
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE ALL HIGH SCHOOL HEALTH ACADEMIES TO DEVELOP FERAL CAT OVERPOPULATION PROGRAMS THAT WOULD PROVIDE STUDENTS WITH REAL-WORLD LEARNING EXPERIENCES TO BETTER PREPARE THEM TO TRANSITION OUT OF THE HIGH-SCHOOL ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii continues to face an overpopulation of
2 stray and feral cats on all islands, and the problems attributed
3 to this cat population include public-health risks and nuisance
4 to humans as well as unchecked reproduction with mating
5 behaviors that can lead to excessive noise and the smell of male
6 urine spray; and

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8 WHEREAS, feral cat colonies also endanger the state's
9 native bird population, and food left after public feedings of
10 feral cats may attract other native bird predators such as
11 rodents and mongoose; and

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13 WHEREAS, the TNRM (trap, neuter, return, and manage) method
14 has proven to be the most effective and most humane approach to
15 controlling feral cat overpopulation, because this strategy
16 addresses many community concerns regarding environmental and
17 health effects and stabilizes feral cat colonies; and

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19 WHEREAS, students from the Farrington High School Health
20 Academy have been working toward increasing the health and
21 safety of the Kalihi community by using various strategies to
22 spread awareness about the risks of cat-transmitted diseases as
23 well as demonstrating the TNRM method of reducing feral cat
24 populations; and

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26 WHEREAS, the replication of the Farrington High School
27 Health Academy model at other public schools throughout the
28 state as a voluntary after-school activity would provide
29 interested students with hands-on learning experiences and help



1 them develop skills that would be very valuable to them after
2 they graduate from high school; now, therefore,
3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
5 Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
6 of 2017, that the Department of Education is requested to
7 encourage all high school health academies to develop feral cat
8 overpopulation programs that would provide students with real-
9 world learning experiences to better prepare them to transition
10 out of the high-school academic experience; and
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
13 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
14 Education, Superintendent of Education, Chairperson of the Board
15 of Agriculture, Director of Health, and Chairperson of the Board
16 of Land and Natural Resources.
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OFFERED BY:

John W. Thompson
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