



Conservation Council  
for Hawai'i

*Hawai'i's voice for wildlife*  
Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, and Agriculture  
And Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment, and Technology

Hearing: Friday, February 12, 2016 2 pm  
Conference Room 414

Support for SB 2450 Relating to Predators

Chair Gabbard, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2450, which prohibits individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on state lands, establishes administrative fines for individuals that violate this prohibition, and exempts hunters that deploy, feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting.

Feral animals are a serious threat to the environment, native species and ecosystems, and human health and safety. Many predators are feral animals, previously pets, that have been abandoned. It is long past the time to address this difficult issue. We seek your leadership.

Please support SB 2450.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

*Marjorie Ziegler*

Marjorie Ziegler



Submitted by: Donna Whitaker, Executive Director  
Hawaii Island Humane Society  
Date: February 4, 2016  
RE: SB 2450  
Relating to Predators

The Hawaii Island Humane Society joins with other Animal Welfare Agencies in the State of Hawaii in opposition of SB 2450.

Feeding or watering some animals listed as predators, feral cats in particular, can be an important tool in the sterilization and relocation efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to present to the committee and we respectfully ask for your support of this measure.

Donna Whitaker  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Island Humane Society



February 12, 2016

SB 2450

Hearing: Friday,, February 12, 2016

2:00 pm

Conference Room 414

**Testimony in SUPPORT**

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Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Slom and committee members, Hui Ho'omaluku i ka 'Aina strongly supports SB2450.

Our organization is an advocate for native things in Hawaii. We practice what we preach. We support this legislation strongly because cats are killing Hawaiian things. Hawaiian things that are threatened by other impacts as well and cannot tolerate this compounded predation.

We see cats kill our rare native koloa, alae' ula, alae ke'o, 'a'o and 'ua'u, and we know some of our Hawaiian monk seals have died of toxoplasmosis. The scientists tell us this. This law will give these animals a buffer between the hunter and the hunted, between the predator and the native. These animals matter to us, to our lives and traditions.

Please support this legislation and help our native wildlife. People all over the world recognize that feral cats are one of the most harmful invasive species and in Hawaii, their impacts are compounded by many others. Give our native things a chance, they need our help.

Me ka pono,

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana  
Vice Chair

Hui Ho'omaluku 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.

**POB 1045, Hanalei, Hawaii 96714**



# Hanalei Watershed Hui

February 12, 2016

SB 2450

Hearing: Friday,, February 12, 2016

2:00 pm

Conference Room 414

## Testimony in SUPPORT

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Wakai, Vice Chairs Nishihara and Slom and committee members, the Hanalei Watershed Hui enthusiastically supports SB2450.

Our organization works hard every day to restore the health and value of the Hanalei Bay watershed. We support this legislation because predators are a major problem in all our watersheds. Cats and rats are slaughtering our native species and poisoning our waters.

We are fortunate on Kauai to not have a serious population of mongoose but cats are as serious a threat to our environment. Because we have few mongoose, we are the "Noah's Ark" of the Pacific. Many endangered and threatened sea and forest creatures have only one home left, Kauai.

This legislation supports the efforts of DLNR as they struggle to save and protect these Hawaiian treasures and as a tax payer, may I add, I support this legislation as it enables their efforts to matter. If someone is feeding cats on State land and the State is trying to save the birds and seals, we are at cross purposes and wasting money.

Fed cats hunt, there is substantial science to prove that. Managed cats have a place in managed places but not on the landscape, not on state lands and not in proximity to the threatened and endangered critters we are charged to protect.

Feral cats are one of the most devastating predators of Hawaii's unique wildlife and spread a lethal parasite, toxoplasmosis, that contaminates terrestrial, freshwater, and marine environments and has been shown to negatively impact birds and mammals, including humans.

Please pass SB 2450.

Me ka pono,

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana  
Executive Director

E malama kumu wai ~ Protect the source

5299C Kuhio Hwy, P. O. Box 1285, Hanalei, Kauai, HI 96714

Telephone/Facsimile (808) 826-1985 E-mail: [makaala@hawaiian.net](mailto:makaala@hawaiian.net)

[www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org](http://www.hanaleiwatershedhui.org)

The Hanalei Watershed Hui is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Diana <Patndi@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 11, 2016 12:24 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** Re: SB 2450

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the supporters of HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION, I urge you to oppose SB 2450. Passage of this bill would mean death by starvation for community cats - defined as cats who live at large in our community. This is not only cruelty towards animals who depend on humans for survival, but also an ineffective method for management of the community cat population. This misguided bill would also establish a fine which would penalize compassionate people who care for the cats. Also, in this difficult economic environment, enforcement would be practically impossible, and/or result in legal quagmires costing the State taxpayers potentially millions of dollars better spent addressing important concerns, such as homelessness or education. Sterilization, not starvation is the answer to humanely managing community cat populations. Community volunteers do the work to trap the cats and non-profit organizations provide low cost sterilization - all at no cost to the State.

As the 'Aloha State', shouldn't we be exemplary in actively promoting the very definition of the word 'Aloha'? We urge you to oppose bill SB 2450.

I must also add that the complete immorality and unethicity of such a bill seems self evident. I can't believe I even have to write a letter opposing it as it should be so obviously wrong a course of action.

Sincerely,

Diana Caldwell

Sent from my iPad

## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Julie Wilusz <julie96734@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:15 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** RE: SB 2450

RE: SB 2450

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the supporters of HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION, I urge you to OPPOSE SB 2450. Passage of this bill would mean death by starvation for community cats - defined as cats who live at large in our community. This is not only cruelty towards animals who depend on humans for survival, but also an ineffective method for management of the community cat population. This misguided bill would also establish a fine which would penalize compassionate people who care for the cats. Also, in this difficult economic environment, enforcement would be practically impossible, and/or result in legal quagmires costing the State taxpayers potentially millions of dollars better spent addressing important concerns, such as homelessness or education. Sterilization, not starvation is the answer to humanely managing community cat populations. Community volunteers do the work to trap the cats and non-profit organizations provide low cost sterilization - all at no cost to the State. Feral cats are also responsible for controlling the rat, mouse, centipede and mongoose populations as well, actually saving the state inordinate amounts of money to try to control those pests.

As the 'Aloha State', shouldn't we be exemplary in actively promoting the very definition of the word 'Aloha'? We urge you to OPPOSE bill SB 2450.

Mahalo,

Julie Wilusz  
426A Ulupaina Street  
Kailua, HI 96734  
808-286-4928

This testimony is in opposition to SB 2450. I am a resident of Maui County and I volunteer with the SPCA and the Maui Humane Society. This bill represents an act of animal cruelty. Starving feral cats is not the answer to the problem of the over-population of cats in Hawaii. There are ~ 300 registered feral cat colonies on Maui and the care givers actively trap and spay/neuter the cats. The individuals who are feeding the cats will not stop doing so. It will be impossible to enforce this law and if passed will cause civil disobedience and protest in the community. The problem of feral cats can be addressed with the trap, spay/neuter and release program. Maui has demonstrated a decline of feral cats on the island as evidenced by a notable decrease in the number of feral cats at the resorts, stabilization of the numbers of feral cats in colonies and a decrease in feral cats euthanized at the Maui Humane Society. Funding needs to be allotted to provide low cost or free spay and neuter services on every island as these programs have shown to be effective in controlling feral cat populations. If the colony caregivers are forced to stop caring for the feral cats, the numbers will multiply and the "unrestrained predators" will place the bird population at a greater risk. This proposed law will make the "predator" problem worse and will not solve the problem.

Respectfully,

Linda Banziger

To: Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair and Senator Clarence Nishihara Vice Chair,  
Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture  
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair and Senator Sam Slom, Vice Chair,  
Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology  
and all committee members

From Patrick Conant, Volcano Hawaii

February 5, 2016

Re: SB2450 Relating to Predators

I support this Bill because protection of native wildlife requires first and foremost, alien predator control. Both native forest birds, and especially native seabirds are very vulnerable to alien predators, the former by cats and rodents and the latter by those as well as mongoose and dogs. Many of our native forest birds are near extinction due to alien predators eating eggs young and even adult birds. If we don't protect them, these native Hawaiian birds that occur nowhere else will be gone forever.

New Zealand has very good predator control programs, but their predator problems are much larger and over a much greater land area. They also have native birds and even native reptiles to protect and have the authority to kill any alien predators on conservation lands as necessary. We need to give such authority to DLNR, as this Bill does, if we are serious about protecting our native Hawaiian natural heritage.



## Rock Riggs

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 2:23 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Cc:** hawaiigirlalways@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

### **SB2450**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janice Uga	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Aloha, My name is Janice Uga and I have lived in Hawai'i for all of my life. I am writing to OPPOSE SB 2450 - Relating to Predators. Feeding bans are counterproductive because they undermine the only successful method of addressing the feral cat population, Trap-Neuter-Return. Feeding bans will not decrease the feral cat population because feral cats do not depend on people feeding them to survive. There are always other food sources in populated areas. As scavengers, cats will find food in garbage cans and dumpsters. Cats are territorial, bonded to their surroundings, and will not leave simply because compassionate people can no longer legally feed them. A feeding ban will result in cats roaming farther to find food and digging through people's trash. It can actually increase calls to animal control. If Hawaii wants to decrease the feral cat population, Trap-Neuter-Return (TNR) is the only humane and effective solution. Feral cats are the same species as pet cats, but feral cats are not adoptable because they are not socialized to people. Under TNR, cats are humanely trapped, neutered, and vaccinated and returned to their outdoor homes. The feral cat population stabilizes and decreases. I am involved in the following ways in conducting TNR in our community: donating food to people that care for colonies and donating monies to organizations such as Joey's Feline Friends and CatFriends who support TNR. Feeding bans do not allow Trap-Neuter-Return to be carried out. The cats in our community will continue to have kittens, and the feral cat population will increase. Please do not punish the Good Samaritans in Hawaii who spend their own time and money to carry out TNR and find homes for adoptable kittens. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Janice Uga

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

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## Rock Riggs

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2016 3:26 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Cc:** bonnieosaki@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

### **SB2450**

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bonnie Oda	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, and Committee Members, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 2450. Starving cats is not a compassionate solution. If cats are removed it will increase the rat population. Sterilization, not starvation, will reduce cats in the community humanely Respectfully,  
Bonnie Oda

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

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Aloha –

I would like to submit my testimony in opposition to SB 2450.

*This measure “prohibits individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on state lands. Establishes administrative fines for individuals that violate this prohibition.”*

While I understand and support protecting native wildlife from predators, I don't think this is the best way to do it. TNR (Trap, Neuter, Release) programs are extremely effective in managing feral cat populations throughout the entire country – **even MORE effective than trapping and euthanization.**

A few years back, at Spencer Beach Park they trapped and euthanized the entire feral cat colony living there. They immediately had a huge problem with rats over-running the entire park. They ended up bringing back feral cats in order to solve the rat problem.

If you totally eliminate a feral cat colony (either by starvation or euthanization) it's been shown that other predators step in to fill the void (other nearby cats, rodents, mongoose, etc.) If you leave a healthy feral colony in place, and allow animal rescue organizations to feed and maintain the colony while conducting spay/neuter operations, it can be efficiently managed. Until the entire colony is fixed, all existing kittens are trapped and adopted out.

Small, well-fed colonies of feral cats are *much* less of a threat to wildlife than an un-neutered, unmaintained colony of starved and hungry cats. Or worse, an unmanageable increase in other predators that move in if the cats are suddenly gone.

**I believe this measure is impractical and virtually unenforceable.** Who would be responsible for enforcing this? State employees? Police? The Humane Society? Where would the funds come from to carry this out? Is the state willing to criminalize animal lovers that are feeding stray cats to prevent starvation? I can't see burdening the court system with penalties and punishment for this type of situation.

This measure could also generate negative attention in the media for Hawaii government officials and label legislators as being cruel to animals. This would not reflect well on our state.

**For practical reasons as well as compassionate ones, I hope that this measure does not go through.**

Mahalo Nui Loa -

Elisabeth D. Garske  
Post Office Box 4033  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745



## Rock Riggs

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 06, 2016 11:20 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Cc:** jsniffen@hawaii.edu  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

### **SB2450**

Submitted on: 2/6/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jesslin Sniffen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Dear Chairs Gabbard and Nishihara, and Committee Members, I strongly oppose Senate Bill 2450. Starving cats is not a compassionate solution. If cats are removed it will increase the rat population. Sterilization, not starvation, will reduce cats in the community humanely Respectfully,  
Jesslin Sniffen

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To: All concerned parties

Re: SB 2450

I oppose this bill which makes it illegal to feed “predatory” animals on state lands. I am especially opposed in regards to not being able to feed and care for abandoned and feral cats and dogs.

I currently volunteer for a non-profit and spend my hours after work feeding colonies of feral/abandoned cats, trapping and bringing them to get neutered in order to keep the population down and fostering and adopting out stray/abandoned kittens.

The problem is not the animals, it is people. There should be penalties for people that dump animals, or regulations of breeding animals. By penalizing people that are feeding these strays, essentially the strays will turn to looking for food in other areas, overturning garbage cans, getting into homes, etc. These are things they don't currently do as they are being cared for on a daily basis.

If you get rid all of the strays there will probably be a huge outcry on social media. You don't see this type of inhumane ideas in other states. I don't think Hawaii like the stigma of being the first stray cat and dog killing eradicating state in the US.

And most of all, it is uncaring and inhumane. Who are you to play God? Why would you turn law abiding citizens into criminals? Instead of penalizing the caring people, penalize the uncaring people that are causing these problems in the first place.

Regards,

Kimberley Medeiros

Lawai, Kauai HI

## Measure SB 2450 Relating to Predators

A bill to ban feeding of cats, dogs and other animals deemed predators on all state land.

First; this is a "no brainer", because anyone who has undergone the process of trapping and sterilizing feral or discarded cats has learned the hard way that feeding these animals to entice them into have-a-heart traps to bring them to the Hawaiian Humane Society center for sterilization is the only way to effectively get it done. Only by feeding can this be accomplished. By approving SB 2450 you are in effect, preventing a viable means to control the overpopulation of cats and other stray animals. Criminalizing the public for preventing suffering by feeding cats, which is an effective strategy to gain trust in order to sterilize them, is not acceptable.

Second; If you are thinking that by starving these animals, you are stopping the increase of population you are severely mistaken. Other states have discovered the error of removing one species in order to protect another and certainly not by starvation as this will only increase the likelihood that these cats and dogs will be turning to other means to stay alive which will include feeding off native birds and other wildlife. You are producing the same effect of inviting snakes here to decimate the native population of birds. Anything and everything will become a source of food. Furthermore, it is not a compassionate solution to starve any animal.

Lastly; the current rat population will not be kept in check, and removal of a sterilized cat colony will lead to an increase of rats. Case in point; I had undertaken feeding and thus trapping a female stray cat from the colony of black & whites from the Mililani High School who came wandering to our complex two years ago. She had already given birth to three sets of kittens in our area before I was able to capture her, have her sterilized and set her free again in my neighborhood. Since that time she has accepted food and on occasion petting from me. Although I was not looking to have a cat to care for, it was the best alternative to letting her increase the cat population in my area and I have seen a reduction of rats around our buildings. Previously there were rats gnawing their way into our buildings and years of rat bait was not stopping the population in the previous 5 years prior to her moving into our area. I can honestly say her presence has made a difference in the rodent explosion. And I will happily throw away the "gifts" of dead baby rats she leaves at my front doorstep occasionally.

Please oppose SB 2450 for the sake of all animals. Sterilization, not starvation, will reduce cats in the community humanely.

Ms. Janine Wiehl            94-1508 Lanikuhana Ave 596, Mililani, HI 96789

## Rock Riggs

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**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 1:58 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Cc:** brenmg20@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2450 on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM

### **SB2450**

Submitted on: 2/7/2016

Testimony for WLA/EET on Feb 12, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenna Gorresen	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Thanks to TNR, long established colonies of cats live out their lives -- and the colonies decrease in size (it is logical and the humane thing to do). I am a resident of Hawaii, and I vote! Please oppose SB 2450.

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I would like to submit my testimony in opposition to SB 2450.

Aloha Chair Mike Gabbard and Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Clarence K. Nishihara and Vice Chair Sam Slom, and Committee Members:

I strongly oppose SB2450. This measure "prohibits individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on state lands, which can be lost dogs or cats.

While I can't even fathom from a moral point of view that a bill is suggesting to individuals not to care for an animal in distress and fining them substantially if they would do so, I believe this measure is impractical and virtually unenforceable.

This bill would hurt the existing TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) programs on our islands that are the only effective programs of managing feral cat population's long term. Instead of going backwards and outlawing these programs by amendments like this bill is suggesting, we should go forward in protecting wildlife by SUPPORTING TNR Programs.

As an example: A few years back, at Spencer Beach Park they trapped and euthanized the entire feral cat colony living there. They immediately had a huge problem with rats over-running the entire park. They ended up bringing back feral cats in order to solve the rat problem. It's been shown that other predators step in to fill the void (other nearby cats, rodents, mongoose, etc.).

If you leave a healthy feral colony in place, and allow animal rescue organizations to feed and conduct health checks on colonies while conducting spay/neuter operations, it can be efficiently managed. Until the entire colony is fixed, all existing kittens are trapped and adopted out, thus keeping the population down efficiently. Small, well-fed colonies of feral cats are much less of a threat to wildlife than an un-neutered, unmaintained colony of starved and hungry cats that will quickly multiply.

This possibly would create a public outcry and generate negative attention in the media for Hawaii government officials and label legislators as being cruel to animals. This would not reflect well on our state.

I believe this measure is impractical and virtually unenforceable. Who would be responsible for enforcing this? State employees? Police? The Humane Society? Where would the funds come from to carry this out? Is the state willing to criminalize animal lovers that are feeding stray cats to prevent starvation? I can't see burdening the court system with penalties and punishment for this type of situation.

Please, oppose SB2450. Thank you.

Karin Riedel  
Keaau, Big Island, 96749



## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Jennifer Chiwa <bjcnd808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, February 07, 2016 11:53 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** 2-12-16 OPPOSE SB 2450

Aloha Members of the Water, Land and Agriculture, and Environment Committees,

Please oppose SB 2450. It's humane and kind to feed and care for cats on State lands. Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Date: Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Time: 3:20 PM

Place: Conference Room 414

To: Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture  
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Sen. Claence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

Re: Opposition SB 2450 Relating to Predators

My name is Hilson Reidpath and I am writing in strong opposition of SB 2450 to prohibit individuals from caring for unrestrained 'predators' on state grounds.

As a student at the University of Hawaii (the university of course being housed on state ground) I frequently encounter many stray cats on campus. These are animals that were most likely abandoned at the university by negligent owners and left to breed on their own, this is to say these animals were placed in a situation not of their making. They are cared for by a small group of volunteers, none of whom I have ever personally interacted with, but are discreet in their actions, offering sustenance in the evening when the campus is empty and out of the eyes of the majority of the student body. Moreover, there are clear signs of trap, neuter and release animals (the most humane and effective way to deal with stray populations of animals) scattered throughout campus. The animals are meek, appearing only after sunset and quick to run away when approached by an unusual face.

In short, these animals are being cared for in a responsible fashion and are not a direct threat to any human with whom they come in contact. I wonder then, what this bill hopes to achieve, and what's more, to what degree it has been completely thought out. Were the bill to pass, and these caretakers were suddenly forced to stop helping these animals, what does the committee imagine would happen? Will the animals suddenly exit the UH campus, having heard that state legislation forbids their presence? Or, more likely, will their physical and mental state deteriorate now that the most significant source of sustenance has dried up? With the tone of this bill, the implied outcome seems to be one of mass euthanasia, an incredibly inhumane approach to a problem that we, the humans of Hawaii, created in the first place. Is that how the committee would act to clean up the messes of its constituents? With heavy handed, short-sighted legislation aimed to prevent those who have a deep empathy and passion for the problem from trying to help? I surely hope not, and it is with this in mind that I strongly call on the members of the committee to OPPOSE SB 2450.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express my opinion.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilson Reidpath  
[Hilson4@hawaii.edu](mailto:Hilson4@hawaii.edu)  
(808) 799-6854

## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Dean Shimamoto <smallbizhawaii@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 3:48 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2450 Testimony OPPOSED WLE/EEP Feb 12

We are submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB 2450 Relating to Predators. This bill institutionalizes the most despicable form of animal cruelty--starvation and dehydration--and targets vulnerable feral dogs and cats that were once pets and unfortunately were abandoned because their owners could not rehome them and did not want to turn them into the Hawaiian Humane Society because they routinely euthanize pets.

As caretakers of feral animal colonies in a state park, we know that this bill will force the animals to predate as they starve. This is exactly the opposite of what it intends to prevent.

We implore the committee to demonstrate compassion and humanity to the most vulnerable of living creatures and hold this bill.

Respectfully,  
Dean Shimamoto  
John Bell

## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Jn Bentrup <jnbcoupons@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:09 AM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** Please oppose SB 2450

Dear Legislators,

On behalf of the supporters of HAWAII CAT FOUNDATION, I urge you to oppose SB 2450. Passage of this bill would mean death by starvation for community cats - defined as cats who live at large in our community. This is not only cruelty towards animals who depend on humans for survival, but also an ineffective method for management of the community cat population. This misguided bill would also establish a fine which would penalize compassionate people who care for the cats. Also, in this difficult economic environment, enforcement would be practically impossible, and/or result in legal quagmires costing the State taxpayers potentially millions of dollars better spent addressing important concerns, such as homelessness or education. Sterilization, not starvation is the answer to humanely managing community cat populations. Community volunteers do the work to trap the cats and non-profit organizations provide low cost sterilization - all at no cost to the State.

As the 'Aloha State', shouldn't we be exemplary in actively promoting the very definition of the word 'Aloha'? We urge you to oppose bill SB 2450.

Nancy Bentrup  
Kaneohe, HI



## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Joyce Salmon <salmonj001@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:32 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** Oppose SB 2450

I oppose SB 2450 which prohibits the feeding, care or release of cats (already defined as predators in existing statute) on state lands.

Some agencies are under the false impression that if cat feeding stops, the cats will simply go away. As a cat caretaker for over

30 years, I know that this is not true. My colony cats are part of a responsibly managed trap-neuter-return (TNR) program. Since

they all have been spayed/neutered, there has been NO increase in their numbers.

The only new cats I see are those dumped by irresponsible owners. The Legislature should direct their energies toward increasing penalties

for this cruel act of abandonment (SB 2512) and provide funding and support for increased spay-neuter programs – the only humane way to control cat (and dog) populations.

Joyce Salmon  
1605 Pensacola Street, #006  
Honolulu 96822  
808-526-1103  
[salmonj001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:salmonj001@hawaii.rr.com)



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[www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)

## Rock Riggs

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**From:** Ron Montanaro <ron@pacificaquagroup.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:15 PM  
**To:** WLA Testimony  
**Subject:** SB 2450

My name is ron Montanaro and I oppose SB 2450.

Measure SB 2450

Related to Predators

Friday, Feb 12, 2016 2:00 p.m.

Conference Room 414

Submitted by Bill King

This legislation will cause the death by starvation of many, many homeless cats. Possibly thousands.

This is a brutal approach to the homeless cat situation. This will force colony caretakers to stop tending for cats. This will result in cats becoming sick, disease ridden and ultimately dying. In the meantime, some of the more adept cats will take to surviving by killing more birds.

The following is from the Humane Society of the United States.

[http://www.humanesociety.org/?credit=web\\_id212453451](http://www.humanesociety.org/?credit=web_id212453451)

<http://www.animalsheltering.org/sites/default/files/content/Managing-Community-Cats.pdf>

This is from the section, "MANAGING COMMUNITY CAT POPULATIONS: WHAT DOESN'T WORK"

*"Feeding Bans*

*The logic behind banning the feeding of outdoor cats is that if no one feeds them, they will go away. However, this doesn't work because cats are strongly bonded to their home territories and will not easily or quickly leave familiar surroundings to search for new food sources. Instead, they tend to move closer to homes and businesses as they grow hungrier, leading to more nuisance complaint calls, greater public concern for the cats' welfare, and underground feeding by residents. People who feed cats will ignore the ban, even at great personal risk, and enforcement is extremely difficult, resource intensive, and unpopular."*

This is from the section, "MANAGING COMMUNITY CAT POPULATIONS: WHAT DOES WORK"

*"Properly managed sterilization-vaccination programs do not create cat overpopulation— the cats are already there. The choice is between making progress or continuing to experience an unmanaged problem. Well-designed and implemented community cat programs are in line with public opinion and can mobilize an army of compassionate, dedicated people who care about the cats, wildlife, and their communities. To be most effective, these programs must be adopted by more communities and supported by more animal care and control agencies and municipal officials. The HSUS strongly recommends effective community cat management programs (including TNR and other sterilization programs), legislation that allows for and supports nonlethal population control, and coalition-based approaches that involve community leaders, citizens, and stakeholders. Solving community cat problems requires many strategies, including: TNR Trap-Neuter-Return and its variants are non-lethal strategies intended to reduce the numbers of community cats, improve the health and safety of cats, and reduce impacts on wildlife. At minimum, TNRed community cats are spayed or neutered so they can no longer*

*reproduce, vaccinated against rabies, marked to identify them as sterilized (the universally recognized sign of a sterilized cat is an ear-tip, a surgical removal of the top quarter inch of the of the cat's ear, typically the left), and returned to their home territory*

*Community-wide TNR programs are effective because they:*

- Vaccinate cats against rabies (and other diseases, depending on available resources), decreasing public health and safety risks*
- Create an immediate reduction in population when kittens young enough to be socialized and friendly stray cats are removed*
- Lead to long-term management, reduction, and eventual elimination of outdoor cat populations*
- Potentially save or better allocate municipal funds associated with trapping, holding, euthanizing, and disposing of community cats because trapping is typically done by volunteers*
- Further save funds by reducing the flood of kittens into shelters each spring and fall kitten season*
- Decrease nuisance complaints by eliminating or dramatically reducing noise from cat fighting and mating and odor from unneutered male cats spraying urine to mark their territory*
- Attract volunteers, gain caretaker cooperation, and create goodwill for shelters and animal control agencies (if the cats were going to be harmed, there would be few volunteers willing to participate)*
- Bring in sources of private funding from nonprofits and individuals willing to pay for the cats' spay/neuter surgeries and care*
- Allow private nonprofit organizations that help community cats and volunteers to mediate conflicts between the cats and residents of surrounding communities*
- Maintain the health of colony cats (cats living together in a given territory) and allow caretakers to trap new cats who join the colony for TNR or adoption."*

There is much more on their website. The Legislature should ask the Hawaii Humane Society to investigate the best practices throughout the nation and come up with some solid recommendations for the Legislature to act upon.

There are better solutions than starving cats and other homeless animals. This end result of this legislation would be gruesome. This is not the right approach, and it certainly is not something that would enhance the reputation of the state of Hawaii.