

MAR 10 2023

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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IDENTIFY EXISTING  
DEPARTMENTAL LANDS THAT ARE UNSUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL USE  
BUT MAY BE UTILIZED AS PET ANIMAL SANCTUARIES.

1           WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to protect  
2 endangered indigenous wildlife, which hold ecological, economic,  
3 and spiritual importance to the people of Hawaii; and  
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5           WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to over four hundred threatened or  
6 endangered species, many of which are particularly vulnerable to  
7 predation and parasitic infection by feral cats; and  
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9           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council lists feral  
10 cats as one of the most devastating threats to the State's  
11 unique wildlife; and  
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13           WHEREAS, feral cats on islands are responsible for at least  
14 fourteen percent of global bird, mammal, and reptile extinctions  
15 and are the principal threat to nearly eight percent of  
16 critically endangered bird, mammal, and reptile species; and  
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18           WHEREAS, feral cats are the greatest source of direct,  
19 human-associated mortality to birds in the United States,  
20 killing approximately 2.4 billion birds per year; and  
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22           WHEREAS, uncontrolled feral cats prey on native birds  
23 endemic to Hawaii's forests, shorelines, and wetlands, posing an  
24 existential threat to endangered species such as uau and palila;  
25 and  
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27           WHEREAS, cats are the definitive hosts that harbor the  
28 deadly parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which is fatal to other  
29 organisms, including the state mammal, the endangered Hawaiian  
30 monk seal; and  
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32           WHEREAS, *Toxoplasma gondii* can also infect vulnerable human  
33 populations, including pregnant women and those with weakened  
34 immune systems; and  
35



# S.R. NO. 67

1           WHEREAS, approximately two million feral cats live in  
2 Hawaii, and mitigation efforts have been ineffective in reducing  
3 the population or curbing its fatal impact on native wildlife;  
4 and  
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6           WHEREAS, one female cat and her offspring are estimated to  
7 produce more than four hundred thousand cats within seven years,  
8 rendering euthanasia initiatives incapable of addressing the  
9 feral cat population's exponential growth; and  
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11           WHEREAS, despite their moderate success, existing Trap-  
12 Neuter-Return programs have not substantially alleviated the  
13 threat of feral cats in the State; and  
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15           WHEREAS, pet animal sanctuaries present a potentially  
16 viable method for protecting Hawaii's endangered species by  
17 separating feral cats from the vulnerable wildlife upon which  
18 they prey, increasing sterilization rates, providing sustainable  
19 alternative food sources, and socializing feral cats so that  
20 community members can safely adopt them; now, therefore,  
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22           BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,  
24 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to identify  
25 existing departmental lands unsuitable for agricultural use that  
26 may be leased or used as pet animal sanctuaries; and  
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28           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture  
29 is requested to submit a report of its findings and  
30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
32 the Regular Session of 2024; and  
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34           BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of  
36 Agriculture.  
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OFFERED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

