

MAR 01 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING STATE DEPARTMENTS AND PRIVATE LAND OWNERS TO SUPPORT
EFFECTIVE AND HUMANE REDUCTION OF FREE-ROAMING CAT
POPULATIONS USING THE TRAP-NEUTER-RETURN-MANAGE STRATEGY.

1 WHEREAS, free-roaming cats are a diverse population that
2 includes: owned cats that are allowed outdoors, abandoned and
3 lost pets, and feral cats; and
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5 WHEREAS, there are many locations in Hawaii where free-
6 roaming cats face numerous challenges, especially if they are
7 not spayed or neutered; and
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9 WHEREAS, the trap-neuter-return-manage (TNRM) strategy is a
10 humane and effective long-term strategy to reduce the number of
11 cats at large and improve their quality of life; and
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13 WHEREAS, TNRM programs have been established for years in
14 Hawaii and are run by volunteers using their own time and money
15 often with the help of a variety of nonprofit organizations,
16 saving the government the expense of trying to control free-
17 roaming cats in many areas; and
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19 WHEREAS, TNRM programs have not been pursued in areas where
20 endangered or native species are common in Hawaii and, by
21 controlling the number of cats in urban areas, there are fewer
22 cats roaming into areas where they could cause damage to
23 endangered or native species; and
24

25 WHEREAS, free-roaming cats also help control the
26 populations of destructive animals such as rats and mice; and
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28 WHEREAS, effective TNRM programs reduce complaints about
29 free-roaming cats, discourage nuisance feeders, and remove newly
30 abandoned pet cats and kittens for spay/neuter surgery and
31 placement in homes; and
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1 WHEREAS, Hawaii has several successful, well-run TNRM
2 programs in a variety of areas, including state lands, that have
3 shown great progress in lowering the number of cats in colonies
4 and modifying the cats' behaviors; and
5

6 WHEREAS, cats are sentient beings, bred to be companion
7 animals and because they are not free-roaming by choice but
8 rather because of decisions made by humans, they deserve our
9 compassion and we should honor our responsibilities to them; and
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11 WHEREAS, banning cat feeding lacks compassion, increases
12 animal nuisance behaviors, and is an ineffective way to reduce
13 the population of free-roaming cats on the landscape; and
14

15 WHEREAS, three states and Washington D.C., plus counties in
16 an additional twenty-four states have policies supporting TNRM
17 and at least four hundred thirty local governments incorporate
18 TNRM into their animal control practices; and
19

20 WHEREAS, the American Bar Association has urged state,
21 local, territorial, and tribal legislative bodies and
22 governmental agencies to interpret existing laws and policies,
23 or to adopt laws and policies, as applicable, to allow the
24 implementation and administration of TNRM programs within their
25 jurisdictions to promote the effective, efficient, and humane
26 management of free-roaming cats; now, therefore,
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28 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
29 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the
30 House of Representatives concurring, that state departments with
31 jurisdiction over state lands are urged to support the use of
32 TNRM as an effective and humane way to reduce the population of
33 free-roaming cats; and
34

35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that private landowners in the State
36 of Hawaii are urged to support the use of TNRM as an effective
37 and humane way to reduce the population of free-roaming cats;
38 and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prohibitions on the use of TNRM
41 be reserved for areas designated as critical wildlife habitats;
42 and



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2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
3 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to all state departments
4 that manage state lands, and the Department of Land and Natural
5 Resources for distribution to the twenty largest private land
6 owners in Hawaii.
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