than this.

While I understand the need to decrease / eradicate the feral cat community in Hawaii, there are much more humane ways to rid the islands of feral cats.

Cats could be tracked better, spayed, neutered. While it is understood that this costs money, there are organizations in Hawaii that are willing to take on this task.

This is NOT the humane approach to this issue. Please rethink this and come up with a better way.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:55:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Howard Richmond	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a barbaric,brutal,scheme and must be stopped !

It's inhumane and horrific and should not be allowed to take place as animals have feelings too !

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:55:37 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Crystal	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Staying spay and neuter just doesn't work makes no sense, they haven't fully exhausted the options. Even spay and neuter could be pushed more than it is. Counting and killing all of them is just as unfeasible as spay/neutering the cats. No matter what, some cats will be not found for either of the options. So why not just stop them from giving birth instead of torturing them with poison? Killing all the stray cats will also be killing citizens domestic cats who don't have a chip or a collar. Is this bill really supporting a "cat holocaust"?

Catch And Kill vs. TNR, A Look At Sustainability

In order for birds to win, do cats have to lose?

One of the major opponents to TNR are bird people. They often cite a study, conducted by scientists Clark and Castillo for the Department of Environmental Studies – Florida International University, which found that after 2 years there was no change in the feral cat population – and that these cat colonies had even increased, somewhat. This is not particularly revolutionary data – TNR never purported to change the feral cat landscape in just two years. Instead, in a 17-year-long study conducted by Daniel D. Spehar and Peter J. Wolf, we see something much more interesting: after nearly two decades of TNR, all the cats are gone. Further, they write, “Up to one-third of the cats trapped were sociable and adopted into homes; the remainder were sterilized and vaccinated before being returned to the waterfront, where they declined in number over time due to attrition.”

But let’s let Clark and Castillo continue. In their zeal for catch and kill, bird enthusiasts only read the headline of the study. But the scientists write more:

“Our results emphasize the role that human interference and negligence play in the population dynamics of managed cat colonies. Illegal dumping of unwanted cats and the attraction of stray cats to the provisioned food counter-balanced reductions in cat numbers caused by death or adoption.”

Over the course of two years, this is a reasonable conclusion. Their inclusion of “adoption” here is also interesting: the 45 cats born per year for every human is not a problem we can adopt our way out of. Shelters who trap feral cats, warehouse them endlessly in a misguided attempt to socialize them, and then find themselves too full to help actual friendly kittens could heed Clark and Castillo’s words. With nowhere to go, friendly cats get dumped.

Clark and Castillo, in their conclusion, continue:

“Our small sample size (two cat colonies) and short time duration of observation (1 year) may limit the strength of our results.”

Hmm. Another major difference: the study over the course of decade’s deals with hundreds of cats – the Clark and Castillo study has less than 50.

In another study, *Wildlife Research* scientists write about catch and kill vs TNR:

“After 1 year, populations treated with euthanasia generally decreased whereas populations treated with TNR either remained unchanged or decreased slightly [...] Euthanasia resulted in greater total population decreases than did TNR and a combination of euthanasia and TNR; however, the total effort required to reduce each population by 1% was highest for euthanasia.”

Again: over the course of 1 year. According to this study, TNR was most effective when 75% or greater of the cats were sterilized. (Or trap and kill most effective when 75% of the cats were euthanized).

Here’s what we know to be true, based on our observations here in St Louis:

- Catch and kill will reduce the number of cats temporarily – that’s common sense. But just as the *Wildlife Research* scientists assert, it’s hugely resource intensive. **No one is going to raise their hands and offer to help trap and kill for free.** That makes euthanasia expensive and therefore

unsustainable – especially when we remember the bird study’s assertion that *illegal dumping of cats* and *cats wandering into the area* is a problem that will continue. Thus, necessitating more catching and killing on and on and on forever and ever.

- TNR brings human beings together. Over 1700 cats were TNRed last year by St Louis Feral Cat Outreach alone. The humans involved in this effort included the 80 or so volunteers, plus all the colony caretakers of 1700 cats, plus many concerned citizens doing one-off TNR. These are all people who worked **for free**. Given the state of flux at our animal controls, it seems unlikely that something as resource intensive as paying trappers to trap and kill is the answer to the feral cat problem. *Wildlife Research* continues:

“Therefore, both euthanasia and TNR would require immigration to be concomitantly controlled or reduced under both scenarios.”

Translation: Catch and kill doesn’t work if people are not fixing their cats. Catch and kill doesn’t work if people are illegally dumping animals. Why is this relevant? Because it speaks to the most important reason why TNR is sustainable but catch and kill isn’t: TNR forces human beings to be pro-active in the reduction of community cat populations. It forces shelters to contend with litters of kittens. It gives adoptable community cats a chance at indoor life.

Something catch and kill proponents forget: TNR empowers colony caretakers, *who love their cats*, to do something about explosive population. Instead of hiding in the shadows, caretakers are now choosing to join with animal welfare groups and fix their cats. When it comes to *beloved community cats* who these folks will do anything to protect, the choice is do nothing or do TNR.

That’s what sustainability looks like.

The community cat problem will not be solved by a handful of Animal Control Officers directed to trap and kill.

So you wanna help the birds?

Here’s how to help the birds:

- Support local shelters when they stay **open admission**. Birds are most at risk because of illegal dumping of animals – so with the troubling increase in **managed intake or limited admission no kill shelters** in the region, that’s what’s going to increase cat populations. This is what contributes to illegal dumping, a problem that’s pointed to in every major TNR study.
- Support spay and neuter efforts – pet cats who are allowed to roam outside must be sterilized.
- Work to protect bird habitats decimated by humans. Although we’ve only touched on the cats and their destruction of bird species, it’s also true that the most massive impact on *all species in North America* is from humans destroying habitat. Be mindful of your consumption.

So. It’s true that catch and kill decreases cat population, at least in the short term. But it’s a tactic that is grossly expensive, extremely cruel, and unsustainable. If you want an army of volunteers and colony caretakers making a difference, right now, for relatively cheap – you’ll need to look to TNR.

Read the studies:

<https://abcbirds.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Castillo-and-Clarke-2003-TNR-ineffective-in-controlling-cat-colonies1.pdf>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5704110/>

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ab8a/31b2c6459dba0ded3f7ef545b916a62080cb.pdf>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:56:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heather Dee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not believe poisoning community cats is a good way to reduce the feral overpopulation. Please consider trap, neuter and release. We love our cats and do not want to hurt them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:56:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Brad Huck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm appalled at this shameful, inhumane bill to kill feral cats.

Concerns for extinction of native species must be addressed in a non-killing humane way. ..and NO! Killing feral cats is NOT humane! - no matter how you do it! - this bill is immoral!

This bill says that a UH survey showed that “..nearly eighty-seven per cent of Hawaii residents agreed that feral cat abundance should be decreased.”

If I had taken that small limited survey, I would have been among the nearly 87%, but I am vehemently apposed to this bill! Catch, neuter, and release is the moral way to accomplish reducing the abundance of feral cats and I'm sure that the majority of Hawaii residents would agree; and would not condone this bill and killing!

The bill conveniently blames feral cats for an array of items to try to justify an inhumane agenda for killing them. The bill sais that in the limited survey, there were a percentage of respondents who supported permanently removing feral cats from areas with threatened or endangered fauna - I have no issue with removing them from the areas in a humane way by relocating them. The bill goes on to say that a portion of the group surveyed indicated that “..the most preferred technique for managing feral cats was the live capture and lethal injection technique, whereas the trap-neuter-release method was the least preferred technique.” Regarding these particular respondents, the bill sais that two of the “..most common explanatory variables for respondents' stated desires were the dislike of seeing feral cats, lack of intrinsic value of feral cats..” - these are weak excuses for a killing spree of a species!

As far as the bill expressing concern over feral cats spreading diseases - all species spread disease, including humans! It doesn't mean the species (in this case feral cats) should be eradicated; the focus should be on eradicating the disease not the species. Antibiotics could be implemented in the catch and release program for any animals that have toxoplasmosis. Blaming cats for disease is a cheap shot and excuse for pushing an inhumane killing spree. People

contract toxoplasmosis through undercooked meat, but the bill isn't proposing that people stop eating meat. There are many other diseases as well that other animals & people spread, get sick & die from; but the bill isn't proposing the killing of other animals and humans that spread other diseases that harm native species. Singling out cats for disease is done in this bill to try to excuse the horrific killing of them. The bill also fails to mention the fact that feral cats actually help stop the spread of disease by helping to control rodent populations, like rats.

This bill also puts our domestic cats that are part of our families at risk of being killed. They could easily be caught by baited traps and mistaken for feral cats & killed.

I only became aware of this bill late afternoon on 2/2/22, and I'm sure the majority of Hawaii residents & voters will not be aware of it by the public comments due date of 2/3/2022, but as more become aware, more will be **OUTRAGED!** With back lash from residents and animal rights groups, aside from the moral responsibility to **END** this bill, the state & DLNR could find themselves in legal ramifications for animal cruelty if they do not put a stop to this proposed killing spree. Any state representatives that continue to support this bill and who aren't active in putting a stop to it will find back lash by residents who are appalled by it! Residents who will work together, with animal rights groups and supporters to hold any legislative members who support it accountable; and thus pursue resignations and campaign against them in elections. As I do, I'm sure the majority of residents and voters will find this bill reprehensible!! I am sickened by this bill! And I'm sure others will be as well. Cats are one of the most popular household pets, many of them are a part of our families, and many were feral at one time. I am certain that the majority of Hawaii residents, pet owners, and voters will be **HORRIFIED** at this bill to kill feral cats!! I'm pleading with all who are involved to see reason, be humane & put a **STOP** to this bill and it's proposed unconscionable acts!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:56:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Bower	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987. Attempting to count and kill all the feral cats on these islands will be extremely difficult, expensive, and ineffective. Targeted and strategic TNR programs are the best solution to protecting cats, people, and wildlife. Less cats outside means less threat to wildlife. Feral cats also provide some benefits to our complex ecosystems. Please consider working with feral cat organizations (such as Alley Cat Allies, Neighborhood Cats, or the Humane Society of the United States) to implement more strategic and effective approaches to managing the feral cat population and protecting wildlife including birds. Cruelly killing off one species to try to protect another is downright cruel. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:57:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natalie Hanson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am an Oahu resident who, along with my friends and family, have been participating in Trap Neuter Release and Manage (TNRM) programs for several years. I have seen the effectiveness of TNRM in our old neighborhood in reducing the spread of a free-roaming cat populations, eventually reducing the total population to almost none. Several studies have proved that removing feral cats and other predators creates a vacuum effect which increases population growth, rather than reducing it over time as TNRM does. When spay/neuter is paired with regular feeding, it reduces the need for feral cats to feed on local wildlife, and it is the most humane way to manage and reduce the numbers of feral cats. However, the process has been made cumbersome and expensive by lack of public support and funding, and relies on the sheer will of individuals and private/charitable funds from nonprofits. A clear and wholistic path to TNRM of feral populations should be established and FOLLOWED THROUGH on prior to giving up and consideration "culling" of those populations. Several steps in this process have been missed in the lead-up to proposal of this bill.

This bill seems deeply misguided in that it does not appear to recognize or acknowledge the effectiveness of these and other efforts to more humanely manage and reduce feral and free roaming cat populations and their impact to wildlife including native species. Another example for is the cat sanctuary on Lanai. Legislation was also recently passed in Honolulu requiring owners to spay/neuter and chip their owned cats, which when paired with well-funded and supported TNRM programs, carries the potential to significantly reduce feral cat populations. However, lack of government support of implementation in the form of publicity/public education and enforcement of this new policy are crippling it, leaving all the weight of implementation to fall on already over-burdened nonprofits and individuals. This bill does not allow such policies the time or support to work and prove their effectiveness. Moving so aggressively toward such a drastic policy just after more humane policies have come into affect does not reflect well thought-out or strategically planned management practices. I hope the legislators considering this bill will take these other policies into serious and careful consideration for support, as they are much more humane than the scatter-shot approach that seems to have lead to this bill. With that, I submit my testimony opposing HB1987 for consideration. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:57:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lori Hardtke	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I understand the need to protect the native birds, but this inhumane bill will not achieve what you are hoping for.

There needs to be strict laws/enforcement on the following:

- Making sure all animals that come to the Hawaiian Islands are spayed/neutered (just like we have in place for rabies)
- Prohibit breeding of dogs and cats, especially here on Maui
- Leash law for all domesticated animals
- Enforce homeowners to not allow free roaming cats
- There needs to be more public education & awareness on why cats need to be indoors only.
- All pets need to be “chipped” and pet owners held accountable for them. They can’t just dump them in the wild when they move off island or don’t feel like taking care of them (which is a big contributor to the current feral cat population).

There are hundreds of people here on Maui that would love to help humanely get all feral cats into a safe housing place like Lanai. This not only is a humane way of tackling the problem but creates a win-win for everyone who loves ALL animals. This to me is taking care of the problem with Aloha (versus killing innocent animals discarded by humans).

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:58:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Priscilla Brady	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Priscilla Brady

Resident-Puunui

HB1987- OPPOSE

i am a feral feeder in the mililani area for over 20 years and have maintained and tremendously reduced the number of ferals through the TRAP NEUTER AND RELEASE program. this bill is inhumane and cruel to animals and will not alleviate the cat problem. Measures need to be done to fine and stop people from dumping their unwanted animals. Make it mandatory that all animals are required to be fixed and chipped when getting a pet. TNR works. I started TNR with over 600 cats plus and have less than 200 now. And the ones I do have are because of irresponsible people who dump their unwanted cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:58:07 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Olina	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please give these cats every chance to live by increasing space at the humane society.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:58:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carolyn Isono Grapard	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Human beings are the cause of this problem and the cats should not have to pay with their lives in a possibly gruesome way. Total eradication is akin to a "slash and burn" kind of mentality.

Can we have a more reasonable approach with consultation with animal rescue groups to come up with time to come up with alternative solutions. We should consider the locations of cat colonies; i.e. whether they are or are not in an environmentally sensitive area. Is relocation of a colony a viable option, for example. Cats in non-environmentally sensitive areas with no-runoff into the ocean or rivers might be exempted from the culling.

It appears the general public is unaware of the State's eradication plans. I did not hear about it until yesterday. Please give this bill more time for thoughtful input from the community.

Thank you.

Carolyn Isono Grapard

Hawaii Island

To whom it may concern,

I have a PhD in Ecology from Washington State University. There are numerous parts of the Bill that are poorly written in terms of scientific support and I oppose the Bill as written. For example, the Bill states that “Although the exact number of birds killed by feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands is unknown”. I wonder why this Bill is proposing extermination of all feral cats without having the data to support the magnitude of the effect feral cats are having, as opposed to disease vectors such as avian malaria, and habitat loss.

I recommend that the Bill as it is written be voted against, in favor of a more specific Bill stating control measures that are more exact. For example, the Bill uses the Australian government as an example: “science—based tools for controlling feral cats in different settings, including baiting, which Australian researchers recognize as the most effective method for controlling feral cats when there is no risk posed to non-target species.” However, there are numerous non-target species in Hawaii, particularly in urban settings where the majority of feral cat “communities” live, such as in Kahului and Kihei. I wonder how the Bill proposes to tease apart non-target cats that are owned by Hawaiian residents and that are residents’ pets?

While the Bill states that many residents are in support of removing feral cats: ” Responses indicated that the most preferred technique for managing feral cats was the live capture and lethal injection technique, whereas the trap—neuter-release method was the least preferred technique” there was no mention of baiting as a preferred technique and I wonder if residents who own cats would support baiting as a technique to remove cats as that method would target household pets as well and would be non-humane. In addition, data suggest that the neuter-release method is working in urban areas and that there has not been enough time to see the results of this method as the results are delayed due to the nature of the program. I argue more time is needed to measure this programs’ effectiveness.

Lastly, as an ecologist I have studied invasive species extensively. While removing feral cats from areas where there are large populations of endangered birds would be an effective strategy to protect such species, removing feral cats from Urban areas, or areas where there are no populations of endangered bird species seems unnecessary, costly, and inhumane. In addition, underplaying avian malaria as a leading cause of decline in native birds and instead focusing on feral cats seems like an oversight that doesn’t seem adequately supported with scientific data at this time.

Please contact me if you have any questions about my testimony.

Thank you,

Mailea

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:58:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Rachel Radwick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. Money should be reallocated towards programs that are proven effective and work, such as Trap Neuter Release. But especially towards public education on spay and neutering their personal animals and NOT dumping them off at beaches or etc. If money was reallocated towards management and NOT barbaric cruelty towards animals that does NOT work then management of all things are possible. We have not even tried or supported these other programs AND I have replies from NICOLE LOWEN from 2017 stating she is for TNR programs and not cruelty to any animal. YOU speak from both sides of. your mouth Nicole. The bills you sponsored in 2017 in regards to invasive species and access to private property are all on record, but your "concerned" response to me says otherwise. Also, you are pushing this through without proper allocation of time by having the introduction and first passing without sufficient aware ness given to the public to allow testimony. This is a back door approach.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:58:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Makana field	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I agree that the feral cat population has increased during the pandemic.

There is a long waitinglist for the Kona spay/neuter clinic. We drove to oceanveiw Sunday to access the clinic available there. The fact that there is a waiting list for this service tells me that there are people working on this cat issue.

Rather than counting and killing cats, why not fund the organization that is vaccinating, spaying and neutering them?

Personally, I have only seen cats in human enhabited areas. I am writing from the big island.

I would rather see the real issue facing our endangered birds taken care of -which is mosquitos spreading avian malaria. Thank you!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 9:59:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Micheleo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

By killing feral cats Possibility that the birds will die by eating the poison and other domesticated animals will die and possibly people. TNR is the solution

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:00:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sandra Shigeta Accatino	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is inhumane and the TNRM program has been proven to be the an effective long term solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:00:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Winifred Kaaihue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha....I'm strongly opposing this HB1987 because killing the cats is inhumane. Catch, spay/neuter and release back to their colony has worked very effectively for feral cats. Reducing the population by hundreds of thousands over the last 20 years. Here on the Big Island the average lifespan of a feral cat is 3-5 years because of feline herpes(not transmittable to humans). We've stopped the spread considerably by spay/neuter because the spread of herpes is through fighting and mating, which ends once they're fixed. The issue isn't the feral cats, it's the house cats not being fixed and over reproducing more and more. Those kittens then become feral...start there! A much better solution to the cat population is educating the public far more and offering free/low fee spay/neuter and shots being available to any household. People want to have healthy happy pets but some lack the education and resources to do so.

Not to mention just the publicity of killing a mass population of cats will have a significant adverse response from tourism and tourists. Hawaii feral cats are on every social media platform....it's part of the charm of the islands. Tourists love seeing the wild cats and knowing most are being taken well care of, here!! PETA will surely make this a very negative situation for our islands. There is no good reason to kill the cats but thousands of reasons to be smart and figure out different resources for what some are calling an issue but really it's just cats!

Please consider my plea to save the cats and find other solutions.

Mahalo,

Wini Kaaihue

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:00:28 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haya	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Neuter and spay cats instead of killing them

I am opposed to HB 1987. I have worked with homeless cats for over 20 years on the mainland as well as on the Big Island of Hawaii. Most of the cats I encounter on the Big Island are not really feral but were someone's pet that was either abandoned by the owner or trapped by a neighbor and dumped. This bill will do absolutely nothing to deal with the real problem, human behavior, that results in so many cats being abandoned. There are measures which will over time humanely reduce and eventually eliminate the homeless cat population without resorting to wholesale slaughter of innocent animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:00:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber Dalrymple	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a barbaric bill ! A few years back walking at the old air port with my son who was about 6 at the time, I saw cats hung up in the tree it was trammatising and I can only imagine more of this kind of thing if this bill passes.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:01:12 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
C Ikuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Good morning. As a Hawaii taxpayer and voter, I **STRONGLY** oppose HB1987. The bill does not provide evidence of how you all intend to address several questions from the public. What is a **SPECIFIC** plan in place to ensure total protection of wildlife, our environment, children, and pets, especially free roaming pets that are outdoors and legally owned by caretakers? Your bill does not address these issues. Many countries I have visited working in international animal welfare have never adequately been able to address these questions, resulting in poisoned pets and wildlife, danger to children, and environmental damage. These governments eventually adopt a humane approach, such as the government of Ecuador partnering with Animal Balance to ensure non-lethal means of controlling feral cat populations in the Galapagos (TNR and education being the primary focus). I have seen this specific program in action first hand and it works very well with large majority support from residents. You have many in the animal welfare community here in Hawaii who are willing to partner with the government to determine a humane approach. Your bill does not provide a long term solution and the public will demand this. Mahalo.

Aloha from Upcountry Maui,

I would like to commend the introducers of HB1987 for taking up the problem of feral cats in this session. In 2014, scholars at UH Mānoa published their findings about the desires and management preferences for feral cats among residents of the state. The results were emphatic; there was a high level of consensus (87%) across stakeholder groups that feral cat abundance should be reduced.¹ The preferred methods for this reduction were also clearly aggregated, with trap-neuter-release (TNR) the least desired of 7 proposed methods.

Part of the problem with TNR stems from its sketchy empirical standing; there is a dearth of peer-reviewed, academic studies that support it. The studies one finds promoting TNR seem to come from domestic animal welfare groups and pet clubs, who are variously championed by a vocal minority identified in the 2014 study: stakeholders who prioritize the welfare of cats over all wildlife. These studies are self-funded and self-published, and do not meet an appropriate standard for setting public policy.

Another issue with TNR is that it does not mitigate the predatory biology of cats, who are returned to the field after expensive sterilization procedures, where they are still recognized as one of the leading anthropological threats to native wildlife. Neutered, tipped-ear cats that are part of such "managed" cat colonies have been documented depredating federally listed endangered species in Hawai'i Nei.² Finally, due to its failure to slow population-wide reproduction of cats, TNR also fails to flatten the curve of Toxoplasmosis, a zoonotic disease exclusively spread by cats, which infects wildlife as well as humans.

Maui County Mayor Arakawa reported in 2015 that there may be as many as 300 unofficial cat colonies on Maui alone.³ The number has surely grown since, though it is hard to know. Maui Humane Society has never shared a list of feral cat colonies, their location, the number of animals under the care of cat feeders at these locations, the prevalence of disease, or the level of medication provided. Residents who wish to eradicate cats from their own properties are told that feral cats have an intrinsic right to live here, a statement that astonishingly contradicts their status as an invasive species.

Native wildlife is an afterthought for the various Humane Society chapters operating in Hawai'i Nei. There are entrenched incentives for this course of action which require closer scrutiny. Why for example, does the Maui Humane Society take private donations from mainland sources to enact policies which run directly against the overwhelming desires of the local, tax-paying public as well as the advice of state agencies and institutions?

I am in strong support of this bill because it aims policy in the direction that the vast majority residents of this state unequivocally desire, and which relevant agencies and institutions universally recommend; this is the best standard of democracy a bill could aspire to, even if the timeline for feral cat eradication may be too ambitious.

Look to the story of Isao Nakagawa and Hāwea Point for inspiration to eradicate invasive predators from Hawai'i Nei.⁴ There are so many blessings to be shared by providing space for native species.

Mahalo for your representation,

Martin Frye

¹Desires and management preferences of stakeholders regarding feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands
CA Lohr, CA Lepczyk, *Conservation Biology*, 2014

²<https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/info/invasive-species-profiles/feral-cats/>

³<https://mauinow.com/2015/05/25/ask-the-mayor-can-a-cat-colony-be-registered-on-maui/>

⁴<https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2013/03/award-recognition-of-effort-to-save-seabirds/>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:02:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Elissa Abella	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I believe that all of God's creatures deserve to be respected & loved. Here in Hawaii, we talk about ALOHA & looking out for & caring for one another , as we are all ONE OHANA.

Is this inhumane proposal really the best way to show our ALOHA for one of God's creations ?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:02:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Froese	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a physician. I strongly oppose HB1987. Widespread support of trap, neuter & release needs to be instituted, rather than the way it is currently done by hard working volunteers. The proposal is not data driven, short sighted, extremely cruel in how it kills, & also dangerous to other species, & land

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:04:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Becky Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I whole heartedly support this bill. The method described in the bill is humane. Although TNR is a good strategy, it is not fully effective and does not protect native species. Feral and free roaming cats are a tremendous problem that must be addressed with many different strategies and this bill promises to be an effective tool to continue to address the problem. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:06:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vicky Durand	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I definitely oppose this very inhumane bill. I have been doing trap, neuter, release for over ten years and I know this system works if individuals would just stop dumping more unneutered animals. I live on Tantalus and have been practicing the TNR system. We just get all the cats neutered and then people drop off more. Myself and another individual keep getting the new ones fixed and more keep coming. It is heartbreaking. If everyone would cooperate we could have this under control in a matter of years.

Another solution is the cat sanctuary on Lanai. If the islands had a few government supplemented sanctuaries this situation would soon get under control and better yet-end.

There is no substantial research that pin points cats causing toxoplasmosis.

The mongoose is a real menace to threatened wildlife as they eat the eggs. Do we want to start counting them also or spend the money in a more positive way setting up more shelters and/or humane solutions?

Vicky Durand

3300 Tantalus Drive

Honolulu

808 7546210

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:08:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Renee DeVinck	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I find this bill very unsettling. No one will disagree there are too many cats on our island and that we don't want them to kill native wild life. But the approach of trapping and killing them is disgusting. If the Maui Hamane Sciery would do their job and hold clinics a couple times a week for a couple years we could end with a similar result. Encouraging those of us who love cats to TNR and manage the feeding of them so they don't need to hunt wildlife would accomplish what we need done. Please rewrite this bill so not to kill innocent cats because you feel that is the easier solution. No one wants to see endless suffering of cats, kittens or wildlife. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:09:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lorraine Shaughnessy	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cat populations **MUST** be controlled. However, HB 1987 proposés inhumane and ecologically unrealistic plans.

The use of inhumane baits such as Curiosity and Eradicate are **NOT** acceptable methods for humane euthanasia of cats. The Curiosity® bait for feral cats uses a toxin called para-aminopropiophenone, or PAPP, which converts the animal’s red blood cells to a form that cannot carry oxygen, causing death through oxygen starvation to the brain and other vital organs. Death can takes hours. Veterinarians do **NOT** consider this a humane method of euthanasia. Other methods, such as Good Nature traps, are available and should be considered.

The proposal to eradicate cats from Kauai, Maui, and Big Island by 2025 is ecologically unrealistic for several reasons, including but not limited to the following:

1. There is no law requiring people to spay and neuter their pet cats, so there will be a continual influx of cats into the environment.
2. The current methods proposed are not enough to tackle the actual cat populations present. Eradication is extremely difficult on small unpopulated islands.
3. A plan to eradicate the cats doesn't even exist at this time. It is unlikely to get a realistic plan in place in time to achieve eradication by 2025. It would make more sense to consider feral cat control, with focuses in sensitive areas, and give more time to achieve these goals.

This is a very quick writeup of thoughts but based on years of experience working in biosecurity in the Pacific.

Thank you,

Lorraine Shaughnessy, (MS in ecology, evolution, and animal behavior)

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:11:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laura Laselle	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

please don't harm the feral cats. They need our help if anything it is humans fault to begin with. I have been saving to go to Hawaii with a few friends. Now none of us are interested in going there. unless you don't harm the ferals. Thank you for your time

Laura Laselle

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:10:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Amber Naramore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1987, supporting the counting and killing cats by poison. This is cruel, inhumane way to deal with an invasive species that never asked to be born here. As a co-founder of Good Cat Network, we are working hard to educate the public on the importance of spay/neuter, and managing community colonies. We work to socialize kittens and cats, and find them adoptable homes, either in Hawaii, or with our partners in the Seattle area of Washington State. Aloha Air Cargo has partnered with us to fly these Hawaiian cats for free, indefinitely, out of Hawaii and into loving homes in Washington State. Hawaii is known as the land of Aloha, and killing an innocent animal who are companion animals to many is seen as anything but a loving act. Often times, these community cats were once pets, dumped by irresponsible people into outdoor colonies. This bill supports killing animals who once knew love and compassion. As a leader of Good Cat Network, we are committed to working with the Maui County Council and the general public to finding HUMANE solutions to helping reduce the feline population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:15:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelley Dunbar	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

It is deeply disturbing that this bill is being considered rather than implementing a program to humanely deal with the feral cat populations. Imagine if 10 years ago you had instead funded Trap-Neuter-Return programs, we could, right now, be seeing an end to the problem of feral cats. With TNR, the cats would not be able to breed and would die out, naturally, within 8 years (the average lifespan of feral cats).

There is another issue that needs to be addressed and that is the education of the public about spaying and neutering their pets and what to do if your cat does get pregnant. The feral cat populations are contributed to by humans whose pets have had kittens and then, instead of taking them to the Humane Society, they dump them in community colonies to fend for themselves. Let's instead spend some state funds on funding free spay and neuter clinics and educating our citizens on the importance of sterilizing your own pets.

There is another disturbing aspect to this bill. You may be trapping and killing someone's pet. As a citizen who volunteers her time every week to trap feral cats and take them to the Humane Society for sterilization, along with lots of volunteers doing the same throughout Maui, I've seen literally every week domestic cats "dumped" in the colonies. Some of these cats were someone's pet that was trapped by a neighbor. This happened to a friend of ours whose cat was trapped and dumped at Kanaha Beach Park by their neighbor. "Lilikoi" spent almost a month trying to find its way back home. It made it to another friend's home, starving and skinny, but alive and was joyfully reunited with its family. If this bill goes through, a cat like Lilikoi could have been trapped and killed as a feral instead.

Please consider a more humane solution and one that takes into consideration where these feral cat populations are. The ones in our urban areas are not impacting the bird populations as these are not their habitats. If there are remote areas where the feral cat colonies are not fed and cared

for by community volunteers, then tackle that as a distinct area needing to be addressed. It should not be a wholesale and indiscriminate culling of the feral cats everywhere.

Thank you for your service and consideration,

Shelley Dunbar

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:13:56 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gina Marcus	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a horribly inhumane a cruel bill! There are many citizens working to trap, neuter, release (TNR) and it has proven to be an acceptable way to control the population of feral cats. The problem is lack of funding & adequate support. Also lack of education and penalties for humans dumping I wanted pets and adding to the problem. If those pets aren't spayed and neutered, they multiply quickly, not to mention the cruelty of dumping a domesticated animal to fend for itself. This bill is not the answer. I am opposed to this cruel bill and will continue to work for the humane and ethical pet population control. Calling them pests doesn't change the fact that they are cats!!!

Aloha Council Members,

I am strongly opposed to Bill 1987. This Bill is cruel, inhumane and ineffective in the long run.

I have been a Maui County resident for almost 35 years, and I have been involved in caring for, feeding and spay/neutering feral cats.

TNR has been practiced all over the world, and is an effective, proven strategy to reduce feral cat populations. On Maui, the best-known example is probably UH Hawaii, Maui Campus, who successfully reduced the cat population from 300 before TNR to now approximately 30. This is a great example what can happen if TNR efforts are supported, and the volunteers can openly trap and feed. I encourage the legislature to take a closer look at the successful implementation of TNR at UH Hawaii, Maui Campus.

Prior to 2015, Maui has tried to solve the feral cat problem by euthanizing approx. 75,000 cats. We know that this did not solve anything. Since 2015, MHS estimates a 25% reduction in feral cats based on surrenders, and the number of cats being spayed and neutered, ending the reproductive cycle for these animals. MHS made spay/neuter available to the public as a free service, funded by a grant.

I urge the legislature to vote down this cruel, ineffective and inhumane bill!

Respectfully,

Petra DuPont
529 Honoapiilani Hwy.
Wailuku, HI 96793

808-283-1925

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:21:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karen T. Martiny	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please be advised that this proposed bill will NOT solve the community cat situation in Hawaii. Killing community cats has been proven to be unsuccessful at reducing the numbers of cats in an area, as more cats repopulate the area and the cycle continues. I strongly encourage you to read the Community Cat TNR Guide on the BestFriends.org website: <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/community-cat-programs-handbook-managing-stray-and-feral-cats>

This provides a thorough explanation of why killing doesn't work and how to successfully manage feral cat populations. Alley Cat Allies also has proven measures on their website showing that killing cats isn't the solution. Not only is it cruel and inhumane, but it just doesn't work. Please do not let this bill pass in Hawaii's legislation session and share these resources with your fellow legislators.

Sincerely,

Karen T. Martiny

Kiira Baker

91-1083 Kumulipo Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

RE: HB1987

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to H.B. 1987. As a pet owner & colony caretaker for a decade plus this bill is nothing short of repulsive. Australia is not the Aloha way by a long shot.

Methods used by Australian government include air drops of poisonous sausage across lands. The utter lack of disregard for life, safety, and health Hawaii proposes by following something similar could do more harm than good to our Native Hawaiian Ecosystems. Recklessly placing bait out and hoping only a cat will encounter it is foolish. The chances are too high that other wildlife or even people will come into contact with poisons and become sick or even worse.

The tactic of bait poisoning is also cruel. 15 minutes, as reported by Australia, is too long for any animal to suffer before death. During the time from bait eaten to passing symptoms can include vomiting, seizures, respiratory/skin issues, and liver failure and this is just inhumane. Furthermore, there is no doubt indoor/outdoor pets as well as missing/lost pets will fall victim to this plan causing many pet owners unnecessary heart break.

Australia began documenting cat culling in 2015 and still have a problem. Data show baiting has been an ineffective strategy with more than 80% of the cats that are killed by other means. This is a complete waste of resources that could be placed elsewhere to help aid in solving the problem. They have not accomplished much of anything.

There is no place for this in Hawaii. We need to have compassion for our community cats and come together to work on effective and humane strategies that reduce the population. This bill is shameful and does not represent who we are as a State. We can do better.

I do not support HB1987.

Respectfully,

Kiira Baker

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:22:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Akiko Koyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support poisoning animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:23:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Saki Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:23:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
tansen stevenson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm in shock hearing about this barbaric idea. It makes our state look like a third world country. Trap neuter and release has been successfully implemented all around the world in civilized countries, islands included such as in the Greek islands. Maui has a small army of volunteers that care immensely about the well-being of the local cat population. Most of these cats behave just as pets do, are extremely sociable and friendly and could hardly be referred to as feral or wild having very strong bonds with the people that care for them. These volunteers are already in place to monitor and trap the animals that are yet to be neutered and all that is needed is more funding for the vets at the humane society. The wait times are currently in the magnitude of months.

Killing seems like an idea spawned from a person with lower than average IQ who grasped for the very first idea that came to their simple mind. Life isn't simple but when solutions already exist and are proven to work we can skip the guesswork. There would no doubt be collateral damage stemming from this ass backwards idea in the way of pets, other wildlife and possibly children.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:28:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kenneth Burtness	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have lived 50+ years in Hawaii, Since 1977 I have lived on the North Shore. Up here the pets choose us. My limit has always been 3 cats which I always neutered. When the pandemic hit I could not do this. My vet was closed, volunteer agencies closed and two hungry female strays came to my house and dropped multiple litters. My cat population went from 3 to 16. Then Aloha Kitty came to my rescue and neutered all of the new 13. These cats are nice, bother no one, and still come to me for food but are considered feral. Now It is proposed to send cat killers into my neighborhood to kill these cats and probably my three as well (as they are all indoor/outdoor cats). This is not the answer! Spay/Neuter is the answer. It takes longer, but is a much better answer. I will never vote for any legislator ever again who supports this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:29:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer K	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer K., from Honolulu, HI. I am testifying against bill HB1987. I think the way that you are going about handling the situation of feral cat overpopulation is inhumane and cruel. Please think about cats who have gotten out of their homes and have gotten lost that are roaming the streets because they can't find their way back, To poison cats to get rid of them is possibly the worst way to handle the situation. A humane way of going about the problem could include: rounding up the cats, fixing them and foster homing until adoption. Please do not poison trap innocent cats, that is cruel and such a horrible way to beat the problem.

Please take this testimony into consideration before doing anything unthinkable!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:29:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Timothy Skinner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

There is no reason to perform such drastic measures to kill innocent animals. The pandemic has caused a backlog in getting some of these animals either neutered or spayed. Assuming that the Covid trend continues to trend downward, it is hoped that many of the prior clinics (to help these animals) will be restored.

Cats shouldn't be treated as Locusts or other insects, this is rather barbaric. What's next, Dogs, Chickens, maybe even go after the homeless people too?

I live in Maui and help take care of a 30 cat colony. All of these cats are very loving and happy to have folks visit, interact and feed them. They're not a blight on society.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:31:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Susan M Newhouse	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We should not be killing feral cats, there has to be a better way, they are living creatures. I wish I had a good plan, but there are so many intelligent people out there that can think of something. Please do not kill the feral cats!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:31:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelby Law	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In opposition

My name is Shelby Law. I live in the Catlin Park community. I am an animal owner and formerly certified veterinary assistant.

I am testifying against HB1987.

I am strongly against this bill because it is inhumane, unethical, and unsafe. I have two cats of my own. I previously worked for a 503.c non profit animal rescue. Part of our job was to capture feral cats to sterilize them and re-home them/ release them. There are many rescues in this state that do the same thing. People work day and night to care for these harmless animals and prevent them from overpopulating. Putting poison traps is not only unethical but also dangerous. Other wild life, pets, and even children could come in contact with it and cause serious illness and death. Poison can cause severe symptoms such as vomiting, diarrhea, high fever, difficulty breathing, and seizures. All of this suffering before death even happens. Imagine your own child going through something like this, not knowing what's going on and having no one to help them. It would be terrifying.

In conclusion I am strongly against this bill. I believe this is animal cruelty. There are several ethical and safe options to reduce the population of feral animals. We should focus on capturing them, sterilizing them, and releasing them. Not one living being should have to go through this kind of torture.

Respectfully,

Shelby Law

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:37:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Masami Iwaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:39:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lauren Magnuson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Neighborhood Cats is already making progress reducing the number of cats with the only humane and effective method - spay/neuter. This bill is cruel and there are other ways.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:40:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Bryan Mick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

This is a deeply disturbing bill. While we all agree that feral cats pose a risk to native flora and fauna, there are many humane ways to reduce their total numbers and/or remove them from sensitive areas. While cats are not native to Hawaii, they still are living creatures that have emotions and feel pain. They did not ask to be born feral. HB1987 dismisses the humane options by citing a UH survey from 2013 and includes this chilling line "The three most common explanatory variables for respondents stated desires were the dislike of seeing feral cats, lack of intrinsic value of feral cats, and risk feral cats pose to native fauna." If and how to kill another living animal should never be a popularity contest. Remove "feral cats" and replace it with any group of disenfranchised humans, and you see the problem with that approach. I am not equating human lives to cat lives, but to pretend cat lives have zero value is rather nihilistic. Please fund humane programs to reduce the population instead. Gandhi said "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated."

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:40:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nadine Nakashima	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am highly opposed to erradicating feral cats. I feel that this is a barbaric act. The best way to reduce the number of cats is through catching and neutering them. We are making progress through the use of this method in East Hawaii, but it would be much more effective with the help of county and state agencies.

Cats are living and breathing creatures put into this world by our almighty God, and deserve to live their life as any other living being.

As a group of volunteers that help to feed, shelter, and care for our feral feline friends, we support population control through neutering.

We will not support financially or vote for legislators and administrators who enact legislation to erradicate feral cats.

Sincerely,

Nadine Nakashima

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:40:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Louisa O'Neil	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Feral cats provide a useful service on the Island of Hawaii where I live. Feral cats kill rats.

Meanwhile, the mongooses do not kill rats.

Let the feral cat population eradicate the rats and other rodent vermin.

Neutralize the reproductive organs of feral cats to control the population, as other counties and states do to reduce white tail deer and other overabundant animals.

Killing off feral cats allows for thriving rat population.

Do you really want to be faced with that outcome?

Please reconsider.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:42:33 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
RIE NAGAI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support.

ANEMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:48:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shane Gomes	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I can understand the need to protect our native fauna; however, I don't think poisoning cats en-masse is a way to do so. The Humane Society has gone through great lengths to make strides in curbing the feral cat population via their catch and release program wherein they are spayed or neutered before release.

To then destroy these animals in such a manner would spit in the face of these workers and volunteers who work so hard to help fix the problem (pun not intended) and keep the population down.

To go out and poison these animals is cruel, barbaric, and inhumane. They will suffer. To be good stewards of *all* animal life we must find ways to further reduce the problem without such, in my opinion, gross misconduct.

Do we really want Hawaii to be known for going out and poisoning all the animals we couldn't keep under control?

Also, if someone's pet comes across these traps, what then? What measures could we possibly take to ensure that someone's pet isn't destroyed via these methods, especially if the animal is just lost?

Although I hate to say it, there are some that may even come for these traps and take the poisonous bait and use them for their own acts against animals, say the pet of someone they have an antagonistic relationship to.

In the end there are so many negative possibilities on top of causing these animals to suffer and die that there must be other alternatives found.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:50:44 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
martha chantiny	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do NOT kill community and free ranging cats. MANAGE AND REDUCE their populations. Murdering these innocent creatures is not going to work long term. Support pet friendly rentals and assistance to military pet owners so fewer cats and dogs are abandoned. Please help and support intensive Trap Neuter Release efforts by Hawaiian Humane Society and other rescue organizations. Do not resort to killing innocent animals. Do NOT pass the cruel bill 1987.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:52:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shirley Salcedo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a law-abiding, Hawaii-born constituent and proud of Hawaii. I strongly and humbly ask for opposition to HB1987. Let's show kindness and love to our island cats. They are beautiful, innocent souls that were not responsible for being without loving homes. We have many active organizations doing their best in getting these hapless animals off the streets. Such organizations need a fighting chance to help our communities educate the power in trap-neuter-release and incorporating kitties into our lives, especially those in rehabilitation and our kupuna. They saved my life through cancer, help me save them too. Let's show the world Hawaii cares and Hawaii will not stand for cruelty. As Joaquin Phoenix says, "it takes nothing away from a human to be kind to animals."

Mahalo nui,

Shirley Salcedo

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:52:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
David Honma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please obtain Public and Private collaboration and transparency in seeking resolutions and solutions to HB1987 before passing.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:55:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kemtis Kunanuraksapong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is inhumane. Waipahu.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:55:13 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lauren layman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in support of Bill HB 1987. The feral cat colonies are rapidly increasing, causing detriment to our native wildlife. They kill native birds and they also spread toxoplasmosis, which is getting into the near shore waters and killing the indigenous Hawaiian monk seal. Not only should the state conduct a count and gather information on just how many feral cats reside on each island, but we should formulate better plans on how to manage and reduce these colonies. It would be great to not re-release cats once they have been trapped for spay/neuter and let their behavior determine their future. Some will have good demeanor and thus will be able to be put up for adoption. I love cats and am beyond disappointed to see the human behavior that has led us to this point- many of these cats discarded when times got tough or due to unplanned litters from irresponsible owners. But, we have to fix the problem we have created, as unpleasant as it may be sometimes. The over-abundance of these feral cats needs to be stopped if we are to give the indigenous Wildlife a chance to survive here. Thank you

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:56:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Oppose.

We already know the cat population is out of control on every island, we don't need to waste money on counting them.

That money would be better spent on free spay/neuter programs now.

Social media is saying this bill will lead to poisoning cats after they're counted. Of course, you know what an uproar that will cause if that is true.

Free spay/neuter now. Get the money from HTA & ADC.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:56:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
nathalie sato	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Nathalie Sato, i have lived on the island of Hawaii since 1996. I support the bill HB 1987 to eradicate the feral cat population. They represent a tremendous threat to the endemic bird population as well as some ocean mammals. Since I have been here, I have seen an explosion in their numbers. Their population is out of control. The colonies being fed in different places on the island also attract magooses and adds to the predation. They are everywhere and represent a health hazard for humans as well. There is a colony being fed right next to the beach and the pond at Anaeho'omalulu bay. The feces can enter the water and wreck havoc on these bodies of water and their inhabitants. Nenes are swimming in the pond and walking right next to the colony. Enough is enough, it will only get worse as time passes. The time to act and eradicate was yesterday! Please pass this bill and start giving a chance to birds and mammals affected by the feline plague before they all disappear and only cats are left.

Mahalo

Nathalie Sato

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 10:59:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Monique Allison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The thought of killing all feral cats on the Big Island is inhumain. Not all feral cats are feral, some are dumped pets. I have adopted one of these cats on Kohala Mountain that has brought our family much joy.

i perceive this is an initiative driven by the luxury resorts on the Gold Coast who no longer want to manage this challenge.

Feral cats, cows, horses live on island and have not been eliminated. Why cats?

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:02:15 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Dudley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

Please be advised that this proposed bill will NOT solve the community cat situation in Hawaii. Killing community cats has been proven to be unsuccessful at reducing the numbers of cats in an area, as more cats repopulate the area and the cycle continues. I strongly encourage you to read the Community Cat TNR Guide on the Best Friends website: <https://resources.bestfriends.org/article/community-cat-programs-handbook-managing-stray-and-feral-cats>

This provides a thorough explanation of why killing doesn't work and how to successfully manage feral cat populations. Alley Cat Allies also has proven measures on their website showing that killing cats isn't the solution (<https://www.alleycat.org>). Not only is it cruel and inhumane, it just doesn't work. Please do not let this bill pass in Hawaii's legislation session and share these resources with your fellow legislators.

Sincerely,

Michelle Dudley

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:02:52 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Madoka Toyoyama	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:04:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Danielle Spitz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Rounding up and euthanizing our feral cats will not resolve this problem and I oppose this measure. There is an erroneous perception that domestic cats can take care of themselves when let outside unattended or otherwise released from care. We need to educate the public to address the abandonment of pets when people move off-island and also require spay/neuter to effectively combat this issue for the long-term. Otherwise we will have a continuous cycle of trapping and euthanasia, and that is neither humane nor a solution.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:09:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marie Rogers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of eradicating the feral cat population on Maui. Hopefully, by removing these cats, our critically endangered species of wildlife that are preyed upon by the cats will have a better chance of survival. I am an animal lover, but these cats do so much harm to our environment, as well as spreading disease, that I feel eradicating them is the right thing to do.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:13:48 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Alex	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Murdering innocent cats is inhumane and cruel. Utilizing rescue organizations and other such groups to trap, spay/neuter is a MUCH more effective measure, with plenty of evidence to support. Additionally, poisoning feral cat colony's puts people's outside pet cats at risk of ingesting the poison and dying. I watched my friend's family go through this first hand on a farm and it was absolutely horrible. Furthermore, poison is a slow, painful, horrific death. It shocks me that in our modern age there is even the possibility that something terrible and archaic like this could be used against innocent animals.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:18:34 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jennifer Kitazaki	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a believer of the trap/neuter/release method of controlling the feral cat population. I have been practicing this for about 15 years. I think poisoning the cats is not acceptable. It is very cruel. Pet dogs could accidentally eat this poison as well. Is the state going to take responsibility for that? The cats should not be punished due to human carelessness. I've had 3 litters of kittens dumped in my areas last year. I got them all neutered/spayed. More attention needs to be paid to the problematic areas where the cats are not fixed and multiplying. There are groups out there that can be called on to help trap/neuter/release, Cat Friends or Kat Charities. They can help with mass trappings.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:21:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ming Yan Yin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this legislation because the feral cats are killing our native birds, and danger to our Monk seals. They don't belong to the wilderness in Hawaii. They were released by some those cat lovers for their own selfish reasons. I also wish Hawaii could have some law passed to limiting the cats indoors only, if outdoors has to be in cage, just like New Zealand.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:25:54 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
P!O	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Opposition to cat poisoning by Japan

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:27:50 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mackenzie Kline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It's a disgusting thing to propose murdering an entire population of cats. Trap neuter(or spay) and release (TNR) is a highly effective and cost efficient method that doesn't require the cruelty of poisoning animals. One could conduct the census at the same time as a coordinated TNR effort and the number of cats would be much further reduced than by waiting two years to have to kill an even greater number of cats. Please reconsider this proposal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:30:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tobi Palombi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha I would like to voice my disapproval of this matter as I consider that cruel and unusual punishment. The cat population can be handled other ways. If more Vets and the Humane Society would have more slots open, more clinics, and lower prices all over for sterilization, these cats could be taken care of humanely with vaccines and sterilization. You cannot go into colonies and kill them because this place is notorious for cat trapping people's pets and relocating them. With that said you could be killing someone's family member! Poisoning animals is a hideous and painful death and an inhumane way to handle this problem. Every day I see posts of cats missing and I know neighbors are trapping them so for this reason alone, you cannot touch those colonies because that is where they are being dumped. You just required all animals on this island to be chipped and licensed and that needs to have time to be in effect and other numbers run before anything can be decided. Go ahead and waste our money on counting cats we seem to have a ton of money to throw around now don't we?! I'm appalled at this proposal! I do not support it and whoever wrote it needs to have their head examined! Guess we show aloha to just humans not all beings with souls? Mahalo for your time

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:31:31 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gene Reed	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This barbaric, brutal scheme must be stopped immediately. These babies didn't ask to be dumped on the streets by their owners. TNR is the way to go because it humanely deals with reducing the cat population and makes all of us good stewards of these cats. The owners need to pay a big fine if they are caught dumping the cats and kittens. Also, people that don't like cats need to leave them there in their home. People catch these cats and kittens then dump them on other people who do not like cats. In 2022 to date there has been 6 cats dumped on us in Sand Island State Park. And it is not even kitten season yet. The Hawaii Human Society needs to spray and neuter all cats with no charge for feral, or private owners. Taxes need to be used to get these cats fixed, and they need to open more clinics to get the cats fixed. DLNR needs to conduct an internal audit over its' many questionable policies and practices, and have this process overseen by someone from the Governor's office. The solution to this problem is not to exterminate the cats, but to problem solve and dialogue with each other in the community to ensure that there is more responsible pet ownership, expansion of TNR, more vet facilities that would offer services free of charge or at a sizable discount, and to have more support from our elected leaders to reduce the cat population in a Humane way in Hawaii.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:35:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mako Koga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:37:03 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Nashiro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Members of House Committee on Agriculture,

I adamantly oppose this bill for many reasons, but will try to keep my written testimony as short and concise as possible.

1. Even if I was okay with DLNR killing feral cat populations via lethal injection, what about people's cats that accidentally escaped from their homes and wandered over and got caught? Will DLNR be scanning each cat thoroughly for a microchip? Will they be trained to search as microchips often migrate? Will there be a log kept of such scanning? What is the procedure when DLNR finds a chipped cat? How can we the public trust that they won't just pretend it wasn't chipped and kill the cat regardless?
2. Curiosity bait for feral cats is NOT humane as it says on the Australian government's own website that "death takes minutes to hours." How is oxygen starvation to the brain over a matter of hours HUMANE?
3. What happens if an indoor cat escapes (as it does happen with door dashers), maybe it doesn't have a chip because it's indoor all the time, or maybe it's a semi-feral that someone cares for that IS chipped and it got trapped and dumped by someone else, which happens often. If those cats accidentally eat the Curiosity bait, is DLNR and the legislature okay with those cats being poisoned to death for the greater good of the native species and fauna? What if someone's pet dog gets loose and finds it and eats it? What then? So sorry, your dog shouldn't have been there?
4. Some in DLNR have acknowledged unofficially that they are giving a slanted viewpoint regarding cats and their role in toxoplasmosis. It seems misleading on the part of DLNR and is used to advance their own agenda to kill all the feral cats it can. Hawaii is a very unforgiving place for feral cats. It's not their fault humans have been irresponsible regarding pet ownership and have created this mess, but to kill all the cats they can does not make it right.
5. TNR WORKS - many of us have TNRed cats, many people devote countless hours and time and energy and their own money to do this for the community and they never get recognized for it. These are individuals, not the charities out there. And even the charities struggle to help people with TNR because entities like DLNR are too biased to give it an actual chance to make it work. As re-releasing back in the areas they are trying to save isn't an option, the least they could do is attempt to work with the many TNR advocates on island to find a way of first stopping the population from exploding and then also

relocating them to a different area where they would not have such an impact on native birds and fauna.

6. SLIPPERY SLOPE - Feral cats are not the only predators to native Hawaiian birds and fauna. Why doesn't DLNR hunt down the Madagascar Giant Day gecko with such vigor? What about the rose-ringed parakeets? That's a problem too - they have been doing terrible damage to farms and native plants, especially on Kauai. Is DLNR going to cull them next? I don't see anything about that or is that just next on the list? What else shall we kill in order to save something else?

I RESPECTFULLY OPPOSE THIS BILL for all those reasons and more. I agree that saving our native plants and creatures is a very important issue that needs further discussion. But if the Legislature gives DLNR a license to kill innocent animals (feral and not feral - because there will be other unintentional animal deaths that DLNR will just consider collateral damage or cover up), it would be completely inhumane no matter how DLNR wants to justify it.

Thank you very much for your time.

Sincerely,

Lisa Nashiro

1425 Ala Leleu Street

Hon., HI 96818

(808) 452-4953

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:38:27 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heather Carter	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please have compassion for the feral cats, Trap neuter return, stop kittens, let them be looked after and let the colonies shrink through natural death

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:39:51 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Anne Berliner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill. As a years long volunteer at various Hawaii Island spay/neuter free clinics, we are already making excellent progress reducing the cat population using the only humane and effective method known to successfully decrease cat numbers. As a registered nurse I know that suffering death by poison is a horrible fate for any living being. Instead, please consider supporting our humane spay/neuter programs.

Respectfully submitted, Anne Berliner RN

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:40:01 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Theresa Dufault	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This bill is incorrect in its hypothesis that this will rid Hawaii of feral cats. Not only that, the very act of poisoning or killing feral animals is cruel and inhumane. Cats will always remain, either by evading humans or being dropped off by irresponsibles persons who find it easier to dump an animal than have it spayed/neutered to prevent population growth. Spay/Neuter of feral animals will control populations.

Any monies would be better served by providing low or no-cost spay/neuter services to those persons who need assistance with steriliation costs as well as volunteer TNR groups. There are numerous volunteer orgationizations who work to sterilize feral animals and unwanted pets. It is scientifically proven that Trap/Neuter/Return is a way to control cat populations which will eventually shrink thru attrition. In addition, monies should be spent to educate the population as to humane treatment of unwanted pets...dumping them only perpetuates the problem. And the dumping will continue until such time as residents are educated on the need for spay/neuter on all their animals, not just cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:42:49 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Satomi Arbeit	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

THIS IS SO STUPID IDEA!!!!

YOU HAVE TO HELP PEOPLE WHO IS DOING "TNR"!! NOT KILL THEM!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:45:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Janet Reynolds	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in opposition of the proposed bill HB1987, because it would not solve the problem unless other measures are implemented first. The feral cat population is a problem. However, the methods of controlling and eradicating them being considered are both inhumane and will not solve the problem as long as we do not solve the bigger problem of pet abandonment. Each non spayed abandoned cat will follow its natural survival instinct to survive and multiply this we know. So as long as fertile pets are abandoned this situation will continue.

Several agencies on the islands have taken it upon themselves to spay and release these feral/abandoned pets. They alone cannot do it. We need legislation that holds pet owners responsible for the reproduction, health and safety of their pets. Without that, killing the current feral cat populations on the island is an exercise in futility. Furthermore, we need a mandatory pet registration and neuter program. In addition, only neutered pets should be allowed on the island. Any type of cat breeding program should be strictly controlled if allowed at all.

Exterminating the cats by poison would be cruel and send a bad image to the world of social media. The friendly Aloha state would tarnish its image to cat lovers worldwide in an effort to take the easy way out of a solvable problem. The money spent to accomplish this would be wasted, since, it is not a permanent solution. Other species may also ingest the poison and die. Bill HB 1987 is not the way to deal with this problem, there has to be a better way.

On another note, it was estimated in 1999 that mongoose causes \$50 million in damages to Hawai`i and Puerto Rico annually and the current method to control them is to trap in euthanize them. Why then would we not allow cats to receive the same humane consideration?

If the committee decides to exterminate current cat populations it should be dealt with humanely.

Poisoning them leads to animal cruelty which is prohibited by federal and state laws. Public Law No: 116-72 (11/25/2019) Preventing Animal Cruelty and Torture Act or the PACT Act

Hawaii laws (Chapter 711), a person commits the misdemeanor offense of cruelty to animals if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly overdrives, overloads, tortures, torments, cruelly beats or starves any animal, deprives a pet animal of necessary sustenance, mutilates, poisons, or kills without ..PACT ACT 2019

Thank you for your consideration, Janet Reynolds

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:46:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
joanne christopher	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

We are already making progress with the trap, spay/neuter and return. I myself have successfully trapped, spayed, neutered, vetted and found permanent homes for numerous cats who are very adoptable. I did this all with my own funds. There are many people like myself who are passionate about animals and are willing to volunteer their time and energy to do this. The proposed bill is quite cruel, unusual and barbaric. Hawaii is better than that. Please consider alternate, humane methods to resolve this issue. I will be the first one to volunteer. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:47:23 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Nancy Dennison	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to this inhumane bill. Trap, spay, neuter and release is a far safer way to manage the feral cat population. Euthanizing, especially by poison, will result in unintended consequences, such as the poisoning of domestic cats and dogs. Also, introducing poison into the ecosystem could result in poisoning those birds, such as hawks and owls, that would feed on the carcasses. Please reject this bill and come up with something better!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:53:00 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maria Leonardi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I realize that the reduction of the feral cat population is a necessary evil. In fact, without some program in place, we stand to lose irreplaceable species on our island. However, I find this appalling for a number of reasons. Most of all, our island rescue groups are grossly underfunded and undersupported by the state and are at a perpetual disadvantage compared to other regions on the mainland. I believe it makes sense to first (or at least simultaneously), appropriate funding for animal rescue groups. If we could empower local rescue groups to create a cohesive, powerful network across the islands (vs. fragmented individual/small group efforts), we would stand to accelerate their efforts and identify potential alternatives.

I agree that something needs to be done, but even if the state goes forward with this method, funding should also be appropriated to pilot programs that would serve as an alternative to euthanasia (e.g., coordinated tourist adoption program, education for residents, partnerships with mainland rescue groups, coordinated outreach to wealthy individual advocates, etc.)

Sincerely,

Maria Leonardi, Waikoloa, HI

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:53:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Edwin Lesperance	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Using poison baits to eradicate feral cats is too dangerous to other (even endangered) animals, and is a violation of State law.

§711-1109 Cruelty to animals in the second degree. (1) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals in the second degree if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:

(a) Overdrives, overloads, tortures, torments, beats, causes substantial bodily injury to, or starves any animal, or causes the overdriving, overloading, torture, torment, beating, or starving of any animal;

(b) Deprives a pet animal of necessary sustenance or causes that deprivation;

(c) Mutilates, poisons, or kills without need any animal other than insects, vermin, or other pests; provided that the handling or extermination of any insect, vermin, or other pest is conducted in accordance with standard and acceptable pest control practices and all applicable laws and regulations;

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:53:41 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tim Maloney	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The decision to distribute poison in neighborhoods is disgusting, inhumane and not well thought out. I imagine these colonies, where your "experts" percieve their home-bases to be, are in traditonally disadvantaged neighborhoods. Your plan is to put out poison in neighborhoods where people live, children play, domesticated animals exist? Have any reports been made concerning pssible exposure to potable water sources? This decision, if passed, will result in the deaths of more than just the feral cats you have targeted, and those other deaths will be forever on your conscience, will rest on your shoulders. The governing body of your particular area is an absolute disgrace, which is why poverrrty is so rampant and cost of living is so high. Creating another issue, literally public poison, is not a solution to any of your problems - maybe try to actually address one of them with any intelligence?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 11:57:45 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Morgan B LaRue	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Although the feral cat population is recognized as a destructive problem for Hawaii and its fauna, these poisons are not humane solutions. Both Curocity (para-aminopropiophenone, or PAPP, poison) and Eradicat (1080 poison) will inevitably cause undue suffering not only for feral cats, but to pets who accidentally come in contact with the traps. The poisons can also leach into the land and contaminate soil and water. I oppose using poison and hope the State of Hawaii will consider trapping along with truly humane euthanasia techniques to safely and effectively reduce the number of feral cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:00:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Maren Sirine	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose HB1987. It is cruel and not a permanent solution.

As a 27 year resident of Maui, I have witnessed well managed cat colonies with a successful, increasing rate of spay/ neuter release programs

More can be done : free spay neuter clinics on all islands for all reproducing pets.

Reduced cost of ID chips now required on Maui to reunite lost pets with owners.

Airlines Vouchers to lower the cost of taking a pet off island. Work with landlords to allow pets with a reasonable pet deposit or insurance.

Finally, increase fines and punishment for those people who illegally trap domesticated pets and dump them somewhere else, many times in an established colony.

Respectfully, Maren Sirine, Makawao, Hi.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:02:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposal is inhumane and ineffective. There are responsible ways to control feral cat populations without resorting to cruel, backwards methods like poisoning. Let the people who are the most knowledgeable about working to reduce feral cat populations (The Humane Society and TNR groups) use modern methods like TNR to address the issue. Poisoning cats is barbaric and should not even be under consideration in 2022. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:07:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
???	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

野良猫を毒殺することに反対します。尊い大切な命どうか守って下さい、お願いします

。

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:07:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
hisato ueda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:09:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miyamoto kana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT

ANIMAR POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:10:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Keiko Hilmo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

While I believe bill HB1987 was introduced out of sincere concern for native wildlife, I take issue with the methods proposed in this bill to control the feral cat population. The methods proposed are inhumane, will likely have unintended consequences on wildlife and pets, and are unlikely to work as a permanent solution. The most effective way to control feral cat populations is through extensive trap-neuter/spay-release (TNR) programs, education of the public on the benefits of spay/neuter for their cats, and making low-cost spay/neuter widely accessible to the public.

First, using poison or baited traps is not a humane way to end an animal's life. The humane method to do so used in shelters, veterinary clinics, and zoos in the US is euthanasia via lethal injection - the injection is given while the animal is sedated and it is painless and nearly instant. Poison is not considered humane and is therefore not considered an acceptable form of euthanasia at any reputable institution. The description of the Curiosity bait for feral cats on the Australian government's website states that the toxin takes "minutes to hours" to take effect. A bait that leaves a cat suffering for minutes to hours before death is NOT a humane method to end any animal's life.

Second, using bait targeted at feral cats is likely to have unintended consequences on other animals. A 2014 study titled *Assessing Risks to Non-Target Species during Poison Baiting Programs for Feral Cats* conducted by Tony Buckmaster, Christopher R. Dickman, and Michael J. Johnston found 22 threatened species in Australia as potential consumers of baits such as the Curiosity bait targeted at feral cats. In addition, there is potential for people's pet cats and dogs to come into contact with these baits. Pet indoor-outdoor cats, dogs on walks with their owners, and lost cats and dogs are all potential consumers of these baits. Imagine you are walking your dog and get distracted or lose sight of them for a few minutes, and then your dog dies because they consumed poison off the ground when you weren't looking. Imagine your cat escapes out your back door, you spend days or weeks frantically looking for them, and then you find them dead from consuming bait when they were lost and hungry. Please consider how devastating a situation like this would be for any pet owner, and how much fury the government will receive from pet owners if even one such incident occurs.

Third, killing feral cats may seem like an effective solution in the short term, but it is unlikely to permanently eliminate feral cat populations. They will eventually grow again due to unaltered cats being abandoned or escaping homes. The most effective way to curb the growth of feral cat populations is through comprehensive spay/neuter programs. This involves not only trap-neuter-

release (TNR), but also intentional education of the public on the benefit and importance of spaying and neutering their pets and widely accessible low-cost spay/neuter for pet owners.

Lastly, feral cats, just like pet cats who I'm sure some of you own and love, are intelligent creatures who deserve to live. It is important to reduce the impact feral cat populations have on native wildlife, but it is also important to recognize that feral cats are living sentient beings as well. They do not deserve a death sentence.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:12:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michelle Cruz	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please consider the Trap, Neuter, and Release option over poison and kill for this situation. Funding can be available if there is enough support from people like you!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:13:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
margie crandall	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987. There are numerous volunteer cat rescues on all the island that offer trapping, neutering, care and feeding. My personal experience with trap and kill, never worked. Despite using that inhumane approach, sometimes involving drowning cats in cages, we continued to see more kittens contributing to growing feral cat population. Since our community has worked with and supported available volunteer cat rescues that trap, neuter, chip, provide care and feed, our cat population has greatly decreased. Resorts and companies that do not participate in working with cat rescue, is the main reason that we continue to see kittens and untrapped cat.

Thank you for allowing my testimony. I hope the legislature supports a humane approach to feral cats that supports using the many volunteer cat rescues that we have, not cat killing including poisonings.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Shelby Steverson	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The reduction and elimination of feral cats should not be allowed under any circumstances. This bill is a barbaric proposal that has chosen the least humane way to control the feral cat population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Joseph Peter Jalbert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

The proliferation of feral cats in Maui continues to be a major threat to native species including the native bird population and monk seal population. Spay neuter, catch and release is not sufficient to protect the local wildlife and curtail the harms being done. I support HB 1987.

Best,

Joseph Peter Jalbert, Makawai

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sydney Ross Singer	Good Shepherd Foundation	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am the director of the Good Shepherd Foundation, located on the Big Island, and urge that this proposed legislation to control and eradicate feral cats be **opposed**.

While feral cats may have an impact on the environment as effective predators, the predation of rodents by feral cats serves a positive environmental service, since rodents are also harmful to native wildlife. While feral cats may spread Toxoplasmosis, rodents can spread Leptospirosis and other diseases. Mongooses are also predators and harm wildlife, and the population dynamics between feral cat and mongoose populations needs to be considered and addressed. Reduced cat populations, for example, may increase rodent populations leading to increased mongoose populations. How these population dynamics will play out in Hawaii is unknown.

Clearly, the potential impacts of feral cat eradication and control are complicated, and warrant an Environmental Review, according to HRS 343.

The method(s) of control and eradication also pose potential threats to nontarget species, which should be addressed in an Environmental Assessment. Further, cats are given special regard by humans, and the cultural impact of this eradication needs to be better addressed in an EA.

I, therefore, urge that this proposed environmental project to control or eradicate feral cats from the Hawaiian Islands be **opposed** as legislation, and the issue be subjected to HRS 343 review.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Sydney Ross Singer

Environmental Anthropologist

Director, Good Shepherd Foundation

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:14:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
steven aiello	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

To all Parties Involved:

Please reconsider passing this bill. Besides that it is inhumain, it will hurt the state of Hawaii. There are T&R groups ALREADY addressing the issue with the cats, and I sure more support towards that will be coming. Let's talk Politics. This is not a threat, just a fact. There is a very large WORLD WIDE animal rights/activists network out there. If you decide to pass this bill, and cats are poisoned, there will be a huge undertaking with groups to let the public be aware of the bill and situation. So in Politician words, what does that mean. All groups will spread the word globally to BOYCOTT vacationing in Hawaii, "The Cat Killer State". Tourism is a large part of Hawaii's revenue. Though not all people are animal lovers, but there is a large percent that will think twice about where they want to spend their vacation. There are many sun, and beach areas to choose from, and they are not known as the "The Cat Killer State". And these groups will push this issue, through web-sites, pod casts, facebook, youtube, for years. Hawaii stands to lose a lot of "money" in tourism. Those are words Politicians can understand. If you pass this bill, you're going to take a hit financially. Might be nice also to show youtube videos of Hawaiian residents asked how they feel that the state income tax they paid is being used to number and poison cats.

Poisoning is a very unpleasant way to die, long and lingering. But that isn't an issue, it's the MONEY. It will take Hawaii a long time to recover its tourism trade. Maybe you have a back door deal that needs this to be done. But I would really look at the big picture, because if it happens, there is no taking it back, and an intense media campaign will be immense.

Be smart, and maybe have a heart.

Lastly all politicians that are associated with this bill, which we can verify, will have their names made known to the public.



improving the quality of lives of pets and their people.

Testimony by Alicia Maluafiti, Board President Poi Dogs & Popoki
In strong opposition to HB 1987 - Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, February 4, 2022 – via Zoom

Aloha Chair Hashem and members of the Committee,

Poi Dogs & Popoki (PDP) is a nonprofit animal welfare organization with a mission to help people and their pets. We are in strong opposition to HB 1987 and **question whether the substance of the bill is germane to the title of the bill – “Relating to Invasive Species.”**

Domesticated cats (or pets) make up a large part of cat colonies around the state and these animals are not only protected, but they do not meet the definition of “invasive.” Thousands of people who care for these animals would argue that they serve an important role in rodent control, a pest that has proven more harmful to human health and ecosystem. Sadly, these domesticated animals continue to get dumped in our beaches and parks by pet owners, angry neighbors, and other ignorant and cruel people. Yet this bill callously and cruelly suggests that they are invasive species to be ruthlessly poisoned. The greatest threat to Hawaii flora and fauna is our biggest invasive species – mankind. We have created these problems and for the past 50 years, the trap-and-kill method advocated by the Dept. of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has not worked. And it never will.

The ONLY long-term humane solution to cat overpopulation is Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR). PDP has introduced bills in the past requesting consideration to organize and manage TNR efforts as a way to save lives but they continue to be opposed by the “Kill All Cats” proponents such as DLNR and bird groups. Stalin said “Death is a solution to all problems. No man. No problem.” The legislature should never consider killing as a solution for any problem. Its ignorant, lazy and ineffective.

Real Life Example of Successful TNR

I have managed a cat colony for over 15 years. I started with 55 cats. Through attrition, I now have only 8 cats – all sterilized. I pull the friendly cats that are dumped. If I see a kitten(s), I pull them too. I have not had a litter of kittens on the property for over 5 years. The property owner has asked me to please let the rest of the cats stay so that they can help with rodent control. They serve an important purpose and have a symbiotic relationship with their environment. It’s a win-win.

The only thing that deserves to die is HB 1987. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:18:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beth L Pruzan	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is a total disgrace. I trap & release. Maybe the legislatures who want to do this should get their butts out and trap & release. You don't kill an innocent animal like this. Build a sanctuary like in Lanai. Take a cut in your your paycheck and give to a sanctuary. You will have less tourist when they hear about this. There goes your economy. Shame on you!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:22:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
judith carluccio	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This is inhumane. Animals consuming this poison suffer greatly and die slowly and painfully.

Hello, we are Cristina and Dan Macavei, residents of Houston Texas.

First, we want to thank you for allowing this dialogue. We are fervent supporters of Trap-Neuter-Return (or TNR) because it is the only humane and effective approach to community cats. We'd like to use this time to briefly explain who community cats are and why TNR needs to be supported.

Community cats, also called feral cats, are unowned cats who live outdoors. Animal control's outdated approach to community cats has been to catch cats and bring them to a shelter where they will be killed because they are not socialized to people and therefore unadoptable.

Catching and killing cats creates an endless, expensive cycle of cruelty that wastes taxpayers' money. Removing cats from an area is futile because it results in population increases as an influx of new, unsterilized cats move into the same area to take advantage of available resources and reproduce. This well-documented natural phenomenon is known as the "vacuum effect." Rather than continue to kill healthy animals year after year at our expense, it's time for **Hawaii** to consider Trap-Neuter-Return.

TNR effectively stabilizes the community cat population because it stops the breeding cycle. During TNR, cats are humanely trapped, spayed or neutered, vaccinated, eartipped (which shows they've been part of a TNR program), and returned to their outdoor homes. TNR makes community cats healthier because they are vaccinated, and the stresses and behaviors associated with mating stop.

Hundreds of communities have adopted an official TNR ordinance or policy, and thousands more conduct grassroots, volunteer-led programs. These numbers continue to rise as more communities realize the outdated approach of catching and killing cats is cruel and ineffective. It's time for the cats and residents of **Hawaii** to experience the long-term benefits of TNR firsthand.

I urge you to support TNR in your community.

Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:29:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ami Takebata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT.

ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:30:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Karim Hanna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a conservationist on the island of Kaua'i I understand the importance of controlling the feral cat population. Feral cats are a tremendous threat to our endemic bird populations. In hope to keep the avian populations strong and diverse eliminating feral is a must.

Thank you for your time and effort in supporting this bill and the wildlife that helps make these islands so special.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:32:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Kunitake	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please please do not approve this bill. I am in a trap, neuter, return group and see first-hand how it helps control the cat population and dramatically improve the lives of the feral cats. Human irresponsibility is the cause for the cat over-population, whether it be not fixing pet cats and letting them roam or actually trapping other people's pet cats and illegally dumping them far away. It would be great to see harsher penalties for dumping cats and a hhs investigator solely assigned to this issue. While there is a tremendous cat over-population on the island, I believe through partnership between tnr/rescue groups, HHS, and government we can greatly improve the situation without resorting to animal cruelty. There is no poison that is humane when ingested, the animals will suffer. You also run the risk of trapping/poisoning pets that accidentally escape or are allowed to roam freely. Thank you.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:32:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lori Takemoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There are many cat organizations that TNR and has controlled some of the population. Whoever drafted up this bill is cruel and heartless. The cats who are poisoned will go through a slow and painful death. The cat groups here are trying hard to control the population but some of them are harrassed by the public because they are cat haters. The cats here are innocent creatures who are just trying to live their life. They have personalities and character. It is just to cruel and inhumane and I can't believe Hawaii supports this. This is not a land of aloha!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:42:42 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kelly Komoda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats have no choices in life to make their lives better or worse. This bill is punishing cats for being born. Whereas the homeless crazy people are allowed to just do whatever they want without punishments. We should use the money for spay and neuter programs to lessen the cat population and use the poisons for the crazy drug addicted homeless on the street who made bad decisions in life to get them where they are today.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:45:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kana Byrne	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats have hearts that feel just like us.

Don't treat stray cats as pests treat them as living beings.

Don't kill them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:45:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kyoko Hisamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I disagree!

Animal life and human life are equal.

Stray cats are also living hard.

Reach out a warm helping hand to them.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:46:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debora Pelliccia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Committee,

This bill is completely wrong. It shows how as humans we are not capable of taking responsibility for the mistakes that we make. We always try to repair the damage caused at the last minute with drastic (non humane in this case) solutions.

Killing is not humane! Ever!

A program of spay and relocation of the feral cats is the right measure to take. There are many organizations (e.g. SPCA, Hawaii Island Humane Society and many others) that care about every animals and if supported can do a lot to help with this problem.

I hope the committee recognizes the value of adopting ***real humane*** solution to this problem.

Thank you for listening,

Debora Pelliccia

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:52:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natalia Grimmatt	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Genicide of cats is not the answer. What a deplorable solution. We need other affective strategies like not pulling funding in areas that clearly need it. Find a better answer to this issue.

if my fixed, microchipped cat slipped out of my house and was poisoned I would be absolutely livid. Only monsters do something that disgusting. Encouraging poisoning cats? Really? I absolutely abhor this bill. Fix the issue another way. Not in this barbaric manner.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:53:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ronda Piecuch	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Completely OPPOSE this bill!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:54:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Paul	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The money needed to fund this bill would be better served investing in the organizations on the islands that are already trying to reduce the feral cat population in a humane way. This bill's proposed solution to solve the feral cat solution is no way humane. Additional funding to these organizations would allow for more low cost clinics for feral cats to be trapped, neutered and in many cases rehomed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:57:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Soma Grismaijer	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am extremely horrified and **opposed** to this legislation proposing to eradicate feral cats.

Cats are special animals who deserve protection and support. Wholesale eradication of cats is extreme and cruel, and frankly, it's sickening to imagine.

There are also environmental concerns of removing a predator. Where is the Environmental Impact Statement for this eradication of cats from Hawaii? Feral cat control must be evaluated scientifically for its potential impacts, both positive and negative. This legislation assumes an outcome that should only be concluded after an EIS is conducted.

An EIS might conclude that feral cats do more good than harm? That would make this proposed eradication campaign harmful to the environment.

Please, just say "No!" to HB 1987.

Aloha,

Soma Grismaijer

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:58:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YUKI OGURA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:59:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuki Nakahara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 12:59:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
CHIAKI BABA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:02:05 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Holly Ottesen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I visit the Big Island every year for a month. I go to the walking path at the old Kona airport every morning. Thus I am very familiar with the efforts of the volunteers who so selflessly take care of the feral cat colony there. Every cat is known by name and have nearly all been spayed and neutered. If any cat is sick or injured, they are taken to a vet for care. This plan to poison these animals is very inhumane. Certainly there must be a more humane solution. Perhaps a partnership with the dedicated volunteers who know these animals so well. Has there been any communication with them? It seems this plan has been created and pushed forward without the public input that we so value in our country. There must be this action afforded.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:02:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robert Aldrich	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

CHAIR AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

NOTICE OF HEARING

Thursday, February 4, 2022, 10:00 AM

HB 1987 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

I am opposed to HB 1987. In terms of birds, cats are not the main cause of the decline of bird populations – destruction/loss of habitat is. Climate change, pesticides, bird collisions, mosquitos, and animals like rodents and pigs can add up to significant detrimental impacts on birds. I am also opposed to this proposed legislation because the proposed control of cats it is inhumane.

According to a NOAA study done from 1992-2019 found that 57% of seal deaths (114) were human-caused (including 14% from cat-related toxoplasmosis). 35% were due to natural causes, and 8% to other causes. Human-caused trauma (physical injury, shooting, etc.) gillnet entanglement, and toxoplasmosis cause the most deaths. (1) After enforcing laws involving the commercial trawling fishing fleet at sea, I can confidently say that the number of monk seal deaths due to that industry far exceeds the results of the NOAA study. It makes more sense to outlaw drag boats than to poison or kill cats.

Regarding birds: A 2001 study identified cats alone as responsible for the plight of some island bird species, e.g. the Townsend's shearwater, which breeds around the 50 square mile Isla Socorro off the coast of Mexico. This shearwater were exposed to predators due to a lack of understory. Sheep and goats also destroyed breeding habitat. The same study identified the greatest cause of endangerment of birds as habitat loss and degradation, with at least 52% of endangered birds affected, while introduced species such as domestic cats, rats and mustelids (e.g. ferrets), affected only 6% of endangered birds. (2)

In the UK, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds says there is no scientific evidence that predation by cats is having any effect on the population of birds UK-wide. “Research shows that these declines are usually caused by habitat change or loss, particularly on farmland.” (3)

“...scientists have identified that **habitat loss is the biggest overall driver of bird declines**. Habitat loss occurs when land is converted for agriculture, development, resource extraction, and other uses. **Habitat degradation** is a second cause of losses. In this case, habitat doesn't disappear outright but becomes less able to support birds, such as when habitat is fragmented, altered by invasive plants, or when water quality is compromised.” “ Aside from habitat loss and degradation, **other major human-caused threats** to birds come from [cats and other invasive species](#); [collisions with glass](#) and industrial infrastructure such as [communications towers](#) and [wind turbines](#); and exposure to [pesticides and other toxics](#). [Climate change](#) is expected to exacerbate these threats, as well as creating new challenges; for example, by changing habitat distributions and shifting the timing of peak food supplies for birds. (4)

“Hawaii has been in a conservation crisis for a long time,” Hanna Mounce, coordinator for the Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project, says... “On Hawaii, over the course of nearly 200 years, American and European colonists destroyed much of its already limited habitat through large-scale agriculture and development... The first driving force of these extinctions was habitat destruction,” Mounce says. “Most of our islands used to be covered by forests. (5)

In addition to habitat destruction or loss, there are other causes of the decline in bird populations:

- Pesticides. Arsenic and dioxin were used in pineapple and sugar cane fields. Glyphosate (Roundup) is acutely toxic to birds and fish and is still widely used in Hawaii.
- Climate change.
- Mosquitos, transmit avian malaria and pox which have devastated some bird populations
- Bird collisions. Birds collide with glass because they see the world differently than people do. These collisions kill up to 1 billion birds each year in the United States, a conservation crisis that the American Bird Conservancy is tackling head on. (6)

1. (NOAA Fisheries News, December 17, 2020)
2. Collar, N.J.. “Endangered Species,” Vol. 2. New York: Academic Press. P. 400. In encyclopedia of Biodiversity.
3. “Are cats causing bird decline?” The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, accessed 23 June 2014.
4. Rosenberg, K.V. et. Al. 2019. Decline of the North American Avifauna. Science 365 (6461). Doi: 10.1126/science.aaw 1313. Contributors: Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, Environment and Climate Change, U.S. Geological Survey, Bird Conservatory of the Rockies, Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, Georgetown University.

5. "Wave of Hawaiian Bird Extinctions Stresses Islands' Conservation Crisis." By Kim Steutermann Rogers, reporter, Audubon Magazine, October 6, 2021
6. American Bird Conservancy, abcbirds.org/threats/

Mahalo

Submitted by

Robert Aldrich (808) 658-5240

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:02:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yosuke Ito	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Save cats

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:11:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gabriella Sorrells	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Murdering defenseless animals is not the way. It's cruel and unjust. They have a right to life just like everything else on this planet. Catch, neuter, release is much less cruel. Perhaps instead of persecuting innocent animals, it would be better to persecute the people who abandon them, or let their pets cats wander. The animals know no better. It's the people that are the problem here. The people who think abandonment and not keeping pets indoor is right. And what about the invasive bird, lizard, plant and insect species on these islands? Do they deserve to be murdered as well? This is wrong. So deeply morally wrong I cannot even fully express it.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:12:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tomomi Glenn	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support this bill 100%!!!! Please do not pass this bill.

All Animals including cats are precious. They have feelings like us.

Their lives matter!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:15:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sayuri fujiwara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:16:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yukana Gotou	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:17:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NANCY GILGOFF	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha The last time Maui County decided to eradicate the feral cats, within two years EVERYONE had rats everywhere.....i killed 13 inside my house. It was a terrible situation.

Many of the "feral" cats are actually people's pets that have been trapped and taken to other parts of the island by people. I am always reading about someone's pet missing.....often it is found in the feral community.

PLeae Please Please stop this cruel bill.....if you chose to eradicate anything work on the rats and mosquiteos like they are doing on Kauai.

Mahalo

Nancy Gilgoff

Haiku, Maui Hawaii

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:22:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vanessa Sukanuma	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1987 and I urge the legislators to fund HUMANE evidenced-based solutions! TNR works!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:23:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jenny T. Shimabukuro	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I AM OPPOSED TO HB 1987! I am opposed on using my tax dollars to kill innocent animals!

For those of you who introduced this bill & those of you who support this bill... YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELVES! THIS IS CRUEL AND BARBARIC!!

PLEASE USE YOUR RESOURCES IN A MORE PRODUCTIVE, HUMANE & COMPASSIONATE WAY....

1. Public education is crucial. We need to educate the public about altering pets, not abandoning pets, and keeping them indoors.
2. Let's ensure that every new domestic animal that arrives on the island has previously been altered.
3. Let's continue to support and grow our TNR projects until we get the feral cat population under control.
4. Let's follow examples of other communities who have successfully dealt with Feral cat problems in HUMANE ways.

As Ghandi once said, "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." ~Mahatma Gandhi

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:26:20 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sugawaraerika	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:26:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reiko Mori	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:28:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
miho kume	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animals poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:29:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lory Ono	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Trap Neuter Release DOES help reduce the feral cat population by sterilizing the cats so that they don't reproduce. I am opposed to "culling" these cats and believe that TNR methods work and should be utilized instead of baiting. Mahalo.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:31:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
L Mertens	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am in opposition to HB1987 as it proposes using control methods that I feel are inhumane. Feral cat populations have occurred due to irresponsible HUMANS! Poisoning/killing feral cats is NOT the ANSWER to this problem! Establishing & FUNDING Kill-free sanctuaries that provide for the moving of feral colonies that follow Trap, Neuter, Release protocols, is the responsible and humane response to this problem.

The belief that poisoning/killing feral cats is short-sighted & doomed to fail. Irresponsible humans caused this problem and thinking short-term solutions will solve it, are poorly considered and ill advised.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:32:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaime Kurosawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not pass this cruel bill. I understand that the feral cat population is high but that's why we have spay and neuter programs. Unless we get a get this method widespread, the feral cat population will continue. Also, since when has Hawaii been a cruel State? I thought we showed aloha to all living creatures. Please think twice about your cruel intentions.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:33:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Sara Perry	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I strongly oppose killing animals that the state and their contracted agencies and departments have not first tried to mitigate with trap-neuter-release programs, or by holding those who dump and abandon pets, and those who do not spay or neuter their pets fully criminally accountable.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:34:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
yuka miyashita	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

they have hearts like us.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:34:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Carol Wong	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose this method of reducing our feral cat population as it is a brutal way of killing these innocent cats. Let's engage in either spaying or neutering methods of controlling the population.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:35:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Masumi Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:35:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mika Takanoura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT

ANIMAL POISONNG.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:35:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hiromi Strauss	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support poisoning cats.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:36:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Zuckerman	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I totally oppose this inhumane and unnecessary approach for managing the feline population. Spaying and neutering has been proven effective and would be a more reasonable way of accomplishing the same goal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:04 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fern Duvall II	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Representatives Branco.Hashem. Ilagen and other Committee members:

Thanks for this oppoertunity - my first citizen testimony after my retiring from DLNR-DOFAW after 37 years as Aviculturist, Biologist. and most recently as Native Ecosystem Protection and Management Program Manager. for Maui Nui.

I fully support the call out to DLNR, with associated funding, for immediate free-rangeing cat enumeration and ultimately removal from Hawaii nei. I support especially use of the PAPP capsules in Curiosity bait as a rapid and cat specific humane method to cull cats.

I have extensive and yearslong history of seeing cat depredations on Maui.Molokai and Lanai seabirds like the wedgetailed shearrwaters. the Hawaiian Petrel. as well as on the Hawaiian Stilts and Hawaiian coots of the Kanaha Pond Wildlife Sanctuary. I am very much on the public and DLNR-DOFAW record of prposing free ranging cat removls to save the Hawaiian wildlife of the islands. I am so impressed at the bill HB1987 you haave created - it will go a very long way to restoration of our remarkable and unique bird species. I say Mahalo nui loa and fully support this legislation.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
RYOKO FUKUYA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Animal is love. So they can live happiness.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hitomi Tsuchiko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Stray cats have the same life.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:38:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
david hill	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1987. This bill is a very cowardly way of dealing with a real problem. Instead of putting the state's limited resources into muderling cats, how about actually dealing the issue by funding the mass fixing or mandatory fixing. Why arent you putting he same vigor into other heavy destructive invasive species like pigs and deer?

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:39:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Heidi Loucks	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please do not approve this bill. It is inhumane and cruel!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 8:32:59 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Robin Pierce	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to express my concern and objection to Bill HB1987. I'm firmly against any poison to be used to curb the feral cat population for many reasons. I do not accept nor believe that it is in any way a Humane way to control the population. Efforts to increase the Catch/Neuter/Release program should be considered. If you are set on killing these innocent cats then the ONLY humane way to go about this is euthanasia.

Mahalo,

Robin Pierce

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:39:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuuki Ishihara	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Cats save us humans. It is a mistake to kill by humans.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:40:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YURIKO YAMAKAMI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:41:37 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mihoko Oku	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:41:44 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hiromi Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:41:57 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SAYOKO MATSUUSA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support Animal poisoning.

Please take another measure!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:42:36 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Debra A Hoffmann	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Members,

As a long-time cat rescuer/TNR advocate and person who loves Hawaii, this bill greatly disturbs me.

For too long cats have been blamed for every ill suffered and yet, when studies have been done, it proves that cats make no negative difference on an ecosystem. They aren't an 'invasive species' but an animal that has lived a long time in every part of the United States and beyond.

Further, it's been proven that TNR for cats that roam free or are deemed community or feral cats has worked to control the population as well as curb behavior undesirable to humans.

From personal experience-I live on an acre of land with much wildlife-including birds such as cardinals and hummingbirds. I have a colony of cats that reside here. In my 5 years, I've seen no decrease in the bird population, and the cats don't hunt the birds-truthfully, since they are fed they spend much of their time relaxing in the sun or shade. What has, however, affected the wildlife in parts of my own area are the increase in building housing for people, which deprives wildlife of natural habitats. I've included a link I hope will be helpful to you from Alley Cat Allies, who has worked to show that free-roaming cats aren't a threat to anyone-but we are a threat to them, and what is needed is education, TNR (Trap-neuter-return to field), and a desire by people to be both responsible and enlightened in how we view our fellow creatures.

Thank you,

Debra Hoffmann

718-501-0799.

<https://www.alleycat.org/community-cat-care/wildlife-concerns/>

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:42:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andrea Mcgrath	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In an incredibly inhumane response, the Hawaii State House of Representatives Agriculture Committee will hear HB 1987 tomorrow - Friday, Feb. 4, at 10 am - which would allow the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to poison cats and any other animal that happens upon their lethal strategy.

The greatest threat to Hawaii endangered species is man. The bill erroneously blames feral cats for the death of monk seals (12 in 20 years) but fails to acknowledge the role that people have played in killing monk seals. And sadly - Hawaii's endangered species have been hardest hit by our own role in paving over paradise and polluting our air, land and water.

Hawaii's cat overpopulation challenges are a direct result of people that abandon and dump cats at harbors, parks and beaches. They are NOT an invasive species as described in the bill. Sadly - this language is intended to stigmatize cats as a danger to people and our ecosystem thereby giving greater control to the DLNR and Hawaii Invasive Species Council to kill them. The bill also requires an appropriation so Hawaii tax payers get to pay the bill for the killing spree.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only long-term humane solution to manage our cat population. The Trap-and-Kill strategy proposed by DLNR has never worked and they have killed for 50+ years. Don't let lawmakers pass this bill. The only thing that deserves to die is this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:43:52 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Stephanie Gee	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The use of poison to kill these cats is inhumane. Only trap, spay/neuter, and release should be used. Also plenty of nonprofit organizations and animal shelters are working towards humanely reducing the number of stray cats so support should be given to their efforts instead of passing this bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:44:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Haruna Okamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Don't kill living things.

Let's think together how to protect it!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:45:00 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Tomoko Nomoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:45:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hideo Yagi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

It is not allowed to take the life of a friend.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:45:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Patrick Chee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Although cats in the home can make good companions, feral and stray cats pose a significant threat to the health of humans, pets, and Hawaii's native species.

It is important to get a scientifically supported and fact-based count of cats that are on the landscape. Funding for local and statewide counts is fundamental to figuring out whether efforts to reduce feral and stray cat numbers is working.

Having less cats on the landscape would significantly reduce the health threats to humans, pets, and wildlife. Feral cats are a known source of diseases and parasites that can be transmitted to other animals including toxoplasmosis, hookworm, ringworm, giardia, tapeworm, roundworm, salmonella, plague, campylobacteriosis, and cat-scratch disease.

<https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/pets/cats.html> (click on "Diseases" tab for more details).

Cats are a required host for toxoplasmosis to survive and we know several of our native species including the endangered monk seal, nene, and alala are known to have been killed by toxoplasmosis. Although we know this is not the only reason for their endangered status, if cats and thereby toxoplasmosis were reduced in Hawaii, it would significantly improve the likelihood of survival for these native species and many others.

It is also well documented that outdoor cats have a negative impact on wildlife through predation. Both on the ground and in trees, cats have been seen hunting and killing a wide variety of native birds. Many of these birds are also threatened or endangered. Many seabirds only thrive in areas that are free from mammal predators like cats. We only need to look to Kaena Point to see how an area made free of cats made it possible for a seabird colony to thrive even on Oahu.

Reducing the number of cats on the landscape will take a variety of means including both direct removal as well as reducing the source of cats (including cat abandonment and reproduction of unsterilized cats). I am fully in support of both the planning and funding of a program to reduce cats across the state.

Cats do have a place in Hawaii as pets in our homes. Cats on the landscape, however, pose a significant and well documented threat to the health of humans, pets, and native wildlife. Knowing how many cats are out on the landscape and conducting a program to reduce their numbers outdoors is pono for Hawaii.

I urge you to support this bill and its funding.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:46:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MARIKO ATSUMI	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning!!!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:47:18 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mika hasegawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:50:26 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Atsumi Nagahata	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

All animals have the right to live.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:50:56 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
NAMI OKANO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support ANIMAL poisoning.


HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:51:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
itsumi asada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support 

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:55:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
rie	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT OPPOSE ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:56:13 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuko Toyokawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I dont support. Animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:57:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ellen Reznick	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am really surprised that such an inhumane policy is even being considered as a means to reduce the feral cat population in Hawaii. These animals are sentient beings and are a favorite as household pets. There are very effective methods to reduce the number of cats that are humane and do not include cruel poisoning of these intelligent creatures. TNR, trap neuter and release is being used all over the world and has proven to be very effective. It only takes a small group of devoted people and a little organization to put this program into use.

Please abandon the awful idea of poisoning innocent animals and instead, consult with the many experts on TNR programs and get them started ASAP.

Thank you,

Ellen Reznick

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 1:58:23 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cynthia Banner	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I provide testimony in Opposition to HB 1987. A civilization is judged by how it treats its animals. We need not adopt barbaric measures to kill animals. There is ample evidence that catch-neuter-release programs in the United States are effective in reducing feral cat populations. I do not believe that a comprehensive funded catch-neuter-release program has been implemented in Hawaii,(only non-profit efforts), which should work to reduce the cat population without recourse to poisons and mass killings of cats. Combining humane population controls and creating sanctuary spaces where certain species are excluded should be able to accomplish the State's goals.

Cynthia Banner

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:01:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Andre Raine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I would like to submit personal testimony in strong support of Bill HB1987. I greatly appreciate the support that 10 representatives have already given to this bill and applaud your dedication to Hawaii, its wildlife and its people.

I have spent the last decade working on endangered seabirds (both the ‘ua’u and ‘a’o) on Kaua’i and have seen firsthand the devastation that cats cause to our native species. It is truly heart breaking to see an endangered seabird chick dragged out of its burrow and killed by a feral cat, or to find a chick has starved to death because its parents have been killed outside its burrow. This doesn’t just happen in the mountains where people can’t see it going on – all one has to do is walk through any of the ‘ua’u kani colonies on the coast each year to find the remains of sometimes hundreds of these shearwaters slaughtered by cats. Hawaii is a Noah’s Ark for a wide range of native species, which thrive here and nowhere else. These include not only seabirds but also native waterbirds and forest birds, all of which continually fall prey to an extremely common introduced predator; the cat.

Furthermore, cats on the landscape pose a serious health risk for us all through the spreading of diseases – including toxoplasmosis. As well as causing serious impacts on human health (through miscarriage and mental health disorders, to name but a few), toxoplasmosis is rapidly becoming a major cause of mortality for our endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals of which we have the largest population outside of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Please be assured that the majority of people on Hawaii will be in support of this bill. People in Hawaii care passionately about the environment and the wildlife within it. People in Hawaii also care passionately about animal welfare, which involves keeping cats inside where they are safe and not at risk of disease, starvation and traffic accidents.

Bill HB1987 will be a good step forward to achieving both of these goals.

Sincerely, Dr Andre Raine

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:01:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SATOKO	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:02:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Takagi Mayuka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING!

We have to protect animals and live together.

We are the world.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:02:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gail L Nixon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I understand there's a figure floating around that 83% of the residents of Hawaii are in alignment with this proposal. That's a curious number. What is it that informs their point of view? This ought to be questioned. Maybe they don't like cats. Maybe they are conditioned in their thinking that feral cats are automatically a nuisance, inherently harmful, or full of disease. Many don't consider the probable negative outcomes of cat culling such as an increase in mice and rat populations that the cats actually naturally control. Is there a definitive number indigenous birds casualties due to feral cats? Is there a definitive study to prove disease transfer from these cats to wildlife or humans? There are so many layers to this and just too much grey area here to justify a massive elimination of these cats. There are also articles to support the fact that the science the DLNR is relying upon is faulty such as [Austrialian Cat Culling Shaky Science And Missing Ethics](#)

Moreoever, IF this act of feline genocide is approved and proceeds, the effectiveness of culling should be evaluated by closely monitoring the activity and impacts of pest populations. Unfortunately, a lot of culling activity falls well short of these standards. The public deserves to know every single aspect of how the poisoning would be carried out, the tracking measures in place, the clean up protocols, and the evaluation of the outcomes. Oh, and how about keeping track of what or who else is inadvertantly poisoned along the way? Whomever is hired to commence this process should be 100% committed to reporting any collateral damage noticed during implementation, and a provision needs sto be in place to abort the mission if needed. Moreover, I just don't see unilateteral management by the Invasive Species Division as sufficient given the broad scope of this endeavor and its intended outcome/aftermath.

What I pray you will stop and consider is the liklihood that this proposed mass extermination will do more harm than good. There needs to be an unbiased + independent third party to evaluate every purported fact in the proposal, and determine all possible negative outcomes.

I won't even begin to touch on the inhumanity of this process, and that it will cost millions of dollars and break millions of hearts along the way. **The common approach by humanity when faced with an animal problem is to denounce them as pests and destroy them. It's a way to appease those who want a quick and direct solution, and yet this is often the most damaging and uncompromising path. Instead, through respect and compassion, a better solution can be found for all living creatures!**

Mahalo nui for your consideration!

Gail L. Nixon, Hawaii Island

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:04:50 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jaclyn Lum	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

As a resident of this state, the proposed plan sounds horrific and appalling. There is no plan to account for people's outdoor pets who may innocently get caught up in this inhumane terrible thoughtless bill. There has got to be a better way. Trapped, Neutered, Released (TNR) is a method that works and should be supported and invested in with government monies. It's is a long term method with similar end goals. If you increase the support of vet centers and the Hawaiian Humane Society for such programs, the government will not be wasting money on short sighted, short term plans such as the bill proposed. We as tax payers end up spending more on a plan that doesn't work well in the long run. TNR has been done by my friend with 8 cats to date in a 3 month period. She has no experience prior and if the system was more supportive, I'm sure she'd be doing more for her community. TNR is the most humane thing we can do to control the population and save innocent lives while achieving the long term goal.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:05:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
heather garcia	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I greatly oppose this bill and feel like it's inhumane and unfair due to the fact that this islands cat problem is mostly due to how owners have abandoned pets and not responsibly spayed or neutered them. The attention should be put towards funding Trap neuter release programs. There is absolutely no ALOHA in this bill!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:07:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Eri Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:07:34 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ami	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animals poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:08:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Hikaru	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am 100% against killing innocent animals.

If they're causing any issues, please fund animal shelters or charity organizations that help protect animals so they can rehome them. There is no reason a half of the felines in Hawaii should be poisoned to death. There are other solutions. They deserve a chance. PLEASE DO NOT KILL THEM!!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:08:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
mugikoyamamoto	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DONOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:09:38 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Johnny Stark	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This proposed bill is not only inhumane in nature but the application has a history of ineffectiveness and is based on faulty research. If your concern is endangered wildlife it has been proven random spreading of poison kills not only it's intended victims but endangered species also. Runoff sends the poison down tributaries and into the ocean killing reef life. Also unintended pets are frequently accidentally poisoned. TNRM trap neuter return manage has been a more humane and effective way to control cat population and is widely accepted in the US and other advanced countries as being the correct way to handle this issue. Only backward thinking pockets still believe this is right. Please research this via best friends.org and alleycatallies.org. As well groups of volunteers save the government extensive and wasted funding by carrying out this humane practice. Visitors will be appalled if this goes through because this is totally unacceptable on the mainland. Many visitors come here to interact with the cats at the hotels where they stay. If they come back looking for their furry friends to find the state has killed them I doubt if Hawaii will be their destination next year. And the word will spread. Many of these cats reside in shopping centers and other commercial areas. I defy you to find one endangered species in these locations. Man's industrialization has wiped out all their habitats. Pollution has taken care of the rest. More controls over the destruction of the land and creating more free space would be a better project than killing cats that only interact with feral chickens doves and minah birds. Please do your own research and do not rely on faulty propaganda and fake news perpetuated by other agencies to further their agenda. You do this with covid false information. This should be no different.

For decades Maui Humane Society has offered free and low cost spay neuter clinics. They do this by obtaining grants. They are given grants because in the past Maui has been in the forefront of progressive ideas and action when it comes to management of free roaming cat populations. This bill will devastate them. All the funding they received in the past will be wasted resources. You will be crucifying them. Please do not do this. Please seriously rethink this.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:10:12 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Elliott	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of H.B. 1987. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

HB1987 Requires DLNR to conduct a point-in-time count of feral cats per island by 6/30/23. Requires the invasive species council to develop and implement a program to effectively reduce the feral cat population in the State by 12/31/25.

As the Hawaiian archipelago is know as the endangered species capital and is critically important for endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds, particularly wetland birds and seabirds, many of which are found nowhere else in the world. Native Hawaiian wildlife evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them and need urgent action to protect them from extinction. As these native species are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act, there is an obligation to meet that legal mandate.

Also of much concern is that it is inhumane to abandon cats outdoors without a family to provide for the necessary regular veterinary and routine health care and also the need for daily socialization of these domestic pets. Cats indoors and as members of a human family are healthier and they live longer and happier lives. It is essential that cats are required to be under the control of the pet owners at all times, whether on a leash, in a catio, or indoors. This protects the pets, the public and more urgently the threatened and endangered native wildlife of Hawai‘i

Another important factor is that Human Health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a serious health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is dangerous to humans, where it causes miscarriage, birth defects, and can be fatal. Cats are also a vector for multiple other diseases that can seriously affect humans, including cat scratch disease (*Bartonella henselae*), Campylobacter infection, Salmonella, Giardia and cryptosporidium. Additionally, endangered native birds, the Nēnē and ‘Alalā have been killed by exposure to toxoplasmosis. Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian spinner dolphins and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can and does kill marine mammals. In recent years it has been a significant cause of mortality for critically endangered Hawaiian monk seals in particular.

I look to the Legislature to meet the legal, the biodiversity conservation, the public health, and the humane obligations by passing HB 1987.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this critically important issue.

Linda Elliott

Hāwī, HI 96719

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:12:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Reina Imamura	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

WE SHOULD BE PROTECTING ANIMAL FOR THIS WORLD.

BECAUSE ANIMAL IS NOT SO STRONG AS HUMAN.

PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THEN.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:12:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yanira Tabacchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

How about spending money to protect endangered species instead of eradicating another when you have studies that have proven that poisoning them doesn't work? I can't wait til a parent sues yall when there pets or children accidentally pick up poison and dies because of this disgusting practice. You claim you want to protect an endanger species but yet no one is stopping commercial fishing that is on of the reasons that we are headed into the 6th mass extinction. You people are sick.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:12:53 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MIHO TSUKUDA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:13:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Fuka Usui	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:14:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Yuri Yamada	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I don't support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:14:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lisa Betancourt	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Please use the humane method of spay/neuter, save the cats from being killed.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:18:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Linda Moore	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I have been involved with cat rescue for many years and I think the plan to eradicate ferals with poison is ignorant and outdated. Feral cats should be managed through spaying and neutering. Take the money you want to spend on poisoning and use it to make spaying and neutering more accessible to the public. Create some clinics and offer support to those who are willing to help with the problem. Poison is indiscriminate. You will kill pets as well as ferals, and not only cats. The poison will get in the food chain. I have heard that people who care about birds want to kill the cats. Poison can affect the birds as well, and studies have shown that the biggest threat to birds is habitat destruction by humans. Poison is not an easy death. Even if some other method is used, trying to kill every living feral cat in the state is a barbaric and fruitless endeavor. The humane approach is to manage populations and reduce numbers by preventing breeding. I think legislators should educate themselves on this topic and study some research before passing any laws. I am very disappointed that any legislator would even consider introducing such an inhumane bill.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:20:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gil Solomon	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Dear Legislature, hearing about this bill makes me cringe, as it is beyond cruel, if the goal is to lessen the feral population, then catch nuter and spay the cats instead of unthinkable cruelty in poisoning them and why would you eliminate all cats on some Islands and leave 50 % or whatever on Oahu. This is a disgraceful bill that needs to be amended to do the humane treatment of these poor helpless creaturesj

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:24:45 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
SAKI TANAKA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

DON'T KILL THEM,PLEASE!

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:26:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Asami Kawaguchi	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:31:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Angelia Hom	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

In 2018, I adopted a stray cat with my ex-boyfriend and we named him Captain Jack. He never hissed or scratched, loved cuddling with us, and moved with us from the U.S. to Finland. Unfortunately, one day he suddenly became very sick and was in a great deal of pain to the point of coughing blood and wheezing. We had no choice but to put him to sleep that night so he wouldn't suffer anymore. I remember petting him and he kept looking at me as he was lying on the table getting his two injections. Seeing the light leave his eyes and his last breath leaving his body was one of the saddest moments of my life, but I was so glad to have comforted him in his last moments during euthanization. He was a TNR cat. If he was poisoned instead, I couldn't live with myself.

I live in Oakland, California where we also have feral cat colonies. TNR has significantly helped our city solve the overpopulation of feral cats in the most humane way possible. Our neighborhoods care and love the feral cats like family because they're a part of our community and our ohana.

I recently adopted another feral cat that was living in my backyard. He's the softest black cat with the cutest meows and the loudest purrs. His name is Tommy and while I love giving him warm food and shelter at night, I also let him out into the neighborhood because that's where he was raised. He's comforted me when I felt anxious or depressed, and we love to chase each other in the house. He's also a TNR cat. I don't know how else I would've met this silly lovable cat if it wasn't for TNR, and I don't know how else he would've met me.

If Oakland stopped TNR services and decided to use poison, I would be incredibly heartbroken to think of all the feral cats who were taken from their homes, panicking and scared, and not being comforted by anyone during their painful deaths. The only humane and effective method is TNR (spay/neuter) and it's already making progress in reducing the number of cats. Please please consider using TNR as the first and only method for controlling cat overpopulation before anything else.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:32:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
MISATO KOMATSU	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I do not support animal poisoning.

I don't want to deprive animals of their right to live.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:32:29 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Natsuko Tachibana	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:34:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mayumi Takezawa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I'm against killing creatures and solving problems for whatever reason. All creatures should be treated fairly.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:35:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
sayaka tateno	yoshikawa hinano	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Do Not support animal poisoning.

I think it deserves animal cruelty.

Make a law that values animal welfare so that there is at least no pain.

Please do not hurt the animals for the convenience of human beings.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:36:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Laurel Shepherd	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

We are adamantly opposed to this bill. Historically, spay and neuter programs are the best way to control feral cat populations, and they work. Money for HB1987 would be better used to fund organizations that promote spay/neuter programs for feral cats. Endless research has shown that this is the best way to control feral cat populations.

Laurel Shepherd

Fred Staff

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:37:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Aira Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I DO NOT SUPPORT ANIMAL POISONING.

PLEASE CONSIDER ANOTHER WAY.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:38:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
YURIE KIMIYA	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I never support this bill. We have to discuss it more deeply.

HB-1987

Submitted on: 2/3/2022 2:39:15 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/4/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Jessica Brock	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

The greatest threat to Hawaii endangered species is man. The bill erroneously blames feral cats for the death of monk seals (12 in 20 years) but fails to acknowledge the role that people have played in killing monk seals. And sadly - Hawaii's endangered species have been hardest hit by our own role in paving over paradise and polluting our air, land and water.

Hawaii's cat overpopulation challenges are a direct result of people that abandon and dump cats at harbors, parks and beaches. They are NOT an invasive species as described in the bill. Sadly - this language is intended to stigmatize cats as a danger to people and our ecosystem thereby giving greater control to the DLNR and Hawaii Invasive Species Council to kill them. The bill also requires an appropriation so Hawaii tax payers get to pay the bill for the killing spree.

Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only long-term humane solution to manage our cat population. The Trap-and-Kill strategy proposed by DLNR has never worked and they have killed for 50+ years. The only thing that deserves to die is this bill.

Respectfully,

Jessica Brock