

JOSH GREEN M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR



GARY S. SUGANUMA
DIRECTOR

KRISTEN M.R. SAKAMOTO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

Ka 'Oihana 'Auhau

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TESTIMONY OF
GARY S. SUGANUMA, DIRECTOR OF TAXATION

TESTIMONY ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. No. 364, Relating to Animal Control

BEFORE THE:

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

Chair Matayoshi, Vice-Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Taxation (DOTAX) offers the following comments regarding H.B. 364 for your consideration.

Section 1 of H.B. 364 establishes a new cat sterilization and breeding permit program and establishes a new "Spay and Neuter Special Fund". Section 2, amends chapter 235, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to authorize a new income "check-off" option, allowing taxpayers to designate refund deposits for the program. Individual taxpayers with a refund of \$5 or more, or joint married taxpayers with a refund of \$10 or more, may designate \$5, or \$5 per person, respectively, to be deposited into the this special fund.

The bill empowers the director of taxation to revise tax return forms. As with other existing check-off boxes, if no initial designation was chosen, taxpayers will be allowed to amend a return to choose a designation within 20 months and ten days after the due date for the original return for that taxable year. A designation is nonrevocable once made.

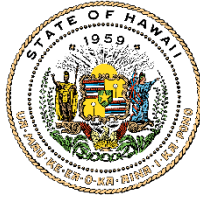
This measure is applicable for tax years beginning after January 1, 2026, with section 2 pertinent to the check-off boxes being effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2024.

DOTAX requests that the check-off box provisions in Section 2 be amended to be effective for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025. This will allow sufficient time for the necessary form, instruction, and computer system changes, and providing taxpayer guidance regarding this new designation option.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHANE
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

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Wednesday, January 29, 2025
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 329, and Via Videoconference

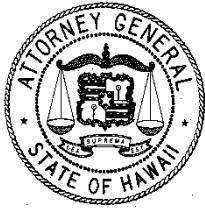
In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 364
RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL

House Bill 364 proposes to amend Chapter 143, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to add two new sections regarding cat sterilization and breeding permits and requirements and establish a spay and neuter special fund. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

House Bill 364 requires the surgical sterilization of cats over three months old, with certain exceptions, and authorizes county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program for responsible cat breeding. Additionally, the bill creates a spay and neuter special fund to address pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population. It provides funding for spaying and neutering animals which cannot then be released into the environment.

The Department recognizes the significant negative impact that feral and free-roaming cats have on Hawai'i's unique native wildlife, both through direct predation and the spread of the toxoplasmosis parasite. Hawai'i is home to 28% of all threatened and endangered species in the United States, and 78% of all U.S. species extinctions have occurred here. Free-roaming cats are known predators of native and endangered birds and pose a serious health risk as the only known reproductive host of the toxoplasmosis parasite. Toxoplasmosis is one of the most significant threats to the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and infects other endangered birds, including Hawai'i's state bird, the nēnē. Supporting cat sterilization efforts and reducing free-roaming cat populations are critical steps in protecting Hawai'i's native and endangered wildlife while promoting responsible pet ownership.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 364, RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

DATE: Wednesday, January 29, 2025 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or Kelcie K. Nagata or
Christopher J.I. Leong, Deputy Attorneys General

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments.

The purpose of this bill is to establish procedures that require all cats to be surgically sterilized, with certain exceptions. The bill also establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund in the Department of Budget and Finance. The bill further allows the counties to print special numbered plates to assist in funding the special fund.

The bill establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund within the Department of Budget and Finance but codifies it within the chapter related to the Department of Agriculture; see page 5, lines 1-4. This may cause confusion for both the Department of Budget and Finance and the Department of Agriculture with regard to the administration of the special fund. To ensure clarity and consistency, if the intent is to establish the special fund within the Department of Budget and Finance, it should be codified in the statutes relating to the Department of Budget and Finance (e.g., chapter 36, HRS). Conversely, if the intent is for the Department of Agriculture to administer the special fund, the bill should be amended to designate the Department of Agriculture as the responsible agency.

Additionally, the proposed section 143-B(c) establishes an advisory committee "to assist the department of budget and finance in establishing the eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the special fund." However, article V, section 6, of the Hawaii State Constitution requires "instrumentalities of the state government and

their respective powers and duties [to] be allocated by law and among and within not more than twenty principal departments[.]” To ensure compliance with the constitutional requirement, we recommend amending the first sentence of section 143-B(c) (page 6, lines 3-6) to explicitly place the advisory committee within the Department of Budget and Finance, as follows:

(c) There is established within the department of budget and finance an advisory committee to assist the department of budget and finance in establishing the eligibility criteria and procedures for disbursements from the special fund.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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



LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

SABRINA NASIR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka 'Oihana Mālama Mo'ohelu a Kālā
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

LATE

TESTIMONY BY LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 364

January 29, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Room 329 and Videoconference

RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL

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

House Bill No. 364 does the following: 1) makes it unlawful for any person to own a cat over the age of three months unless the cat is surgically sterilized or the conditions for certain exceptions are met; 2) establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund (SNSF) within B&F to finance spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free roaming cats; 3) establishes an advisory committee to assist B&F in establishing SNSF disbursement eligibility criteria and procedures; 4) allows taxpayers to contribute \$5 of their income tax refund to be deposited into the SNSF; 5) requires the Directors of Finance for the City and County of Honolulu and Counties of Hawai'i, Kaua'i, and Maui to design and issue a special number plate for registered motor vehicle owners supporting the SNSF; 6) appropriates \$500,000 in general funds for both FY 26 and FY 27 for deposit into the SNSF; and 7) appropriates \$500,000 in special funds out of the SNSF for both FY 26 and FY 27 for the purposes of the SNSF.

B&F strongly believes that it is not the appropriate agency to administer the SNSF and its related program functions. B&F does not possess the required subject-matter

expertise on spaying and neutering animals or any other related veterinary services as these subject areas are outside of the purview of the department. Further, with the ongoing statewide financial management replacement project, B&F staff are fully engaged and committed to working on the project and doing its regular work; therefore, additional staff and funding would be necessary to administer the SNSF.

B&F recommends that funds be appropriated directly to the counties instead because they have historically been responsible for animal control functions. The counties can then allocate these funds to entities best able to perform the desired services.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:33:48 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ted Bohlen	Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORTS** HB364 and its stronger cat spay and neuter programs, with ample funding. Young cats spread the parasite toxoplasmosis that can be harmful to mammals, including humans (especially pregnant women and those with compromised immune systems) and marine life, including dolphins and endangered monk seals. We need to protect the public health and environment by controlling the populations of young cats.

Please pass this bill!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:13:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Kim	Fur-Angel Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HB364.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:40:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Randolph	The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the Chair, Vice Chair and Committee Members

The Environmental Caucus unconditionally supports the Hawaiian Humane Society and HB364.

The measures proposed by this bill have been necessary for a long time. There has been consistant evidence that when financially supported spay and neuter services are made available to the public, most people will take advantage of the oportunites to fix their pets, and often a casual stray they may have been feeding. When the funding is cut and it takes 3 months or more to try and get an animal fixed, working people and people on a budget are far less likly to even try to get animals spayed or neutered. Without the service organizations like the Humane Society the costs are just prohibitive.

In addition, the breeding of any animals, especially cats, must be handled in a professional manner as the bill recommends and we support these measures as well.

Sincerely

Martha E Randolph

SCC Representative for the

Environmental Caucus 2025

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:07:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain would, in company with our friends at Hawaiian Humane, support the regulation of all pet breeders and HB364 Relating to Animal Control would be a positive step toward that broader goal.

We understand that it is already illegal on O‘ahu to allow an unspayed/unneutered companion cat outdoors. Extending that requirement to indoor cats would have health benefits for the animals and prevent unplanned breeding in the case of escape.

The measure includes funding dedicated to spay/neuter grants for organizations around the State. This would be a welcome contribution to spay/neuter efforts.

The following two amendments are important:

1. Fund enforcement: County animal services are underfunded for their existing responsibilities. If the state would like the counties to take on breeder regulation, rather than tasking that responsibility to a state agency, it needs to allocate funding for that purpose.
- 1.
1. Allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats: The measure restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts.

We are very much in support of TNRM which is used in many countries where there are large numbers of free-roaming cats, such as India. It has proven to be the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the FRC population in urban, commercial, and residential areas — and FRCs are valued in agricultural areas.

This restriction means that a large number of neutered cats will await adoption, which we know is everywhere a big worry and cats can remain with organisations for maybe years, costing a lot of money and living in conditions not conducive to their natures.

We beg to support HB 364 with these vital amendments.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, January 29, 2025
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
H.B. 364, RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL**

Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Marcella Chock, and I am the Chair of Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board appreciates the intent of the bill and offers comments.

The purposes of this bill are to: (1) require that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized; (2) authorize county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program to allow the responsible breeding of cats; (3) establish minimum requirements for breeding permits and penalties; and (4) establish a spay and neuter special fund.

The Board notes that mandating sterilization may pose a hardship for individuals on fixed incomes or on neighbor islands with limited veterinary services. The Board is concerned that the early sterilization of male cats can lead to increased difficulty in treating lower urinary tract disease (FLUTD) and/or urethral obstructions. The Board requests the legislature consider amending the age at which sterilization is required on page 1, lines 4 through 7, from three months to five (5) months of age (as recommended by the American Association of Feline Practitioners), or a minimum weight of six (6) pounds, or the eruption of the cat's adult canine teeth.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

**Testimony of American Bird Conservancy
In Support of HB 364 Relating to Animal Control
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce | January 29, 2025**

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, we are writing to express our **strong support for HB 364**.

Although cats (*Felis catus*) can make wonderful pets, Hawai'i is experiencing a cat overpopulation crisis that puts cats, other domestic animals, wildlife, and human communities at risk. **To foster a healthy and safe environment for people and animals, it is essential that Hawai'i incentivize and support responsible cat ownership behaviors, including spaying or neutering pet cats.**

The spaying or neutering of pet cats is highly popular among cat owners and other Hawai'i residents. **Research of Hawai'i residents conducted by Griffith University in 2024 found that two-thirds of respondents supported making pet cat sterilization mandatory.** Many of Hawai'i's cat owners have already chosen to spay or neuter their cat voluntarily, but further encouragement and support is needed to spay or neuter the rest. Spaying or neutering pet cats not only benefits the cat and owner but also eliminates undesirable breeding, which contributes to the cat overpopulation and resulting environmental and public health risks.

HB 364 is a common-sense strategy to reduce the cat overpopulation and provide resources for responsible cat ownership. **This bill is consistent with animal welfare, wildlife conservation, and public health and safety goals.** Key components of this bill include:

1. A mandate that all pet cats above a certain age must be spayed or neutered, with certain exceptions;
2. The establishment of a responsible pathway for deliberate pet cat breeding; and
3. Financial support for reducing the cat overpopulation, including free-roaming cats, that is consistent with reducing environmental and public health risks.

Cat Overpopulation Risks

Cats are an invasive species in Hawai'i that have contributed to the extinction of two endemic Hawaiian species, the Lāna'i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and the decline of countless others. 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.

Contact

abcbirds.org
info@abcbirds.org
tel. **540.253.5780**
fax **540.253.5782**

Address

regular, registered, or certified mail:
P.O. Box 249, The Plains, VA 20198
physical address for deliveries:
**8255 E. Main Street, Suites D & E,
Marshall, VA 20115**



Cats can also carry a large number of infectious parasites and diseases that put people and wildlife at risk. For example, [research at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children](#) found that **keiki in Hawai'i were particularly at risk of cat scratch disease**. 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.

Toxoplasma gondii, the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis in birds and mammals, is excreted in cat feces. A single cat can excrete up to hundreds of millions of *T. gondii* eggs (called "oocysts") into the environment via its feces, and these oocysts remain infectious for months to years. This parasite is a serious risk for Hawai'i's wildlife, [including Hawaiian Monk Seals](#), and has long been recognized as a public health risk in the state.

HB 364 is essential to addressing the cat overpopulation in Hawai'i. This bill will encourage responsible cat ownership and reduce risks for Hawaii's residents, both people and animals. **We respectfully ask that you support HB 364.**

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

Chris Farmer, Ph.D.
Hawai'i Program Director

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:19:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Armstrong	Love a Cat Charity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Please pass this bill as Hawaii needs this help in alerting people to this necessity AND doing the right thing for our environment. As an elementary school teacher I have had my school children work on the problem of "How many female kittens can the average female cat be responsible for having in a span of 10 years?" Of course this is super multiplication practice AND the kids were amazed to see that if we count two litters a years with the average of 2 females per litter that the final number of the original unaltered female AND all of her unaltered female children is far into the thousands, all from one female cat NOT BEING FIXED.

Please, please pass this bill FOR HAWAII! This is the humane way to control feline population.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Jan. 28, 2025

To: Chair Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi
Vice Chair Rep. Cory M. Chun
and Members of the Committee on Commerce and
Consumer Protection

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of HB 364: Relating to Animal Control
Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025, 2 p.m., Room 329 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our support for House Bill 364, which requires that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized, with certain exceptions; authorizes county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program to allow the responsible breeding of cats; establishes minimum requirements for breeding permits and penalties; establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund; and appropriates funds.

Hawaiian Humane has long advocated for the regulation of all pet breeders and this would be an excellent step in that direction. Hawai'i is one of very few states with no regulation of animal-related businesses. Further spay/neuter is the best way to prevent pet overpopulation. It also affords animals a longer, healthier life, and reduces nuisance behaviors.

As the animal services contractor for the City and County of Honolulu, we do need to point out that requiring the counties to enforce this measure represents an unfunded mandate from the state. Animal services are underfunded across Hawai'i for the current scope of work defined by county ordinances. If the state wants the counties to enforce this measure, rather than imposing that responsibility on a state agency, it should appropriate funding for that purpose.

We also request the removal of the following language highlighted in red from page 5:



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

143-B (4) (b) Moneys in the special fund shall be expended to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, by providing spaying and neutering surgery and associated veterinary care; provided that ~~spayed or neutered animals are not re-released into the environment and~~ the uses and expenditures of moneys in the special fund shall follow the eligibility criteria established by the advisory committee established under subsection (c).

We understand that the intent of this language is to protect wildlife from Free-Roaming cats, but it will have the opposite effect. Many Free-Roaming cats are unsocialized to humans and cannot be adopted into homes. Sanctuaries for unsocialized cats are few, because they are very expensive to maintain, and perpetually full. Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage is the only large-scale effort being undertaken to reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, thanks to an army of volunteers who are willing to trap cats for spay/neuter surgery.

The state's alternative, lethal control, is an inhumane response to abandoned pets and is ineffective. It has never been successful in areas with large human populations. It is so unpopular in our compassionate community that it is not even practiced in the many of the areas where the state has given itself permission to do so.

To maximize the effectiveness of these funds to reduce pet and Free-Roaming cat overpopulation, we urge you to remove the barriers to supporting TNRM efforts.

Please pass HB364 with state funding for county enforcement and an approach that uses all of the best tools available to us for curbing overpopulation.

Mahalo for your consideration.



January 28, 2025

Testimony in support of HB 364

Aloha,

Our organization is dedicated to the restoration and protection of our native things, people, places and practices.

Feral cats are a scourge in Hawaii and destroy habitat and native birds. Neutered and spayed cats hunt and kill and poison the earth and waters of Hawaii. Cats produce toxoplasmosis which is responsible for the deaths of Hawaiian Monk Seals and dolphin and a threat to human health.

Our native animals require our kokua.

Cats indoors keeps them safe, our environment protected and our land and ocean unpolluted.

Please pass HB364 and require all spayed and neutered cats be returned to a safe home and not abandoned on our lands and neighborhoods.

Mahalo nui.

Makaala Kaaumoana

Vice Chair

Hui Ho'omalulu i ka 'Aina is a taro root organization founded in the early 1980's by traditional practitioners of moku Halele'a to address threats and impacts to the natural and cultural resources of Kaua'i. Founded by farmers and fishermen, weavers and hunters, we seek to provide context for issues related to the ecology of our ahupua'a. The organization is an active advocate for those native things and ways that are disappearing. We are not a nonprofit, we are an activist organization. We do not whine and wait, we act.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:09:20 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Opiteck	Catcolonycaregivershonolulu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am For this bill, I Do NOT want anymore kittens or cats that Don't have a home.

Educating the public regarding how quickly cats procreate, 62 days and then 2 weeks later they can get pregnant again, up to 5 litters in one year

Feeders need to be trained to do TNRM and trapping, getting all outdoor cats fixed.

Make it easier and more days that the HHS has fixing appointments available for managers of colonies 7 days a week

Thank you ,

Michele Opiteck

TESTIMONY OF PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025
2:00 PM

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB364

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee,

Pacific Whale Foundation (PWF), representing roughly 7,000 supporters and members, strongly supports HB364, requiring the sterilization of all cats over three months old, as an essential measure to protect Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems and unique marine wildlife.

Since the founding of PWF in 1980, the organization has been dedicated to saving the world's whales from extinction. Today PWF focuses on the protection of whales, dolphins, and all marine life. HB364 will help to reduce the number of feral cats in Hawai'i. This is critical because feral cats are a vector for toxoplasmosis. Toxoplasmosis is a parasitic disease found in cat feces and has been linked to the deaths of endangered Hawaiian monk seals and spinner dolphins. This parasite is transmitted into the ocean via stormwater runoff and poses a grave threat to marine ecosystems and the livelihoods of those who depend on them. NOAA Fisheries has documented numerous cases of marine mammal deaths caused by toxoplasmosis (<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/pacific-islands/endangered-species-conservation/toxoplasmosis-and-its-effects-hawaii-marine>).

Hawai'i is estimated to have tens of thousands of feral cats, contributing to the proliferation of toxoplasmosis and the loss of native species. Sterilization programs such as described in this legislation are a key step in mitigating this threat by eliminating the uncontrolled reproduction of cats in Hawai'i.

As an organization dedicated to protecting marine life and supporting sustainable ecosystems, PWF recognizes the importance of addressing threats to ocean health. HB364 aligns with PWF's mission by reducing a major source of harm to marine mammals. This approach is both humane and effective in decreasing ecological damage.

We urge the committee to pass HB364 to protect Hawai'i's wildlife and marine ecosystems. Mahalo for your leadership on this critical issue and for considering the testimony of PWF and its supporters.



Protecting the ocean through science and education, saving the world's whales through environmental stewardship

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:17:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Machi Barros	Lucky Paws	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB364, requiring all cats over 3 months to be sterilized (with some exceptions). This bill helps reduce pet overpopulation and supports spay/neuter programs. It helps both human and feline communities sustain a healthier environment.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:40:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates and Pele Lani Farm LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you today to voice my **OPPOSITION** to **HB364** which would require the sterilization of cats over the age of 3 months and which would establish a spay and neuter fund which cannot be used for programs which release cats onto the landscape. TNR is a successful program and helps alleviate many issues. Why would these cats not be included? As a member of the animal rights and rescue community in Hawai'i I have seen firsthand the destructive myths that are detrimental to our native birds, marine mammals, and ecosystems. This bill **does not protect our imperiled native species** from further loss due to feral cat predation and disease.

This Bill **DOES NOT ADDRESS THE MAIN ISSUES CAUSING EXTINCTION.**

Unfortunately, DLNR and the news media perpetuate the myth of all cats being the primary issue for native birds.

IF WE REALLY WANT TO SAVE THE NATIVE BIRDS, LET'S ADDRESS THE # 1 and #2 causes!

Native Birds--

- 1. Disease:** Avian malaria, spread by introduced mosquitoes,
- 2. Habitat Destruction:** Clearing forests for agriculture, urban development, and other human activities
- 3. Invasive Species:** Introduced predators like tree rats, mongooses and feral cats (note: cats in populated areas are abandoned, lost, stray cats, not feral),
- 4. Climate Change: Changes in climate which alter habitats and food availability.**

Nene Goose-- their causes of death are

- 1. Starvation due to loss of habitat**
- 2. Vehicle injury** or other human activities

Mahalo for your service!

Sincerely,

Sylvia Dolena

Owner, Pele Lani Farm LLC

Owner, Winning Edge Women's Leadership

Director, Puna Rising Entrepreneur Hub

Co-founder, Aloha Animal Advocates, HI Domestic non-profit

Director, Malama O'Puna. 501c3

President, Aloha Lokahi Association, 501c3

President, Kulia I Ka Nu'u Outreach Services

Vice President, Love Those Dog Paws, 501c3

Executive Coach, Hewlett-Packard Enterprises



The Wildlife Society
Hawai'i Chapter

LATE

PO Box 22192
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823-2192

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

The Wildlife Society (TWS), Hawai'i Chapter is composed of wildlife professionals within the State of Hawai'i. TWS Hawai'i Chapter is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of flora and fauna endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.

TWS Hawai'i Chapter submits this testimony in supports HB 364. TWS supports reducing the reproduction of unwanted cats through increased funding and access to sterilization. We support the funding of cat sterilization efforts if the funding does not go towards efforts that release these sterilized cats outdoors. We encourage cats to be kept indoors because it protects the cats themselves, their human families, and wildlife as well. Indoor cats generally live longer healthier lives. They are less likely to be harmed by physical threats including other cats, dogs, and cars. They are also less likely to contract diseases and bring them home to their families both animal and human. Notable diseases that can pass between cats, other animals, and humans include COVID-19 and Avian Influenza. Outdoor cats also pose a dual threat to wildlife in the form of predation and transmittal of diseases including Toxoplasmosis.

TWS supports the limited exceptions to required sterilization in HB 364 including creation of breeding permit programs within the Counties. TWS also appreciates that the Department of Land and Natural Resources has a designated membership in the advisory committee for these sterilization funds. Given the impacts that outdoor cats have on wildlife, we urge the DLNR representative have a background in wildlife management. Similarly, TWS urges that in addition to a representative from an animal-welfare non-profit, a representative from a wildlife conservation non-profit also have a representative on the advisory committee.

TWS supports the reduction of cats on the landscape. TWS also supports the funding of reduced-cost sterilization of all non-native animals including cats and dogs. The TWS also appreciates that the sterilization fund has a variety of means to build its funds going forward.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 364. Should you have any further questions please contact our Conservation Affairs Chair, Patrick Chee at twshicac@gmail.com .

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 2:14:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of Animal Rights Hawai'i, I am pleased to support this bill 364. I suggest that DoA add this caveat to people moving to Hawai'i, especially military personnel. Mahalo

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:23:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
helen raine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to offer my wholehearted support for bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. I believe this bill will make a huge difference not only for our Hawaiian wildlife, but also for the health and welfare of feral cats, which suffer when they are unhomed and at risk of disease and injury.

Hawai‘i has an absolutely unique ecosystem which supports endemic native Hawaiian birds and other wildlife. Many state and federal agencies, and non profits are deeply committed to protecting these species and their habitat, but the passion and resources that are poured into this are undermined by the ever increasing numbers of feral cats on the landscape. Even when well fed, cats will kill birds and other wildlife. Hawaiian species evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species and to maintain their deep cultural and ecological significance.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

I very much hope to see this bill pass - it is very significant, has broad support from all sides of the debate and will make a genuine difference. I thank you for your attention. Helen Raine, Kalaheo, Kauai.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:32:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karim Hanna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support this action. We should work together to protect our wildlife, communities, and help ensure the safety of the pets to. Please vote yes

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:34:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Kane	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:20:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Blanchard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'ālae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:43:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonathan Sprague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a serial cat owner and lifelong conservationists, I support this bill. There are too many abandoned cats on the landsapce, which is cruel both for the cats and the native species they eat. While this is not the full solution to the feral cat issue, managing cat reproduction is a humane step towards minimizing the number of animals that are abandoned to the wilderness each year.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:59:08 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared Char	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 5:24:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Levinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'ālae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

It has been a long time coming for common sense and responsible cat management in Hawaii. Do the right thing for future generations so they can live in a Hawaii with native animals

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:03:45 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i support HB364..we foster 4 the hawaiian humane and we love the fact that you are working so hard to help those who cannot speak for themselves

Melissa Pavlicek
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

January 29, 2025

House Consumer Protection Committee
Hawai'i State Legislature
Via Electronic Submission

Re: *Comments on HB 364*

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and members of the Committee!

I am writing with comments regarding HB364, Relating to Animal Control, which requires that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized, with certain exceptions. It also authorizes county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program to allow the responsible breeding of cats; establishes minimum requirements for breeding permits and penalties; and establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the Free-Roaming cat population, and permits various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

As a long-time Hawaiian Humane Society volunteer and board member, and a resident of Oahu, I believe that this bill would be a positive step forward. Extending a requirement for spaying/neutering to indoor cats would have health benefits for the animals and prevent unplanned breeding in the case of escape.

I am respectfully requesting the following amendments to this bill:

1. *County animal services are underfunded for their existing responsibilities and would need funding allocated to meet their responsibilities under this measure.*
2. *This bill restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts. I'm concerned that this could compromise maximizing the use of these funds to solve pressing issues.*

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 364.

Strong Support for HB364: Protecting Hawai'i's Wildlife, Public Health, and Ecosystems

I strongly support HB364, which mandates the sterilization of cats over the age of three months and establishes a spay and neuter fund that cannot be used for programs that release cats back onto the landscape. This legislation is a vital step toward addressing the devastating impacts of feral cats on Hawai'i's native wildlife, public health, and fragile ecosystems.

Hawai'i is home to some of the rarest and most unique wildlife in the world, including many species that are found nowhere else. These animals, such as the 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), of which fewer than 700 individuals remain globally (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater), whose population has declined by over 94% in just 35 years (Raine et al.), face existential threats from feral cat predation. Native birds in Hawai'i evolved in the absence of mammalian predators and lack the defenses needed to survive these introduced threats. It is our kuleana to protect these irreplaceable species, which hold immense ecological and cultural importance. Their survival depends on our decisive action.

Feral cats also pose significant risks to human health. They are vectors for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), a disease spread through cat feces that can cause miscarriages, birth defects, and fatalities in humans (Kheirandish et al., 2019). Toxoplasmosis affects not only people but also marine mammals that are crucial to Hawai'i's ecosystems and cultural identity. Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020), and even Humpback Whales have succumbed to this preventable disease. The continued presence of unsterilized and unmanaged feral cat populations exacerbates these risks to both public health and marine life.

HB364 addresses these urgent challenges by requiring the sterilization of cats, thereby reducing the number of reproductive feral animals on our landscapes. This proactive measure will lessen the burden on animal shelters and humane societies, allowing them to focus their resources on care and adoption rather than being overwhelmed by the cycle of cat overpopulation. Furthermore, the establishment of a spay and neuter fund ensures that pet owners can access affordable sterilization services, creating a humane solution that benefits both pets and the environment. Importantly, this bill ensures that funds will not support controversial and ineffective practices such as "Trap-Neuter-Return," which perpetuates the presence of feral cats in the environment.

Requiring sterilization of cats is not only better for the animals themselves but also essential for protecting Hawai'i's delicate ecosystems. Native species, including those protected under Federal and State Endangered Species Acts, cannot withstand the continued pressure from feral cats. By supporting HB364, we take a critical step toward restoring balance to Hawai'i's ecosystems, safeguarding public health, and preserving our natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this urgent and necessary legislation.

Sincerely,

Keith V. Adams IV

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:38:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support this measure that creates a spay/neuter fund to reduce pet overpopulation AND it's needed funding for the operations and enforcement. There are WAY too many dogs and cats roaming the streets that are stray, abused and unloved. I see them all because I volunteer at the Humane Society and also have helped at cat spay/neuter clinics for TNR cats. It's beyond sad that we humans cannot just do one simple thing, and that is to reduce the unwanted pet population. We are supposed to be the enlightened souls. We are not. We have domesticated these animals to give us love and affection, and we must not turn a blind eye to those innocent loving creatures who are suffering. Fund spay/neuter programs so we can stop the abuse and put more energy towards those who are already with us.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 6:59:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmen Antaky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364 as this bill will reduce feral cats and help protect native wildlife.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:10:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Rounds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands, which is absolutely necessary.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). The palila on Mauna Kea is nearing extinction partly due to high numbers of feral cats in their last remaining habitat. These birds evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our responsibility to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act.

-We have way too many feral cats in our islands and it's time to take control of the situation.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:17:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Strang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY support this bill.

Feral cats are an environmental catastrophe. They kill native and endangered seabirds as well as marine mammals. They also spread disease to humans.

Spay/neuter and release has been proven to be entirely ineffective at reducing feral cat colonies. They can't be allowed to be continually released into the environment. And spayed cats still kill local wildlife.

In addition, it is better for the cats too because indoor cats live longer than outdoor cats.

I would support even stronger legislation than this, so if more stringent or aggressive bills came up that reduce feral cat colonies, I would support those as well.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:25:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, I would like to see our State support free / low cost Spay Neuter Clinics held by volunteer nonprofits here on the Big Island of Hawai'i. Having volunteered at over 100 such cat clinics in the Puna community, I know this would be a wise use of our tax dollars. Currently, PetFix Hawaii is holding Keaau clinics most every Saturday and Sunday, doing 100 cats each day. Clearly the community wants this service. Yes, there are that many cats out there. If other methods, such as round up and kill worked, we would not be discussing this problem today. I too love our native birds and want us to increase their safety with this spay neuter bill. TNRM cats need to be eligible for these moneys, as not doing so only creates more cats. Please support the humane reduction in animal overpopulation, the veterinarians, vet techs, volunteers, pet owners, TNRM caretakers, all support spay/neuter this with their many long hours community work. Mahalo for allowing me to submit testimony.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:35:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lukanicole zavas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I **SUPPORT** bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. As you know - Hawai‘i is home to multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. Many are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. Protecting these species from an invasive predator that *WE* introduced is crucial. We need to take responsibility for these past actions and not just turn a blind eye because a section of our community "likes the feral cats." The native species called Hawai‘i home waaaay before humans and cats arrived. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them.

By requiring cats to be sterilized, the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape will be reduced and thus protecting the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian island. Additionally, not only will you be protecting threatened and endangered birds - which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act, but also human health. By reducing the presence of feral cats across the landscape, we are reducing the amount of fecal matter deposited into our streams, oceans, grassy and sandy areas - all spaces where we play and relax - especially our children and mothers. Feral cats are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through their feces, and can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal. We know that toxoplasmosis has already taken the lives of Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian spinner dolphins, and Humpback Whales.

We must admit that we have mismanaged feral cat populations and take action to bring their colonies under control. By **Supporting** HB364, we will be working towards a bright future, where feral cats are absent from the landscape and instead our communities are once again filled with the wonderful songs of birds, and our seas are safer for our friends that call it home.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Lukanicole Zavas - ‘Āhuimanu, Kahalu‘u

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:42:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Allen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB364 Relating to Animal Control, and the two amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society. We desperately need to establish a spay & neuter special fund to reduce our overwhelming pet population.

I also advocate for the two amendments proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society: 1) fund enforcement - allocate funding for breeding regulation. 2) Provide grants for spay/neuter of unsocialized free-roaming cats.

Please support this measure with the Hawaiian Humane Society amendments.

There is a critical need for funds to provide low cost or free spay & neuter programs. Neuter Now was a great measure by the City & County, (working with the Hawaiian Humane Society) that stopped funding this program months ago & states they will not consider it until July of 2025. Meanwhile, citizens are not able to afford spaying & neutering & our island is being overpopulated with cats. Due to this, many cats are being killed by inhumane people and on military bases.

(Another need that needs to be addressed. Are families not told in exit interviews that the military is paying for their pets to relocate with them? As they are all abandoning their cats & dogs, when they deploy to another location. And now it has been revealed that the military has taken action to eliminate the overpopulation at certain military housing & bases.)

I live in lower Nuuanu and have lived in Hawaii since the age of 5. In my retirement, I have been inundated with pleas & suggestions for low cost vet care & spaying & neutering of both pets & feral cats. There is no one to suggest at this point.

Thank you for your attention to this very serious matter.

Mahalo,

Jan Allen

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:17:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Monden	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

HB364 is taking away rights of anyone having a cat/kitten over the age of 3 months. To sterilize a kitten so young could have health ramifications. In addition this bill may worsen the problem of unwanted cats. People may just not take cats to seen by a veterinarian and will spread diseases like feline leukemia and cause a big public health problem.

How many breeders of cats do we have in Hawaii? A lot of cats become feral cats when owners could not afford to spay or neuter and cannot care for cat and become feral. Perhaps if cat neuter or spay was free there would be less feral population.

This bill gives so much power to the veterinarian and none to the owner or consumer who pays the bill. A consumer or citizen or resident has the freedom to choose to keep intact or neuter their pet. This bill is unconstitutional to my freedom to choose the best course for my pet. Feels like a socialist/comunist way to control cats population also another way for legislation to get all the money from the citizens of Hawaii. To take away rights of consumers to control a social problem.

The Special fund sounds like a great idea but it takes money from tax payers and other programs that can benefit a lot more people. The cost for spay and neuter of cats could have all the Veterinarians charge a flat rate across the board so all consumers could afford to neuter or spay their cat.. Veterinarian want to neuter pet if intact but humane society spay/neuter had only a handful of providers who offer the service. In addition veterinarian procedure there is added cost that consumer may not be able to afford. These veterinarian could use this discounted fee as a tax write off.

The money for this bill affects a small population of cat breeders but agree there an overpopulation of cats. Taxpayer money to be used to take consumer rights away for pet vs use for housing, education, residents of Hawaii and our Keiki is not a good use of resources.

Committee: House Committee On Consumer Protection & Commerce
Bill Number: HB 364, RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL
Hearing Date & Time: January 29, 2025 at 2:00pm
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Support of HB 364**

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Malia Wisch, I am a partner and creative director of the local branding and design agency Wall to Wall Studios. I am a third-generation Kailua resident and graduate of Hawaii's public schools.

I am testifying in support of HB 364, which requires that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized, with certain exceptions and authorizes county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program to allow the responsible breeding of cats, establishes minimum requirements for breeding permits and penalties, and establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund.

I am deeply involved with various efforts to humanely control the free-roaming cat population. I am well aware not only of the detrimental effects these cats have on native wildlife, but also the suffering these cats are subjected to.

I strongly support this bill's intent to limit the intentional breeding of cats, and provide desperately needed funding for spay/neuter.

A root cause of cat overpopulation is failure to spay/neuter due to lack of resources.

A growing group of us are championing a multi-pronged strategy, including

1. Spay/neuter of owned pets,
2. Trap-Neuter-Manage of unsocialized stray cats in urban and residential areas,
3. Ample shelter space for friendly homeless cats, and
4. A large-scale cat sanctuary for cats that cannot stay where they are due to immediate threats they either face or pose to existing wildlife.

In light of this, we are in support of this measure with the following amendments: Allow spay/neuter grants to apply to unsocialized free-roaming cats. There is no reason to allow homeless cats to continue to reproduce on the landscape just because they don't have owners.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sara Malia Wisch
629 Hanale Place, Kailua HI 96734
malia@wisch-design.com

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:44:26 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Sabine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:52:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chris Lum and as a local natural resource manager, I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. This is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lum

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:54:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill that will help animals in Hawaii.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:56:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stella Haberman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:09:57 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Catcho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Template

In Support of HB364

To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members

From: Ben Catcho Jr

Date: 1/27/25

Re: HB364 “Relating to Cat Population Management”

Aloha mai me ke aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB364, which aims to address the issue of cat overpopulation by requiring sterilization of cats over three months of age, authorizing county permit programs for responsible breeding, and establishing the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to support population control efforts.

As a local resident in the field of conservation focused around our manu, I am deeply concerned about the impact of free-roaming cat populations on our local ecosystems, particularly in Hawaii. Free-roaming cats are a leading cause of the decline of native bird species, including our endangered Hawaiian Honeycreepers, which are already struggling due to habitat loss, invasive species, and disease. Without proactive measures to address the growing number of free-roaming cats, we risk further endangering these irreplaceable species.

HB364 provides a thoughtful, multi-faceted solution to this complex issue. By requiring sterilization, the bill addresses one of the primary contributors to cat overpopulation, reducing the number of unwanted litters. Additionally, the establishment of a breeding permit program ensures that responsible breeders can continue their work while prioritizing animal welfare and population control.

The creation of the Spay and Neuter Special Fund is another crucial component of this bill. By funding sterilization efforts through dedicated revenue sources, HB364 ensures that communities across Hawaii, including lower-income households, have access to affordable or free spay/neuter services. This is an essential step in reducing the number of free-roaming cats and mitigating their environmental impact.

In addition to protecting native wildlife, HB364 will also reduce the burden on shelters and rescue organizations, which are often overwhelmed with the number of stray and surrendered cats. This benefits not only our ecosystems but also our communities and the animals themselves.

I urge the committee to pass HB364 as a critical step toward balancing animal welfare with the urgent need to protect Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems.

Mahalo for considering my testimony and for your commitment to addressing this pressing issue.

Na‘u nō,

Ben Catcho Jr

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:22:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rex	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill subject to two amendments as proposed by HHS. The following are the amendments as proposed by HHS, but first my summary: The bottom line is that any enforcement responsibilities **MUST** include funding to pay for that enforcement, or nothing will ever get done. Doing otherwise is like telling your child to go mow the yard, but not providing your child with a mower with which to cut the grass. For the special fund, it is idiotic to dedicate funds for the purpose of reducing the overpopulation of pets, which free-roaming cats are by-far the largest group within that population, and not allow those funds to pay for the spay/neuter of cats that are then released under the TNR (trap, neuter, release) program. This state has nearly a million free-roaming cats, and it is the TNR program that should be getting the lion's share of any funding. Currently the bulk of all free-roaming cat spay/neuter are being done by non-profit organizations using private and donated funds primarily. The only way to solve the significant free-roaming cat population crisis is for the city, count and state to undertake a massive TNR program for several years to sterilize this enormous population. So it is essential that this special fund be used for the spay/neuter of all free-roaming pets, especially those being released.

- **Fund enforcement:** County animal services are underfunded for their existing responsibilities. If the state would like the counties to take on breeder regulation, rather than tasking that responsibility to a state agency, it needs to allocate funding for that purpose.
- **Allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats:**The measure restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts. As TNRM is the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the FRC population in urban, commercial, and residential areas — and FRCs are valued in agricultural areas — this restriction is counterproductive and compromises maximizing the use of these funds to solve pressing issues.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:11:47 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patti Lai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Although I can't be there in person, I would like to stress that I fully support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands, and help reduce the strain on rescue sources and the Humane Societies.

One of the main reasons is because of Hawai‘i's multiple endangered and endemic native birds - we are known as the Endangered Species Capital of the World - not a great record to have. These beautiful birds are culturally important and are found NOWHERE else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. **It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.**

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Other native species like our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will be a win-win situation for all involved. Cats mate at too young an age. Reducing the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape to protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands is a no-brainer. Overall, it's better for the cats, and essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

P.S. I own a neutered, formerly-feral cat and do my due diligence by keeping him as an indoor only cat. 🐱

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:52:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hisako Frohlich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the bill HB364 especially for spay & neuter roaming cats. There are not enough places to take trapped cats with reasonable costs. We need more Vets support who can receive some fund assistance so the process is faster. Right now the population of the cats is increasing faster than neutering. At the same time we do desperately need a place to take the fixed cats to reduce the roaming cat population from the parks & the streets.

Thank you

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:11:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members, My name is Julie Kuo, an O‘ahu resident writing in strong support of HB364 which would require the sterilization of cats over the age of 3 months and which would establish a spay and neuter fund for managing the invasive cat problem across the State of Hawaii. Cats transfer diseases (i.e.: Toxoplasma gondii) that impact human health (especially pregnant women); they kill endangered marine mammals (i.e.: seals); and they contribute to the dwindling population of native birds in the State. This bill is an essential step in reducing the feral cat population in Hawai‘i while also providing funding for the public to sterilize their domesticated cats at low or no cost to the owner. Furthermore, this bill will ease the burden of the cat overpopulation on shelters and humane societies, allowing them to focus on animal care and adoption services. It is essential that the funds for sterilization services be provided to the public for the care of their pets, and not for the maintenance of outdoor cat populations through methods such as “Trap-Neuter-Return.” Mahalo nui loa for your time and the opportunity to provide testimony on HB364. Sincerely, Julie Kuo

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:17:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jhonalyn Cuestas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- This is significant because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species. We need to do better for all our native species and environment.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:20:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eva marie kelnhofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB364 we need more funding to help with tnr efforts for the caretakers. We need to be able to take cats in to be fixed sooner than later to help get the cat population under control. With more funding we will be able to have more clinics available.

Thank you!

EvaMarie Kelnhofer

Aiea

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:19:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:20:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair Representative Chun and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Please support HB364 which, to my understanding, would be very helpful to reducing pet overpopulation. Please also support the two amendments to this bill being proposed by the Hawaiian Humane Society. I think these amendments would strengthen the effectiveness of HB364.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:06:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Kawasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you today to voice my enthusiastic support for HB363 regarding the prohibition of care of predators on DLNR lands and the establishment of cat owner liability for harm to property and native birds. As a member of the Conservation, Hilo and Big Island community in Hawai'i I have seen firsthand the harms caused by feral cats to our native birds, marine mammals, and ecosystems. Free-roaming cats across the world have been documented as negative impacts to native wildlife, natural resources and human health and safety. This bill is an essential step in protecting our imperiled native species from further loss due to feral cat predation and disease.

Mahalo for your service!

Sincerely,

Martha Kawasaki
808-224-5124

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:14:46 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Kawasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Vice Chair

I am writing to you today to voice my enthusiastic support for HB364 which would require the sterilization of cats over the age of 3 months and which would establish a spay and neuter fund which cannot be used for programs which release cats onto the landscape. As a member of the conservation community in Hawai‘i I have seen firsthand the harms caused by feral cats to our native birds, marine mammals, and ecosystems. This bill is an essential step in reducing the feral cat population in Hawai‘i while also providing funding for the public to get pet cats sterilized at low or no cost to the owner. Furthermore this bill will ease the burden of the cat overpopulation on shelters and humane societies, allowing them to focus on animal care and adoption services. It is essential that the funds for sterilization services be provided to the public for the care of their pets, and not for the maintenance of outdoor cat populations through methods such as “Trap-Neuter-Return.”

Mahalo for your service!

with appreciation,
Martha Kawasaki

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:49:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philippa Swannell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work as a bird guide and volunteer as a conservationist of endemic bird species on the Big Island. I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. I believe this bill will help reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. Many cat owners and feral cat helpers are unaware or blind to the impact that cats have on wildlife, they are by their very nature extremely efficient predators and native Hawaiian wildlife is particularly vulnerable. Some examples given below.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:52:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB364, and urge the chairperson and the committee to move this bill forward.

Hawai‘i is the endangered species capitol of the world, when we could be the recovery capitol of the world. All of the issues that plague our native species and ecosystems can be addressed with existing tools. This is one of the tools that can aid in addressing the free roaming population of cats across Hawai‘i. Cats are the primary threat to surviving native seabird populations on Kaua‘i, Hawai‘i Island, and Maui. Taking action to curtail their populations is critical. Beyond the environmental effects, this bill will provide profound benefits to pet cats, and community health. For centuries we have know the impact of cats, please take action to address it now, while we still have time to save the remaining birds.

Mahalo,

Bret Nainoa Mossman

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:23:58 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liat Portner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Committee members,

My name is Liat Portner and I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, blindness and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo nūnui,

Liat Portner, Hale‘iwa

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:24:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu. I am in support of HB364 with the Hawaiian Humane Society ammendments. Mahalo.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:27:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Bagshaw	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- I am a proud cat owner of a cat who is kept indoors, sterilized and was adopted from the Maui Humane Society. My previous cat was also adopted from the MHS and lived to be 19 years old.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Hawaii is home for these species, not endlessly growing populations of cats.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:27:31 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Akamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species. Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal. Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals. Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:55:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pua Heimuli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kāua,

My name is Pua Heimuli, a resident of O‘ahu and I support HB 364 requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats here on O‘ahu and the other islands. This important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife who are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species including the enormous populations of cats on our landscape.

Cats are also carriers of toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal. Our marine life is also at risk of contracting Toxoplasmosis. Over the years we have seen Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales toxoplasmosis kill our unique and endangered marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our island ecosystem. This is essential for Hawai‘i's threatened and endangered birds and marine life, who are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i's Endangered Species Act.

Mahalo nui.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:09:55 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Masuda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These birds are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a risk to humans as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal. Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:16:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dain Christensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good day and thank you for considering my testimony.

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will potentially reduce the number of feral cats on the islands **provided that spayed or neutered animals are not re-released into the environment.**

Reducing the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape can help protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands. It is also better for the cats and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:24:46 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hob Osterlund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully SUPPORT HB364 and the requirement that all cats be spayed and neutered. I have personally witnessed the pressure feral cat put on our native albatross here. We likely have as many as half a million feral cats roaming the landscape in Hawaii. On Kaua'i where we have fewer than one thousand native koloa ducks left, there are about 25K feral cats. That's 25 cats per duck! We must stop this unhindered feline reproduction and we must stop abandoning the ones who do get sterilized. Mahalo for your support!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:39:15 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandria Dutcher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you today to voice my enthusiastic support for HB364 which would require the sterilization of cats over the age of 3 months and which would establish a spay and neuter fund which cannot be used for programs which release cats onto the landscape.

While I am a concerned community member, I am also a wildlife biologist specializing in invasive species on Kaua'i. My work focuses on protecting our native birds from invasive predators, including cats. I have seen firsthand the harms caused by feral cats to our native birds, marine mammals, and ecosystems. My first day in the field 8 years ago working in an endangered a'o and 'ua'u colony I found the broken bodies of over 16 of these magnificent birds littering the trails after a single cat found the colony. Today, despite working in 4 additional colonies (with tens to hundreds of breeding pairs per colony), we now find fewer than 10 cat-killed birds per year. While this result is promising, the effort, time, workforce and money it takes to keep cats at bay is staggering, as our work is limited to the colonies and the ingress of cats has risen annually since 2020.

Many argue that, while cats in the remote mountains are a problem, cats in the lowlands are not a big deal, however, there are native birds from mauka to makai, not just in the remote mountains. Waterbirds, nene, and coastally-nesting seabirds like moli and 'ua'u kani face cat predation and on Kaua'i can be found from the Safeway parking lot and Princeville backyards to our National Wildlife refuges and DLNR lands. Island-wide reduction in the feral cat population will benefit our native birds across the islands.

This bill is an essential step in reducing the feral cat population in Hawai'i while also providing funding for the public to get pet cats sterilized at low or no cost to the owner. Furthermore this bill will ease the burden of the cat overpopulation on shelters and humane societies, allowing them to focus on animal care and adoption services. It is essential that the funds for sterilization services be provided to the public for the care of their pets, and not for the maintenance of outdoor cat populations through ineffective and inhumane methods such as "Trap-Neuter-Return."

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:40:40 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Uma Nagendra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the caretaker of a pet cat and a conservationist, I support this bill to require sterilization of cats in Hawai‘i. Feral cats are an invasive species in Hawai‘i, and are a major factor in the rapid decline - and near extinction - of multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis, which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans, birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:55:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica (Jessi) Hallman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a wildlife biologist fortunate to have dedicated a career to protecting native species in Hawai‘i since 2007, I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater), named in the Kumulipo and responsible for sparking my lifelong admiration and commitment to protecting Hawaii's last wild places and rapidly vanishing biodiversity, declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

- Jessi Hallman, wildlife biologist

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:03:49 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I join HHS in support of this measure with two amendments:

Fund enforcement: County animal services are underfunded for their existing responsibilities. If the state would like the counties to take on breeder regulation, rather than tasking that responsibility to a state agency, it needs to allocate funding for that purpose.

Allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats: The measure restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts. As TNRM is the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the FRC population in urban, commercial, and residential areas — and FRCs are valued in agricultural areas — this restriction is counterproductive and compromises maximizing the use of these funds to solve pressing issues.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:07:38 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB364. This bill is urgently needed to protect our native wildlife. Mahalo!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:11:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Beachy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of bill HB364, which requires mandatory sterilization of pet cats, with some exceptions. This bill will aid in reducing the number of feral cats across the State. Feral cats pose a major risk to native wildlife in Hawai'i, including all of our native forest birds, water birds, seabirds, via direct predation, as well as marine mammals, via toxoplasmosis. As a kama'aina and environmental steward, I believe we all have a responsibility to protect these native animals, for their own intrinsic value, the role they play in our fragile ecosystem, and the connection they provide to our unique cultural heritage. Reducing feral cat populations also supports public health, as toxoplasmosis (carried by cats and spread through their feces) poses a risk to humans as well

Allowing feral cat populations to remain unmanaged is irresponsible and unconsicable.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jane Reppun Beachy

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:28:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Rothe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I wish to go on record to vehemently voice my support for bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. It is imperative that we reduce the number of feral cats in the Hawaiian Islands.

We are fortunate to have a large number of endangered and endemic species which occur nowhere else on earth. These species are vital to the cultural and ecosystem fabric of these islands. We have already lost so many species to extinction that we must do everything we can to prevent further loss. Limiting the number of feral cats is a vital step in this process.

There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our collective kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian monk seals, Hawaiian spinner dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and humpback whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and help protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian

Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo nui.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:40:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laila Moire-Selvage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:46:28 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Vynne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:17:22 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Schlappa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.
- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:24:20 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Staudenmaier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. Palila, who are also down to a population of about 300 birds in the world and only found within a small area of suitable habitat on Mauna Kea, have also declined rapidly over the last 5 years, in large part due to predation by feral cats. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act.

As a cat owner myself, I accept and understand the responsibility I have to my pet and to the greater community that we are a part of. I believe that it is every pet owners responsibility to take care of their animal in a way that minimizes their negative impact on the landscape and ensures the health of the pet. This responsibility does and legally should extend to ensuring your pet does not contribute to the surplus cat population. There are already so many cats in need of loving homes. More should only be brought into this world if someone accepts the responsibility to care for them in the appropriate manner for the duration of their lives.

We have a kuleana as humans that have chosen to steward and change this world to our wills, to the aina and the pets we claim to love so dearly, to do what's best for them and not just what might be easiest for us.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:40:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Kingsley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of 364 HB RELATING TO ANIMAL CONTROL. Feral and free roaming cats are a major issue that our state is facing. The impacts these animals have on the environment and native species is alarming. The use of public spaces to feed and propagate such animals is alarming and something needs to be done to help control the large numbers of these animals. I strongly urge support for HB364 to help support or ecosystem and native species by helping to control cat populations.

mahalo

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:04:16 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Hujdic	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:05:10 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruby Pap	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou!

Please accept my personal testimony-I do not represent an organization. I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. I personally have a cat and I love her very much! But, I would never want her to live outside or breed because of a multitude of reasons. I support responsible cat ownership only, and we need to take the measures in this bill to save our culturally and environmentally important bird species, marine mammals, and human health! Below are some important facts:

- Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo for considering my testimony. -Ruby Pap, Līhu‘e, Kaua‘i, HI

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:12:56 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Bowen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Please vote yes. Its healthier for the cats the be fixed and will at the same time help the wildlife they prey on.

Lynn Bowen

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:14:01 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Maney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of HB364. The number of ownerless cats in Hawai'i continues to grow. Estimates suggest such huge number of homeless cats that accommodating them in sanctuaries isn't even feasible by space or funding. This problem urgently needs to be addressed. This bill requiring cat owners to spay or neuter their cats is the very least we can do to address the problem. I am in favor of supporting any measure that helps improve the situation.

Outdoor cats often suffer with disease, pest infestations, and lingering injury/infection all while continuing to breed. They spread toxoplasmosis which infects, sickens, and often kills native wildlife and is also a hazard to humans on the beaches. Cats hunt seabird colonies and forest birds, often killing large numbers just for sport. We all share this finite amount of land and we can't have huge populations of hunt-for-sport, disease carrying predators in the landscape and expect defenseless wildlife to survive.

As an island community we should be employing as many protective measures as possible to safeguard the our endangered species and ourselves. Cats do not belong outside in the wilderness landscape of Hawai'i where they can reproduce in the kinds of numbers we are seeing. Humans ultimately created this problem and it's time we should start fixing our mistake—and requiring that cats be fixed is a place to start.

Mahalo for your time,

Joanna Maney

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:17:00 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB364 will address our free-roaming-cat problem by ensuring that as many pet cats as possible are spayed/neutered. I support it with the addition of two amendments.

As written, the bill would extend the state's current ban on allowing unspayed/unneutered pet cats outdoors. This would prevent unplanned breeding in the case of a pet cat's escape from the house. The bill also would regulate cat breeders, to prevent abusive practices such as taking kittens from their mothers before weaning and forcing female cats into frequent pregnancies, which can damage the cats' nutrition and health.

I support the addition of amendments to adequately fund enforcement activity at either the state or county level, and to allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized free-roaming cats.

I urge the committee to advance HB364.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:31:40 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Reynolds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species. Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal. Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals. Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:39:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing to strongly urge you to pass HB 364, with two amendments.

First, since county animal services are already severely underfunded, the state needs to allocate funding so counties can take control of breeder regulations (instead of assigning that responsibility to a state agency).

Second, there need to be grants allocated for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats. Trap-neuter-return-manage is the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the feral cat population in urban commercial and residential areas.

Please, please, please pass this bill with these two amendments.

There are massive benefits to this plan, and no downsides!

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:49:12 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

I have a particular interest in legislation that addresses the number of free-roaming cats in Hawaii. I volunteer for Hawaiian Humane Society and for Catfriends, both of which offer low-cost spay/neutering of free-roaming cats. A recent survey of Oahu residents by the Humane Society found that the vast majority of those surveyed support TNR (trap/neuter/return) and spaying/neutering of unowned cats. This has been shown to be the most effective way to control the free-roaming cat population. It works much better than killing these cats. Every female cat that is spayed prevents 1000 cats from being born in the next ten years. And because TNR controls the cat population, it benefits wildlife. However, at present there is a shortage of appointments for low-cost spay/neuter surgeries.

HB364 would create state-wide spay/neuter grants to non-profit organizations that provide spay/neuter surgeries. Possible sources for this funding could come from a check-off box on tax returns, special license plates, or the general fund. Please support this bill.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way

Honolulu, HI. 96816

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:54:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Yeh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'ālae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:58:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsley McEachern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kinsley McEachern, and I currently reside on O'ahu for my work as a state protected species biologist for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

I am writing because the issue of animal overpopulation on our island is dual sided and this bill represents a solution that would provide the necessary support and humane welfare for both the critical conservation of Hawai'i native birds as well as the welfare crisis of stray animals on our island. This bill represents a solution to a problem that has been gravely affecting our native wildlife and domestic animals for far too long. We are desperately in need of protection for the native birds of Hawai'i who did not evolve to defend themselves or their babies from the severe predation crisis experienced by cats. We are also deeply in need of more humane welfare, a safer and protected existence, and direct support to end the overpopulation of dumped, abandoned, overbred and stray animals.

As an endangered species biologist and someone who is deeply passionat about the endemic wildlife of Hawai'i I aim to help native species as much I can, in my job and personal life. I have first hand witnessed the devastating predation and decimation of colonies of seabird chicks and colonies by cats. The innocent native birds deserve our advocacy to remove this kind of predation from affecting their survival. Feral cat colonies and cat populations near native bird sites are created with the overbreeding, dumping, and abandonment of un spayed and non neutered cats. This is a human driven issue and thus we need a human driven solution.

Furthermore, my three animals are rescues and two of them are rescue kitties I found as stray kittens on Big Island. I am a part of the lost and found and foster/adoption networks on Big Island and O'ahu and every day my heart is broken again and again by the crisis situation I see in photos, stories, and calls for help of another dumped or emaciated or over bred animal. This is indicative of the deep suffering that thousands upon thousands of animals face as being born on the Big Island. This is a deeply rooted issue that reflects the generational trauma, social welfare, and psychological, financial, and physical living conditions, as well as lack of the necessary support to have basic needs met, for so many across the islands.If the community can be supported in their care of their animals through a fund to directly aid in their ability to make responsible decisions, we could start to tackle this issue.

For both our native birds and our domestic animals, we desperately need state funding to tackle this critical issue. The counties and non profits who have worked to address this issue are limited by lack of funding. That is why I am a big supporter of this proposed bill to create a spay neuter

special fund to start to tackle the cat overpopulation issue.

Please consider and advocate for the future of our precious native manu as well as our community animals' welfare and pass this bill forward!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:59:33 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:02:00 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Bache	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB364. Feral cats reproduce rapidly and their populations grow unchecked without natural predators. They harm native species through predation and the spread of disease, such as toxoplasmosis, which poses risks to both wildlife and humans. Sterilization is a humane and effective solution that balances compassion for animals with the urgent need to protect Hawai'i's fragile environment and public health.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:11:36 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB364 relating to animal control with the Hawaiian Humane Society's amendments.

It is already illegal on O‘ahu to allow an unspayed/unneutered pet cat outdoors. Extending that requirement to indoor cats would have health benefits for the animals and prevent unplanned breeding in the case of escape.

I fully support of this measure with these two amendments to help make the impact a reality:

- **Fund enforcement:** County animal services are underfunded for their existing responsibilities. If the state would like the counties to take on breeder regulation, rather than tasking that responsibility to a state agency, it needs to allocate funding for that purpose.
- **Allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats:** The measure restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts. As TNRM is the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the FRC population in urban, commercial, and residential areas — and FRCs are valued in agricultural areas — this restriction is counterproductive and compromises maximizing the use of these funds to solve pressing issues.

Thank you,

Jennifer Wood

Nuuanu, HI 808-221-7229

Aloha, Chair and Vice Chair

I am writing to you today to voice my enthusiastic support for **HB364** which would require the sterilization of cats over the age of 3 months and which would establish a spay and neuter fund which cannot be used for programs which release cats onto the landscape. As a member of the conservation community in Hawai'i I have seen firsthand the harms caused by feral cats to our native birds, bats, marine mammals, and ecosystems. This bill is an essential step in reducing the feral cat population in Hawai'i while also providing funding for the public to get pet cats sterilized at low or no cost to the owner. Furthermore this bill will ease the burden of the cat overpopulation on shelters and humane societies, allowing them to focus on animal care and adoption services. It is essential that the funds for sterilization services be provided to the public for the care of their pets, and **not for the maintenance of outdoor cat populations through methods such as "Trap-Neuter-Return."**

Mahalo,

Kristina Montoya-Aiona

HB364

I'm in full support of HB364, but only with the amendments proposed by HHS regarding fund enforcement and also to allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats. To not allow grant money for organizations and rescues who TNR feral cats and then re-release them makes no sense whatsoever.

The people who TNR feral cats are often doing so putting tremendous strain on their marriages, their finances, and their physical and emotional well-being. The toll on them is unfathomable.

They are kupunas who are in poor health and are now down to 100 cats in their care from several hundred at a time. They've said they don't have much time left on this earth, and they don't know when they will ever have a chance to travel or do anything for themselves, since their lives revolve around rescue.

They are people who have \$50,000 in credit card debt due to caring for sick and injured feral and dumped cats in a colony they manage and will most likely have to move off-island due to the staggering financial debt they carry.

They are kupunas who were retired but who incurred \$60,000 in veterinary bills for the 28 cats in their home that just keeps increasing, had to borrow against their 401k and then come out of retirement and get a full-time job just to care for those same cats.

They are people who wake up in the middle of the night having panic attacks. Their credit cards are all maxed out, and they struggle trying to figure out which credit card they can put money onto in order to help animals who need urgent veterinary care. They work a full-time job, a part-time job, TNR, manage cat colonies, and then go home to care for the 47 cats in their house.

They are couples who can't take vacations together, and one of them always has to miss their children's weddings, because they have no one to care for the many cats in their home while they're away. They are losing their home and moving off-island, selling their car, spending \$70,000 over two years in veterinary care just to help the sick and injured feral and dumped cats who did nothing to deserve the special kind of hell that they endure here in Hawaii.

They are spending every penny they own and every minute of every day when they're not working at their full-time jobs, volunteering and trying to reduce the unimaginable suffering that they cannot unsee.

They don't have cars, have very little money, and try to bum rides from strangers in order to get an occasional cat TNR'd from a massive feral cat colony in their neighborhood that is mostly unfixed.

For the State of Hawaii to lay such an impossible burden at the feet of the people of Hawaii while the state continues to sit on the sidelines is inexcusable. For the State of Hawaii to not

allow grants to those organizations is a slap in the face to those who are doing the work that the State of Hawaii has failed to do. Ask yourself this, if there were well over a million feral dogs and puppies being routinely tortured, killed, and living under deplorable conditions here in Hawaii would you finally step up to the plate and do something then?

Kathleen M. Rex

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:24:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rae Okawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong support** of HB364 relating to animal control, as it is currently written. I am a Hawai'i resident, born and raised on O'ahu, with a degree in Biology and a Masters in Environmental Studies. I am providing this testimony on behalf of myself, and not on behalf of any other individual, group or organization.

Something needs to be done to stop the growth of the cat population in our islands and support responsible pet ownership. Spaying and neutering pets is a great start towards this goal. I also understand that these critical procedures require financial resources – both for the pet owner that wants to do the right thing and for the veterinary professionals providing the service. Having a source of designated funding will help provide that support.

I also **STRONGLY SUPPORT** that this bill includes language that wisely restricts the use of funds, not allowing it to be used for animals that would be released into the environment and into communities. **If amendments are made to this bill, I implore you to keep this requirement.** If this language is removed, then any designated funding risks being siphoned from responsible pet owners and community members wanting to do the right thing into the coffers of those increasing free-roaming cats on the landscape. Releasing cats into the environment and into our communities is not good for anyone – community members, wildlife, and even the cats themselves. This language is a safeguard and should be kept intact.

Please move HB364 forward as currently written. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:35:07 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Toenies	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support **HB364**, which mandates the surgical sterilization of cats over three months old. This bill is a critical step toward reducing the number of feral cats in Hawai‘i and safeguarding our unique ecosystems.

Hawai‘i is home to **extraordinary, endangered, and endemic species** found nowhere else in the world. Many of these, including native Hawaiian birds, evolved in the absence of mammalian predators and have no natural defenses against them. The ‘**alae ‘ula** (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) has fewer than **700 individuals remaining** (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘**a‘o** (Newell’s Shearwater) has declined by more than **94%** over 35 years (Raine et al.). Protecting these species is not only a legal obligation under federal and state Endangered Species Acts—it is our **kuleana**.

Beyond ecological devastation, **feral cats pose a risk to human health**. They are a known vector for **toxoplasmosis** (Aguirre et al., 2019), a parasite spread through cat feces that can cause **miscarriages, birth defects, and fatal complications** in humans (Kheirandish et al., 2019). This disease also has devastating effects on Hawai‘i’s **marine mammals**, including our **beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020), and even Humpback Whales**, all of which have suffered toxoplasmosis-related deaths.

By requiring sterilization, we can **curb feral cat populations, protect Hawai‘i’s irreplaceable wildlife, and mitigate health risks to both humans and animals**. This measure is humane, necessary, and long overdue. I urge you to support **HB364**—for the welfare of our ecosystems, our communities, and future generations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

To Committee Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and to the members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

My name is Kelsea Armstrong, and I am writing as an individual in strong support of bill HB364, which mandates the sterilization of cats over the age of three months. This measure will help reduce the population of feral cats on our islands, benefiting both our unique wildlife and human health.

Hawai'i is home to many endangered and endemic species, some of which are found nowhere else on Earth. Among them are the 'ālae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule), of which fewer than 700 individuals remain globally (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater), which saw a 94% population decline over just 35 years up until 2015 (Raine et al.). These birds evolved without mammalian predators and have no natural defenses against them. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to protect these species from invasive threats, including feral cats.

Additionally, feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are known vectors of toxoplasmosis, a parasitic disease spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can lead to serious health issues in humans, including miscarriage (Kheirandish et al., 2019), birth defects, and in some cases, even death (Aguirre et al., 2019).

Our marine mammals, including the Hawaiian Monk Seal, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020), and Humpback Whales, are also at risk from toxoplasmosis. The disease has been linked to the deaths of several marine mammals, further underscoring the urgency of addressing this issue.

By requiring the sterilization of cats, we will decrease the number of reproductive feral cats and help protect Hawai'i's delicate ecosystems. This bill is crucial not only for the well-being of our native species, but also for the health of our communities. It is an essential step toward preserving Hawai'i's unique wildlife and fulfilling our responsibility to protect it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelsea R. Armstrong

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:51:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nainoa Alefaio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a kanaka subject in the occupied kingdom, I engage with these state sponsored activities to advocate for matters important to me as a Hawaiian. I support this bill and am in favor of increased animal control when it comes to cats.

As we all know cats are a leading cause of native bird population decline. Hundreds of birds are killed every year by cats, native birds that are endemic to Hawai'i. Our precious bird relatives need all the protection they can get as most species are endangered and on the brink of extinction. A single roaming cat can go on multiple murder sprees during its lifetime and destroy whole nests of native birds at a time. Prioritizing the native bird population is why I am in favor of this bill.

The cat population in Hawai'i is a problem that needs to be dealt with. I hope this bill succeeds and is effective in controlling the cat population. The po'e manu (bird people) need all the help they can get.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:10:58 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riana O'Keefe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB364; specifically Section 143B, which sets up a special fund to spay and neuter, providing the cats are not re-released back into the public.

When considering the options to mitigate outdoor cat populations, it is important to look at the existing studies that test the efficacy of TNR/TNRM programs. Most, if not all, professional studies show that TNR/TNRM is largely unsuccessful. "Even in a closed population, a large proportion of the colony must be sterilized (71%-94%) before the population will decline over time." (Andersen et al, 2004). Studies show that at least 50% of a colony must be adopted or euthanized for TNR to make a difference in population numbers. "The practice of TNR and the establishment of TNR colonies is neither humane nor proven to be effective at reducing feral cat populations." (Hostetler, et al 2020). Though TNR is often said to be the "most humane option," a realistic look into it's efficacy shows that nearly 75% of cats born outside are hit by cars or killed by a preventable disease within their first year of life. Keeping that in mind, we can see that TNR is neither effective nor humane.

There is a great need for public education regarding cats as pets and pet ownership in general. As of right now, one of the major contributing factor to the prolific outdoor cat problem is that cat shelters and the HHS demand that community members leave cats where they are found, and keep cats outside. It is clearly impossible to reduce outdoor cat populations while also demanding that the public keep cats outside. Providing the public with this mixed message is a disorganized method that has led to failure in any plans to mitigate outdoor cat populations. It has led to frustration, and diseased colony cats are directly contributing to the death of native birds. With the increase in cases of H1N1, it would be smarter to keep all pets inside, cats included.

The public needs a consistent, fact-based, solution-oriented way to approach the dismantling of public cat colonies. Thus far, HHS and cat shelters receiving public funds have not only failed to solve the issue, but in fact, have made it much worse.

Some cat colony feeders in Hawai'i have estimated that up to 60% of their colony is made up of dumped pets, who were previously owned by people who moved from the mainland, and were unable to find a pet-friendly rental. For this reason I urge the Board to also consider placing a limit on the number of cats coming to the state of Hawai'i. Finding housing in Hawai'i is difficult enough, and people moving to the state should have fair warning that their pets may not be welcome. This includes military members on service orders. One of the largest cat colonies on

Oahu is located at Hickam Air Base, and it is comprised mainly of cats who were dumped when their owners were unable to care for them or take them along to the next duty station. A simple warning issued through their housing company would mitigate this problem. Again, the public messages coming from HHS and cat shelters is that not only are cats welcome, but they are welcome to live outside as well.

The last time a bill was introduced with the intent to mitigate outdoor cat populations, there was an overwhelming response from cat advocates that prevented it from moving forward. The HB received 1400 testimonies. Of the 1400, 400 were from Japanese nationals with no ties to Hawai'i outside of a visit or two. (The visitors had gone to a cat shelter while on vacation, and signed up for e-mails, which is how they were told to provide a testimony.) Another 200 or so were from tourists who had been to Hawai'i once or twice in the past, and dozens more were from visitors who feed "community cats" at vacation time-share rentals on Maui and in Kona. I know of no other states that allow their laws to be swayed by both non-residents and non-Americans during their decision making process. A visitor who loves cats is not the same as a native species conservation expert, and their mana'o should not carry the same weight. As a native Hawaiian, it was certainly disappointing to see the amount of control that tourists, visitors, and people with little investment in Hawai'i had over a growing problem. Their demands are, to put it simply, crazy.

I understand that this issue gets quite heated, since pets are often considered part of the family. However, one must understand that while one cat is a lovely pet, three hundred cats in a parking lot is just a public health hazard. There is a difference between a single, loved, healthy pet, and an entire colony of unhealthy, diseased, feral animals. Thank you for beginning to acknowledge the distinction.

I hope the testimonies this year are less feral than ones in the past, and that the testimonies taken seriously by the Board members come from those who are committed to the preservation of native species and ecosystems, rather than the mana'o of those who view Hawai'i simply as a vacation destination. Aloha, and mahalo for your time.

Suggested Reading:

Andersen, M. C., B. J. Martin, and G. W. Roemer. 2004. "Use of Matrix Population Models to Estimate the Efficacy of Euthanasia Versus Trap-Neuter-Return for Management of Free-Roaming Cats." *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*, 225: 1871–1876.

Hoestler, et al., 2020. "How Effective and Humane is TNR for Feral Cats?" Critical Issue: 3. Natural Resources and Environmental Quality. Department of Wildlife Ecology and Conservation, UF/IFAS Extension.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:13:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:18:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is common sense and ethical to require the sterilization of cats to reduce human-wildlife conflicts, limit predation on endangered forest and sea birds, and begin to reduce the unwanted, unhoued cat situation. Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:26:15 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
McKenzie Wildey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:32:14 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act.
Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:36:29 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapeka Forges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha no-

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

mahalo, Kapeka Forges

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:37:24 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Camara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:40:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaz Pekuna Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:49:34 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands. It is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:52:04 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kawasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Feral animal reproduction needs to be controlled to reduce zoonotic diseases that affect animals and humans.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:53:03 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andre Raine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized.

This bill will help to reduce the number of feral cats on the islands, which is critical from multiple stand points - human health (as cats spread toxoplasmosis and other diseases) and for the protection of our endangered and endemic native species. It is our kuleana to protect species such as the 'alae 'ula (of which there are less than 700 in the World) and the 'a'o which has declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015. Furthermore, toxoplasmosis from cats is killing our marine mammals - such as Hawaiian Monk Seals and Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins. This is a scientifically proven fact.

This bill requiring pet cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act.

Thank-you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:56:16 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
george linnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am utterly opposed to this bill. How can this possibly be enforced? Are you going to create the Cat Police, knocking on doors, demanding permits, confiscating cats? Government, stay out of my life and stay away from my cat! No new regulations!

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:58:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces.

Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:00:13 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Leibrecht	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Joseph Leibrecht, and I am a seabird biologist with extensive experience studying and conserving Hawai'i's native wildlife. I strongly support HB364, which mandates the surgical sterilization of pet cats over the age of three months. This bill is a necessary and long-overdue step toward reducing the number of feral cats in Hawai'i, which pose a severe threat to our fragile ecosystems, endangered native species, and even human and animal health.

Hawai'i is home to multiple endangered and endemic bird species found nowhere else in the world. These birds evolved in an environment without mammalian predators and have no natural defenses against them. As an example, fewer than 700 Hawaiian Common Gallinule remain in existence (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the Newell's Shearwater population declined by over 94% in just 35 years leading up to 2015 (Raine et al.). Cats, as highly effective predators, are a leading cause of population declines for these and many other Hawaiian bird species. It is our kuleana (responsibility) to protect our native wildlife from introduced threats, and reducing the number of unsterilized pet cats is a critical component of that effort.

In addition to their devastating impact on wildlife, free-roaming cats also pose a serious risk to human and animal health. They are a known vector for *Toxoplasma gondii*, the parasite that causes toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019). Toxoplasmosis is not just a concern for humans where it can cause miscarriage (Kheirandish et al., 2019), birth defects, and severe illness-but it is also lethal to Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020), and even Humpback Whales. Reducing the number of unsterilized cats is essential in controlling this dangerous parasite.

By requiring pet cats to be sterilized, HB364 will prevent the continued uncontrolled reproduction of cats that ultimately fuels the feral population. This benefits not only Hawai'i's

ecosystems but also the cats themselves, who often suffer from disease, malnutrition, and other hardships when left to fend for themselves outdoors. Additionally, this bill upholds existing legal protections for our threatened and endangered birds under both federal and state law.

For the sake of Hawai'i's native wildlife, public health, and the well-being of the cats themselves, I urge you to pass HB364. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Joseph Leibrecht

Seabird Biologist

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:00:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louise Arakaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for introducing this bill. I strongly support any program that helps control the feral cat population. We have endangered bird and other species that will have a better chance of survival if there are fewer feral and/ or free range cats. It will be much easier to take better care of the cats that we have if there are fewer in number.

Thanks you for your consideration of this problem and its solution.

Louise Arakaki

Kapahi resident

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:00:27 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Goodhue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here’s the verbiage you can submit. Change whatever you need:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.
- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:25:50 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Shoback	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.
- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:35:53 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaaihaole Cobb-Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.
- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:56:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Ripp	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364 which provides a clear path to reducing the number of feral cats on the islands.

Feral cats, next to humans, are the number one cause of the decimation of Natlive Hawaiian wildlife - not just birds. Our Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins, Humpback Whales, to mention just a few, as well as we humans are also at risk. Toxoplasmosis, which is spread through cat feces, can kill marine mammals, and us.

Tho not very evident by enforcement, threatened and endangered birds et al, are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act.

This is a great step forward - thank you!

RFRipp

Kaneohe

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:19:31 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dianna	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is necessary and important to protect native Hawaiian birds, and for the health and well being of cats in Hawaii. Support.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:48:54 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a step in the right directin to help our birds. Other approaches will be needed as well, but at least it is a start.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:51:40 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nathalie sato	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Nathalie Sato, I live on the island of Hawaii. There has to be measures taken to protect the dwindling amount of native birds from predation.

i cannot imagine the island, devoid of their benefit to the environment and their enchanting songs.

Therefore, - I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai'i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of 'alae 'ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the 'a'o (Newell's Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai'i's Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

Nathalie Sato

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:11:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an example - you can copy and paste, but ideally amend as you see fit.

- I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘ālae ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

I have enjoyed having cats as pets. But the cat population in Hawaii is out of control and causing problems. There is a storm drain under my property and it has become a gathering place for neighborhood cats. I don't own any cats now, but I have counted 20 (yes, 20) cats in my yard. I have to constantly clean up after them. My yard stinks from cat feces and urine and I always have lots of flies around. The same problem exists on public property. When I worked at UH Manoa parts of the campus constantly reeked of cats. Besides being unpleasant, the cat waste can spread toxoplasmosis. Since bird flu is now in the islands, there is a risk of cats contracting the disease and spreading it to people. The passage of HB 364 would help protect Hawaii's native birds, the cats themselves, and the people of Hawaii.

LATE

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:42:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Dougherty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.
- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.
- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.
- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:48:01 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Moriyasu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To protect cats, birds and other wildlife, and people, please enact HB 364. Cats, like dogs, can be beloved human companions, and deserve to be kept safely indoors. Allowing feral and pet cats to roam puts them at risk of being attacked, stolen, hit by vehicles, exposed to dangers, and is inconsiderate of neighbors. Feces poses a danger as a vector of toxoplasmosis infecting humans and marine mammals. Cats should be regulated similar to dogs, licensed, chipped, and neutered unless professionally bred. Please pass HB 364 to authorize the resources to eliminate feral cats and to promote responsible cat ownership.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:51:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB364 Relating to Animal Control

While I generally support this bill, It has come to my attention that anticipated beneficial effects require attention to two provisions which should be incorporated to improve the likelihood of success:

- allocating funding for counties tasked with breeding regulation; and**
- allowing the use of grant funds for spay/neuter services to the efforts of trap-neuter-return-management programs.**

Thank you.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:22:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support feral cat sterilization efforts that will benefit our island ecosystems. Reducing cat populations will create healthier habitat for native wildlife by reducing risk of predation and transmission of diseases such toxoplasmosis. A permit program for cat breeding will ensure only responsible cat owners are breeding cats, which will improve the welfare of cats across the state. I support HB364!

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:36:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Karner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I love birds. I hope that we can agree to advocate for their mele/song so that we can continue to hear it into the future. Human encroachment by way of mosquitos has silenced the trees for too many parts of Hawaii. I hope that we can agree to give birds as much of a chance as possible by limiting cats.

We have enough cats! More birds please!

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:56:21 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Chun, and Members of the Committee,

*My name is Kaleiheana, and I am writing in **STRONG support of HB364**, which will Require pet cats to be sterilized (with certain exceptions), establish guidelines for responsible breeding of unsterilized cats, and authorize resources to support statewide spaying and neutering of pet cats.*

Feral and free-roaming cats are out of control, and this bill is a good first step towards getting the population under control. As an ornithologist and ecologist, this bill will help our many native birds, many of whom are endangered, threatened, and all of whom are vulnerable to predation by cats. It would also help cats—just today I drove past three dead cats on the road. In the last week I have probably passed more than a dozen cats who were hit by cars. Having unchecked feral cat populations is dangerous for cats, too. All of us have a responsibility to do what is humane—both for cats, and for wildlife.

Mahalo for your consideration!

Kaleiheana Stormcrow, Mountain View

LATE

RE: Testimony for HB3564

To whom it may concern,

My name is Aisha Aoki, Vice President of the Cat Fanciers of Hawaii Cat Club, show manager of our local cat shows, and a preservation breeder with the Cat Fanciers Association, recognized worldwide.

As a preservation breeder in Hawaii, I highly oppose this bill. As is, costs within Hawaii is a challenge to provide our breeding cats and litters with the best quality care that we can give them. The cost of quality food, vet care, medications if needed, and spay/neuter, etc. all add up. These costs are already shared with the potential owners within the rehoming fees that we charge. Adding on another \$250 annually **per breeding cat** will only assist in driving up costs for the potential owners. It is a false idea that reputable/ responsible breeders make "tons of money" from homing fees. Majority of the money from kitten sales go back into our breeding programs so we can provide the best care and quality animals. Personally, I require all owners to sign a contract that highlights a health agreement, and expectations of the owner and myself, as the breeder. Within these expectations, the cats are expected to be indoor cats only, never allowed outside of the house without a leash/ harness or in a stroller. All of my personal breeding cats are currently microchipped, regularly vaccinated in-home, by myself, the breeder, and see the vet annually. They are all insured with pet insurance and have all been genetically tested with Wisdom Panel DNA health kits. I keep strict track of which breeding cats can be paired and who are related to each other. The males and females are kept completely separate from each other. Again, personally, my large breed kittens are spay/ neutered (to ensure they do not add to the feral cat population should they accidentally go missing from their homes), microchipped, and vaccinated twice by 13-14 weeks of age. However, it is unrealistic to ask breeders to ensure their kittens are spay/neutered by 3 months of age as many do not have access to low cost spay/ neuter clinics or affordable vets in general. It is also found that early spay/ neuter is not the best course of action for cats as it can hamper development in skeletal growth and long-term overall health. For small breed cat breeders, early spay/ neuter may not be safe or possible at all for their size. Please take this into consideration.

As for the age and litter restrictions for the breeding cats, it is a different "beast" in Hawaii as import restrictions make it difficult for us to get new breeding cats easily. We do only breed a female once per year, especially given consideration on how well it recuperates from birthing and nursing. However, less than four litters in its lifetime is not reasonable. It is based on a cat by cat determination. I have spayed females after one litter because they weren't "cut out to be mothers" and I have had a female continue to breed past 5 years old. Limiting the number of litters and ages of breeding females will accrue yet another cost of needing to import new breeding cats more often. For some of our specific breeds, we are the only breeders within Hawaii and cannot use breeding cats from breeders. Importing new breeding cats is the only way to ensure genetic

diversity but yet another cost we have to consider and specifically plan for. It is not easy to find breeders willing to send cats to Hawaii due to the import restrictions as well as we would have to wait until they have breeding cats available, which could possibly stall our breeding programs.

This bill seeks to unreasonably target preservation cat breeders that already take the steps to uphold the highest integrity of our catteries. If registered with the Cat Fanciers Association, we are monitored by this body to stay within a certain number of litters per year as well as follow standards and guidelines to be responsible preservation breeders.

These examples are specific to me as a breeder. Other breeders have their own standards and guidelines.

Please do not allow this bill to go any further. Please oppose this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Aisha Aoki

LATE

RE: Testimony for HB3564

To whom it may concern,

My name is Carlos Arial, President of the Cat Fanciers of Hawaii Cat Club and a preservation breeder with the Cat Fanciers Association, recognized worldwide.

As a preservation breeder in Hawaii, I highly oppose this bill. As is, costs within Hawaii is a challenge to provide our breeding cats and litters with the best quality care that we can give them. The cost of quality food, vet care, medications if needed, and spay/neuter, etc. all add up. These costs are already shared with the potential owners within the rehoming fees that we charge. Adding on another \$250 annually **per breeding cat** will only assist in driving up costs for the potential owners. It is a false idea that reputable/ responsible breeders make "tons of money" from homing fees. Majority of the money from kitten sales go back into our breeding programs so we can provide the best care and quality animals. Personally, I require all owners to sign a contract that highlights a health agreement, and expectations of the owner and myself, as the breeder. Within these expectations, the cats are expected to be indoor cats only, never allowed outside of the house without a leash/ harness or in a stroller. All of my personal breeding cats are currently microchipped, regularly vaccinated in-home, by myself, the breeder, and see the vet annually. They are all insured with pet insurance and have all been genetically tested with Wisdom Panel DNA health kits. I keep strict track of which breeding cats can be paired and who are related to each other. The males and females are kept completely separate from each other. Again, personally, my large breed kittens are spay/ neutered (to ensure they do not add to the feral cat population should they accidentally go missing from their homes), microchipped, and vaccinated twice by 13-14 weeks of age. However, it is unrealistic to ask breeders to ensure their kittens are spay/neutered by 3 months of age as many do not have access to low cost spay/ neuter clinics or affordable vets in general. It is also found that early spay/ neuter is not the best course of action for cats as it can hamper development in skeletal growth and long-term overall health. For small breed cat breeders, early spay/ neuter may not be safe or possible at all for their size. Please take this into consideration.

As for the age and litter restrictions for the breeding cats, it is a different "beast" in Hawaii as import restrictions make it difficult for us to get new breeding cats easily. We do only breed a female once per year, especially given consideration on how well it recuperates from birthing and nursing. However, less than four litters in its lifetime is not reasonable. It is based on a cat by cat determination. I have spayed females after one litter because they weren't "cut out to be mothers" and I have had a female continue to breed past 5 years old. Limiting the number of litters and ages of breeding females will accrue yet another cost of needing to import new breeding cats more often. For some of our specific breeds, we are the only breeders within Hawaii and cannot use breeding cats from breeders. Importing new breeding cats is the only way to ensure genetic diversity but yet another cost we have to consider and specifically plan for. It is not easy

to find breeders willing to send cats to Hawaii due to the import restrictions as well as we would have to wait until they have breeding cats available, which could possibly stall our breeding programs.

This bill seeks to unreasonably target preservation cat breeders that already take the steps to uphold the highest integrity of our catteries. If registered with the Cat Fanciers Association, we are monitored by this body to stay within a certain number of litters per year as well as follow standards and guidelines to be responsible preservation breeders.

These examples are specific to me as a breeder. Other breeders have their own standards and guidelines.

Please do not allow this bill to go any further. Please oppose this bill.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carlos Arial

Cynthia F Tucker, PsyD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Kailua, O'ahu

LATE

I would support this bill only on the conditions that 143 B (b) is completely stricken. There should be sanctuaries for cats donated as once mentioned by DLNR, as well as the funded spay / neuter - which has been on record here in other Bills for at least 2 years without the clause of not re-releasing cats outdoors, or to a sanctuary, or to rescue groups who can work to find them homes or fly them to other areas, including the mainland, so that they can find homes and adequate grants/ funding for TNRM.

There are ways also to reduce the cat population that are humane.

Cats are social pets - and the American Psychiatric Association has often noted they cherished pets that help people to cope and learn to build and have coping skills, provide a feeling of warmth and love. Such bonding animals should not be aggressed against because some ppl – often by stealing them- dump them in these areas. This is often why cats (and dogs) have been used as 'therapy' pets whether in writing, or just in speaking with people who are 'hard-wired' often to bond with and love cats. They should not be abused in this way : of dumping, and if no where to go - killing them. There are also other Conservationist Biology groups who are also in agreement with this concept and consider it TNRM as ethical. It hurts and can have a deep affect with people who bond with cats to see their suffering, or to know of them being killed.

The following language should be added in place of 143 B (b)

Allow grants for the spay/neuter of unsocialized Free-Roaming cats: The measure restricts grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do not return cats to their outdoor homes. This would preclude using these funds to support trap-neuter-return-manage efforts. As TNRM is the only feasible and effective strategy for managing the FRC population in urban, commercial, and residential areas — and FRCs are valued in agricultural areas — this restriction is counterproductive and compromises maximizing the use of these funds to solve pressing issues.

Additionally, - return to allotted sanctuaries, rescue groups capable of placing and adopting them out, or re-releasing with outdoors adequate grants and funding for TNRM.

This in fact would work to reduce the cat population in a humane way. Complex issues have complex and synergistic remedies, and kindness – as well as thoughtful and more complex answers for issues - is I believe what we would like to teach our keiki. Thoughtful, and more complex answers to issues regarding the cats who are very often stolen and dumped in such areas, and through no fault of their own.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Cynthia F Tucker, PsyD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist

Kailua, O'ahu

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:56:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carita Inoue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The issue of feral cats is a complex one that needs comprehensive solutions. While community initiatives and animal welfare organizations play crucial roles in tackling this problem, it should be a collective responsibility involving multiple stakeholders. The onus should not be placed on the tiny community of cat breeders in Hawaii.

While we acknowledge the importance of controlling and reducing the feral cat population, holding the small community of cat breeders in Hawaii accountable seems excessive. We are dedicated and responsible preservation breeders committed to providing happy and healthy cats for the residents of Hawaii. I'm not aware of any problems cat breeders are causing. Our cats do not contribute to the feral cat populations. Some of us spay or neuter our kittens before they join their new homes. Others require proof of spaying or neutering before the sale is finalized.

Our cattery breeds for the love of our breed and for the people in Hawaii who love our breed, we have never done this for a profit and have never made a profit. The fees would be devastating to us.

Would the tiny population of cat breeders in the islands be able to provide enough resources to justify the position of an employee that regulates this initiative?

Please reconsider the burden you are placing on the cat breeders of Hawaii. We are not the problem.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:44:38 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on HB 364. I support much of what is in the bill. Certainly the spay and neuter fund is much needed. Both the income tax checkoff and the license plate fund are good voluntary funding sources.

Unfortunately there are a few elements that would be problematic if put into practice. A major concern is restricting funding for organizations that practice TNRM. While my foster work has a focus on "adopt" as the end result, some of the cats are adopted as working cats on farms. That provides a service to local agriculture. It also provides homes for cats unlikely to be successful in urban environments.

The lack of state funding will be a problem for the counties whose resources for animal control are already overloaded. I'd hate to see a breeder regulation program take away limited county resources from other current programs like dangerous dog enforcement and animal cruelty investigations.

I believe that the Humane Society will have some amendments that will improve the problematic language that exists in the bill. I support those amendments strongly.

We do have a problem in Hawaii with cat over-population. Free spay/neuter programs available for all cats on all the islands are urgent.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:45:55 PM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Suehiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.

- That is important because Hawai‘i has multiple endangered and endemic native Hawaiian birds and other unique wildlife. These are culturally important and are found nowhere else in the world. There are less than 700 individuals of ‘alaie ‘ula (Hawaiian Common Gallinule) in the world (Gorreson et al., 2024), and the ‘a‘o (Newell’s Shearwater) declined by more than 94% during a 35 year period up to 2015 (Raine et al.). They evolved without mammalian predators and have no defenses against them. It is our kuleana to protect them from introduced species.

- Human health is also at stake. Outdoor feral cats pose a health risk to humans, as they are a vector for toxoplasmosis (Aguirre et al., 2019), which is spread through cat feces. Toxoplasmosis can cause miscarriage in humans (Kheirandish, et al., 2019), birth defects, and can be fatal.

- Our beloved Hawaiian Monk Seals, Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins (NOAA, 2020) and Humpback Whales are also at risk, as toxoplasmosis can, and does, kill marine mammals.

- Requiring cats to be sterilized will reduce the number of reproductive feral animals on the landscape and protect the delicate balance of our ecosystems in the isolated Hawaiian Islands; it is better for the cats, and it is essential for the threatened and endangered birds, which are legally protected by the Federal and State of Hawai‘i’s Endangered Species Act. Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 1:13:35 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karin Meier-Magruder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 5:11:53 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 364 (which would mandate spaying/neutering of cats in Hawaii, with exceptions). The currently uncontrolled feral cat population is a significant issue to wild birds on the islands. We have a kuleana to help our native manu and other affected wildlife, and this bill would be a great step in the right direction. Without intervention, cat populations will continue increasing, and our native birds will continue to decline. Let's right the wrong that has been created with introduction of cats to these islands; these ecosystems cannot be replaced, and once it's too late, there's no going back. Please be one of the voices that help our manu persist for generations to come. Mahalo nui loa. -Alison Adams

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:25:23 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Rachel Sprague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is important for the native species we have a responsibility to care for, and for long-term human health in our state. We don't tolerate free-roaming and unfixed dogs. We should have the same standards for cats. This bill would “turn off the tap” by eliminating the uncontrolled breeding of pet cats, reducing the strain on animal control services and benefitting the cats themselves, along with wildlife and communities. The feral and free-roaming cat problem in the state will never improve unless we start to take serious action - this would be a start. Mahalo nui loa!

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:30:30 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmylou Anne Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB364 to protect both human & wildlife health.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:08:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Fujie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been a Siamese cat breeder for over 10 years. All of my cats go into homes that are strictly in doors and are sterilized at a proper age of 6 months of age.

I am also the Secretary/Treasurer for our local CFA sponsored cat club and we produce 3 cat shows for the public each year. We bring in 4 or 5 CFA Judges to participate which helps boost our local economy because most of the Judges make an extended vacation of their stay..

The proposed bill is targeting the "wrong" breeders. This law seems to be proposed for the purpose of controlling the feral cat population by forcing sterilization or financial penalties upon the very breeders that already ensure their kittens go to thoroughly vetted homes and usually demand contracts that require the kittens be sterilized and/or are returned to the breeder if the owner cannot continue to care for the kitten. It is very unlikely that backyard breeders will comply with this law and it is unlikely that the state will be able to effectively police compliance. Backyard and Craigslist breeders will continue doing as they please, while the breeders most likely to comply are the breeders that are not adding to the problem.

Additionally, there is no exception for cats that will not be bred, but are competition cats. The CFA, for example, routinely holds shows here that enforce strict standards. A major class only allows for showing of unaltered cats. This is not unlike the AKC requirements of unaltered dogs. This will largely destroy the shows - shows that have high numbers of spectators and shows where there is a massive emphasis on responsible ownership. We produce 3 shows per year that is entertainment for the public and pet owners. This bill will needlessly kill the shows.

The proposed bill simply will not effectively address the feral cat population or sterilizing that population. It only serves to punish responsible owners and breeders.

I oppose this bill and sincerely hope that another ssolution can be drafted to control the out of control feral cat population.

Thank you for your consideration.

Donna Fujie

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:26:39 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm in support of HB364, with the amendments. We know we have too many unplanned and unwanted animals but the animals will do what animals do. We need to find humane and effective solutions. This is a step in the right direction.
mahalo for your consideration. Ginny Tiu

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:27:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Fujie DVM PhD MS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Richard Fujie DVM PhD MS

As a veterinarian practicing medicine for over 40 years in Hawaii, I detest that the government is overreaching its boundaries and telling a medical professional on how to practice medicine. Veterinarians with consultation with the owners can make decisions on when to spay or neuter each particular cat. Veterinarians may feel it is safer to sterilize a kitten when it is larger due to the safety of body temperature control during surgery, and convenience of scheduling and spreading out the cost of kitten vaccinations/parasite control, etc. I personally feel that 3 months is too young and feel more comfortable at 6 months or older. Three months may be ideal for shelter veterinary medicine where speed and low cost is the driving factor.

Most of the cats we neuter and spay at our urban hospital will live completely indoors and do not pose a threat to other animals and humans and add to the feral cat problem.

For the requirement of breeders have to have each cat registered this is only a money grab by the government. Most preservation breeders will have in their contracts that the cats purchased from them are to be kept indoors or allowed outdoors only if leashed. The number of cats sold by preservation breeders is miniscule and does not add to the overpopulation of cats. It is a misconception that cat breeders are in for the money. It is in actuality an expensive hobby/passion. I do know this personally.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:36:04 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Anasazi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I love cats. But it in their nature to kill birds, and the "kind-heartedness" of some humans "protecting" the cats by feeding (etc.) has become pure selfishness--cats are interfering with the endangered, fragile, and complex ecological systems of our islands. Outdoor-cat populations must be eliminated. Please pass HB364.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 9:03:32 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Danielle Rae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Dr. Danielle Rae Daniel, I am on the island of Hawai'i and have some thoughts to consider in regards to this bill. With all things, there is not a blanket answer to resolve an issue. As a licensed psychotherapist, I am very experienced in understanding that problems and solutions have multiple layers. So my hopes in writing this testimony is that a few things can be considered.

Wherein I do not agree that ALL cats should be bred, nor do I agree that ALL cats should be castrated.

There are 5 points of difference I want to highlight with breeding pedigree, purebred cats by breeders registered with an association such as the Cat Fancier's Association (CFA) or The International Cat Association (TICA) compared to "backyard" breeding for profit.

1. Registered breeders with an association are bound to uphold standards & ethics in order to be responsible breeders. This is enforced by the association ensuring not too many matings occur for a female and that cats are not being exploited in breeding.
2. Registered breeders with an association are bound to breed only pedigree cats, purebred cats that uphold a breed standard.
3. Registered breeders are bound to uphold these breed standards to preserve cat breeds from going extinct.

This is important as after WWII British Shorthairs for example, almost went extinct. There were only 100 left registered so breeders worked to keep this breed and only breed to standard.

4. Responsible and ethical breeders test genetics, test for FIV/FELV and only breed healthy cats so as to not contribute to an unhealthy cat population.

5. Purebred cats are indoor pets. They are sold to be castrated (fixed) and not used for further breeding by a non-registered breeder. They are also not on the streets contributing to the population growth of cats.

I do know there are what are called "backyard" breeding, with non-registered, non-pedigree and non-health tested cats. I do think this could use some regulations as they are not answering to any governing body.

Registered catteries and breeders with an association are already under a regulation and ethics to ensure that cats are being taken care of, safe, healthy and bred ethically and according to breed standards for breed preservation.

I hope this helps shed some light to preserve the ability for registered breeders to work with their associations to breed ethically without a permit. If there needs to be permits for backyard breeding, I would agree, and honestly would even consider that backyard breeders not be allowed as they are not under an association of ethics and breeding non-pedigree and non-registered cats without a purpose other than a hobby and financial gain.

We have various purebreed cats today because of the efforts of registered breeders to preserve those breeds from extinction. It is a very expensive labor of love and cats are selected for standards and health, therefore not contributing to systemic problems we find within other cat populations.

Thank you for your consideration in finding solutions to this issue,

Dr. Danielle Rae

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:03:59 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Falinski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill to reduce cats.

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:13:06 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Caccamo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern -

I support this bill to reduce the cat over population crisis. I live in a residential neighborhood in Kihei , Maui, Hawaii. I am a 20 year resident of Hawaii and my family and I have been experiencing a very distressing situation with the over population of feral cats in our neighborhood. Again , we are in a residential neighborhood and do not have large lots to provide care for a large number of pets where we live. A few neighbors on our street actively feed stray cats which has caused a very large number of them to roam and make this their territory. The consistent feces and urine on our grass , common areas has been so rampid that it has created a toxic environment. Examples are - heavy amounts of feces/poop on doorsteps , children's toys, lawn , outdoor furniture , shoes and more. We have small children and they cannot play freely outside due to this toxicity. We have exhausted ourselves financially by purchasing deterrent machines , sprays , powders etc. To try and keep these cats away from our property.

We have found deceased cats and encountered cats that are aggressive . These cats are without collars and seem to be wild ferrals. There must be over 100 who roam the neighborhood at night and about 50 during the day. Our fencing has been scratched and destroyed on one side of the house , the smell of feces is always in the air and we cannot go outside without feeling the stress of where and what we need to clean up from these free roaming cats that are generously fed by our neighbor next door and several people on our street. We have video and pictures of cats pooping I'm oir yard and then returning next door to the neighbor who feeds them constantly . There is no sanitation here.

Our neighbor is an avid ferral cat rescuer and claims to have 40 cats inside her home . She has been doing this for over 25 years in the islands. Oahu first before she settled on Maui. She isn't sure how many cats come to eat outside from her free flowing cat bowls with cat food, but she is obviously in a fog with how it affects others. We have kindly asked her to tone this down. She is stuck in this obsession and there is no way of getting through to her person to person. We don't have any influence on her to create a healthy community. She does not feel she is doing anything wrong and seems to have some mental health issues related to cats and her addiction with this behavior.

We cannot find any peace here in this toxic environment. We cannot afford to move from here during to housing crisis.

We attend therapy with a Psychologist for family balancing and this subject has come up several times that our Psychologist has told us it is very apparent this issue is causing extreme distress amongst our family. We are not alone as we know several people who feel the same with their own experiences. When you wake up and go outside to see your shoes with urine or feces on your children's toys it's only a matter of time that this causes extreme stress. We move things inside and try to accommodate the best way we can without risking it. But things still get feces and urine on them no matter what we bring inside or store away at night. Living this way is extremely unhealthy, toxic and makes us lose hope for our State and their lack of attention to this very serious matter. Please help us create a healthy community.

Please help us find a healthy solution and balance. I have so many situations with these cats that have occurred that there are too many to name here. I would be happy to elaborate any chance I can in the near future please.

Sincerely,

Katie Caccamo

808 463 5283

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:20:13 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation but would like to see it amended to include grants for Free-Roaming cat spay/neuter to organizations that do return cats to their outdoor homes. Without this, this bill will be utterly ineffective.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:03:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a much needed bill in order to prevent the future killing of our native and endangered species such as the Nene. Feral free roaming cat colonies are killing the nene in their proximity, and their offspring. We need to solve the free roaming cat problem to protect our native birds, and also to prevent Toxoplasmosis from entering the ocean and killing our endangered Monkseals.

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:57:21 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitty Ng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I am actively involved in cat rescue I am definitely in favor of HB364 along with amendments requesting enforcement of funding and allowing grants for spay /neuter of unsocialized free roaming cats . It benefits the cats, the animal services /rescues and the people. Please pass HB364 with requested amendments ! Thank You

LATE

HB-364

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 11:59:38 AM

Testimony for CPC on 1/29/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Bosio	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill HB364, requiring that cats over the age of three months be surgically sterilized. This bill will reduce the number of feral cats on the islands.