

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/05/2024

Time: 03:15 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2114 RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses. Establishes fines.

Department's Position:

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on SB 2114.

The Department recognizes the importance of addressing the persistent nuisances created by feral animals. Besides foraging in urban and suburban areas, feral animals pose health and safety concerns due to the pathogens in their fecal waste.

While the Department supports the overall concept of SB 2114, we would request clarification on who is responsible for enforcing the mandates of this bill and what evidence is necessary in order to enforce the civil fine. The Department's focus is on educating our students and does not feel it is the appropriate agency to enforce the penalties being described in this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2114.

PŌPOKI PLACE O'AHU CAT SANCTUARY



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Education
Monday, February 5, 2023, 3:15 PM
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

SB2114, Relating to Feeding Feral Animals - OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Donna Mercado Kim, and Committee on Education members,

We **strongly OPPOSE SB2114**, which **prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses and establishes fines.**

Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to the mission of creating a safe, loving, healthy sanctuary for homeless cats on the island of Oahu. Popoki Place is the missing link in the efforts to manage the thousands of cats roaming the streets, beaches and mountains. In addition to rescue groups, shelters, adoption sites, and TNR efforts, **we serve a critical role in helping solve the crisis of cat overpopulation.**

This bill is extreme and unnecessary. In fact, **the Committee on Education should consider using the feral animals as a learning tool in humane treatment of animals and how important caring for ALL animals is to protect our fragile ecosystem.** Become part of the solution by creating a school group of students who help to feed and manage the cats by teaching them about **TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage.)** All caregivers who feed cats anywhere should also actively participate in TNRM. It is the only humane way to reduce the population over time.

Caregivers who feed feral animals are doing a service to the State. Suggesting that you will impose fines per animal is cruel and heartless! **Using their own money and time, they are helping to reduce the number of cats on each island and should be praised instead of fined.**

For 17 years, I was the director of Weinberg Village Waimanalo, which was a transitional housing program for homeless families to over 2000 people (65% children.) We had a large colony of over 50 feral cats on the 3-acre property. During that time, **no one reported getting sick from the cats, even our pregnant mothers.** **Children learned how to care for the animals and even volunteered to help feed them.** They observed TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage) in action and saw the positive effects of humane treatment. **One of our children was so inspired that she is now studying to be a veterinarian at a Washington university.**

We strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** this legislation. If there is a particular problem at a school, contact us and let us work with the caregiver and school staff to manage the issue instead of banning all feeding on campuses statewide. **We want to help be part of the solution!**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Holly Holowach
Founder and President

Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary
P.O. Box 732 Kailua, HI 96734
<https://popokiplace.org/>



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiālae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 4, 2024

To: Chair Sen. Michelle Kidani
Vice Chair Sen. Donna Mercado Kim
and Members of the Committee on Education

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

RE: Testimony with comments on SB 2114: Relating to Feral Animals
Monday, Feb. 5, 2024, 3:15 p.m., Room 229 & Videoconference

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our comments on Senate Bill 2114, which prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses and establishes fines.

The Hawaiian Humane Society agrees that people who are not helping to manage animals living outdoors should not be feeding them. However, this bill as written would interfere with humane population management, which would be counterproductive to its expressed intent.

Feeding is a necessary component of the management of Free-Roaming cats, which are trapped by volunteer caregivers to have them spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated; improving the health of the cats and eliminating their ability to breed. Ongoing feeding reduces prey drive and toxoplasmosis infection rates; and allows caregivers to spot newly abandoned animals.

Avian birth control is available in Hawai'i for the management of feral pigeons and is distributed in feed. It would also be effective at managing feral chickens should the state ever decide to make that option available to qualified local businesses.

We ask that you add to the bill the language from HRS 143-2.2 stating that "Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program."

Mahalo for your consideration and we'd be happy to answer any questions.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:19:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Testifying for Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ARH strongly opposes SB2114

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 7:24:22 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2114 *Relating to Feral Animals* to be heard by the Senate Committee on Education on Monday, Feb. 5, at 3:15 p.m. prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses.

While we appreciate the concerns about the health and safety of your keiki, as written, the bill as it stands presents a barrier to humanely reducing the population of homeless cats living near schools. Feeding is an essential component of trap-neuter-return for Free-Roaming cats. As well as keeping them well, feeding means they can be more easily caught up for TNR.

There is an added benefit: the keiki will see that animals are respected and cared for. This can only be good for their future perspectives about our fellow creatures. That is good for society as a whole.

We would endorse an amendment based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that “Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program.”

In which case, with that amendment, we beg to support the Bill.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:04:15 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noriko Freeman	Individual	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Please do not prohibit for feeding free roaming cats. We volunteers try to feed , spay and neuter also rescue them.

Some people don't like animals , but some people care animals .

Every body have rights to live in this world.

humane is not top for every one. Live together and help each other is our goal.

Committee: Senate Committee on Education
Bill Number: SB 2114, Relating to Feral Animals
Hearing Date & Time: February 5, 2024 at 3:15pm
Re: Testimony of Leslie Witten in **Opposition to SB 2114**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Committee Members:

Aloha, my name is Leslie Witten, and I am actively involved in trap, neuter, return and manage (TNRM) work on O’ahu, specifically on a school campus in Kailua along the Kawainui Marsh, a protected wetland. As part of my TNRM volunteer efforts over the years, I have worked with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS), Cat Friends Hawaii, Greater Good Charities' Good Fix events, Popoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary, and rescue organizations Cat People of O’ahu and Poi Dogs and Popoki.

I am testifying in opposition of SB 2114, which prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses and establishes fines.

I lead a school-based TNRM program operating under administrative oversight as a direct response to the feral cat issue on campus. Feral cats have inhabited and regularly roamed onto our campus for nearly 20 years. During that time, we have deployed TNRM methods to ensure the health and safety of our keiki and school community.

I have witnessed the detrimental effects of prohibiting TNRM work on and around a school campus.

- During the pandemic lockdown when cats were not regularly TNR'd, we saw **an increase in the cat population**. TNR work depends on the ability to feed.
- When a cat colony manager passed away and school administration prohibited a replacement feeder, we saw a significant increase in “nuisance” behavior: hungry, emboldened cats migrated into main areas of operations where children were learning in order to scavenge for food and **fecal byproducts in areas of operation increased** as cats roamed in search of food.
- Hungry cats were forced to eat rodents, thereby **increasing their possible exposure to toxoplasmosis**, and also eat birds, further **threatening native wildlife**.

By reinstating the TNRM program under administrative guidance, cat populations were stabilized, animals were moved to the campus periphery, and health risks were mitigated. **If this bill were passed, cat populations would increase and health risks would increase, quite the opposite of the bills’ intent.**

What’s more, by supporting TNRM work, students have had educational opportunities to engage in learning about the impacts of feral animals on the landscape and take action to humanely address the issue. Rather than making it someone else’s problem to deal with, students and the school community are engaged in hana pono, serving the health and safety of the community by engaging in humane animal welfare.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

Leslie Witten
67-190 Kuhi Street, Waialua HI 96791
310-720-3361
lesliewitten2@gmail.com

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:51:36 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmin May-Taparra	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Free roaming cats do not choose living on the streets. There are not enough kind people in this state that care about them. We have to do what we can with the resources available. They need to be fed and protected the same as free roaming humans. By not feeding and TNR, they will enter the busy streets and get into trash bins to look for food. This puts them at greater risk of getting killed by cars. Feeders should be allowed to feed and trap where and when its safe and as long as area is safe and kept clean. I oppose bill SB2114. Mahalo

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:30:59 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Kidani, Vice-Chair Kim, and Members,

I am strongly opposed to SB2114 which prohibits the feeding of feral animals and fines people for doing this. For a short bill, it is difficult to imagine that it could contain so many problems.

My first concern about this bill is its definition of feral animals. All animals that have escaped or been released from domestication are not feral. We see many cats that are abandoned by their owners. We see many cats that have been trapped by neighbors and dumped at the closest cat community. We see litters of kittens that are discarded by pet owners who have neglected to get their pets spayed or neutered. These animals are unfortunate victims of capricious, ill-informed, and cruel people.

If your concern really is about protecting the health and safety of school children, then up the budget for school nurses and guidance counselors. Fund libraries. Recruit and retain excellent teachers.

My other concern is that you are penalizing people who are doing something to try to reduce the number of unwanted pets on the islands by practicing trap, spay/neuter and adopt programs to help these poor lost creatures. Those of us who do this work put our own time and money into feeding, fostering, veterinary treatment, reuniting kidnapped pets with their owners or finding them new loving and compassionate homes.

Please do not vote this bill out of committee. Please defer it. It will not work and it will cause unnecessary grief for compassionate people and horror for pets whose only fault is that they have had an irresponsible person in their life.

We have so much to work on to improve the lives of children. Let's spend our time and energy on creating something positive.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Hawaiian Paradise Park

Keaau, HI 96749

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:05:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I feed a **large colony of cats** and because **we feed along with TNR** the colony has gone from just under 400 cats to approximately 150 cats. If noone had done anything about this colony, it would have continued to grow. This is a **healthy colony that is fed nightly** so these cats are expected to live 7-10 years. We are already seeing attrition lowering the size (For example, we just brought two 10 year olds to the vet, one to be euthanized and the other was examined and will live out her last days with a foster.)

The lessons to be learned here are that FEEDING and TNR over the years has kept them healthy AND this method works to humanely take care of abandoned cats (keeping them healthy) while taking care of the areas they live in.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:14:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Paltin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2114

Mahalo,

Tamara Paltin

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 7:16:53 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this to help control the feral cat population in our state. The cats are out of control & something needs to be done. Mahalo & please pass this measure!!

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:03:03 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Kidani, Vice Chairperson Mercado Kim and Members of the Committee on Education.

Please support Senate Bill 2114 relating to feral animals with the amendment being asked for by the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS). While I support the intent of this bill to protect the safety and health of Hawaii's children, I agree with the HHS that animals being cared for in a humane population management program should be an exception to this bill.

Again, please support Senate Bill 2114 with the amendment being asked for by the Hawaiian Humane Society.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:12:32 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please amend SB2114 as recommended by the Hawaiian Humane Society, by adding an amendment based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that “Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program.” Thank you.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu, HI 96816

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 1:03:24 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

support an amendment based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that “Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program.”

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/2/2024 5:46:20 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Brehm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I don't know why it continues to surprise me, but somehow it does, that our legislature refuses to address the actual causes of homeless animals, or "feral animals" as is the current bogeyman terminology, in Hawaii, and instead resorts to these unscientific, completely ineffective measures instead.

The very basis upon which this bill is predicated has no evidence in submission, unless I somehow missed the accounts of cases of disease shown to be transmitted by homeless animals.

Your definition includes domestic animals which may have "escaped" and for whom owners are looking. The emotional investment and impact of this, particularly on the children, is awful, and oftentimes such pets are found in nearby areas, including schools, and reunited with their owners. Perhaps I'm unaware of a method by which you can determine which family pets have recently become homeless (or "escaped"--have they been imprisoned against their will? Such an odd word choice.) and those family pets who have been left outside long enough to become "wild"? If so, perhaps that should be made clear.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, the way Hawaii continues to legislate against kindness and compassion, on behalf of a small group of people who wish to make the life of domestic and homeless animals difficult, if not eradicate them altogether, is disgraceful.

I strongly oppose SB2114 and urge the legislature, again, to work with all stakeholders in addressing the homeless animal situation in our state.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:57:07 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in opposition to SB2114.

Most feral animal communities are fed by a series of caretakers who are also responsible for spaying and neutering them. This bill makes it difficult to humanely care for abandoned animals who suffer horribly, through no fault of their own, on the streets.

This bill creates an insurmountable obstacle to compassionately reducing the number of houseless, suffering cats near schools. Feeding is a vital part of trap-neuter-return for free-roaming cats.

Please do not pass this bill--it will only cause suffering and not prevent feral kitties from roaming the area they were abandoned in.

I strongly oppose bill SB 2114.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 11:47:54 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Torun Almer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this legislation as feeding is an integral part of trap/neuter/return/manage which has overwhelming shown to be the most effective way to deal with neighborhood cat colonies regardless of where they may be found.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 12:48:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandie Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because I think more studies need to be conducted. I love our keiki and animals, and we need a solution that protects both. Thank you.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/3/2024 6:24:49 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lee Cuccia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I understand the concerns of feral cats on school campuses however starving cats is not the answer. This bill if passed would cause a lot of suffering to innocent animals. It would also greatly impede efforts to trap and neuter or spay them. Please don't pass this and cause even more difficulties and death to these animals.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:16:14 AM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is riddled with misinformation, and is not based on factual data. The Dept. of Health has testified, I believe last session, that feral chickens, or their droppings, ARE NOT diseases causing vectors. Neither has the DOH received any reports of any feral cat on school grounds causing any harm or illness to any school child. Several years back, some ignorant, fear mongering legislators attempted to blame feral cats near schools for cat scratch disease, yet time has proven their unjust assumptions absolutely false. The Dept. of Health has never had such a case. And, how would you know if a cat seen on school campus is truly feral, and not an owned pet allowed to free roam, as most are? And, what about the irresponsible dog owners leaving poop all over the school campus on a daily basis? THAT'S the real nuisance that needs addressing!

As for feral chickens, the reason they are multiplying is NOT because they are fed. Cats, rats, and mongoose eat the eggs and chicks. COCKFIGHTERS are responsible for the feral numbers statewide, continually dumping unwanted hens and chicks, and raising fighting roosters in the bushes, this according to repeated testimonies by the Hawaiian Humane Society. Only when lawmakers get this, and focus instead on creating EFFECTIVE laws to END COCKFIGHTING, will the chickens illegally exploited for profit also end. It's not ok to starve any animal to death.

I am an Oahu native and reside in Palolo.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 12:02:00 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Himenes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill represents the epitome of cruelty to animals by letting them starve to death. The cats are not causing the problem, irresponsible owners are by not spaying & neutering.

Cat caretakers actually help control the population issue as they trap & cats are spayed/ neutered and vaccinated. Cats also help control the rat population which threaten bird species as well diseases spread by rats.

Committee: Senate Committee on Education
Bill Number: SB 2114, Relating to Feral Animals
Hearing Date & Time: February 5, 2024 at 3:15pm
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Opposition to SB 2114**

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Committee Members:

My name is Malia Wisch, and I am actively involved in local efforts to reduce the population of free-roaming cats on O'ahu.

As part of my TNRM (Trap-Neuter-Return-Manage) volunteer efforts over the years, I have worked with the Hawaiian Humane Society (HHS), Cat Friends Hawaii, Popoki Place O'ahu Cat Sanctuary, Greater Good Charities' Fix events, Lucky Paws Animal Foundation, KAT Charities and more.

I am testifying in opposition of SB 2114, which prohibits the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from Department of Education public school campuses and establishes fines.

For 15 years, my home shared a fence with Enchanted Lakes Elementary School. While I owned that house, I trapped and fixed several free-roaming cats in my backyard, ensuring they would not reproduce so their population would decrease over time. Feeding is a critical, necessary part of the TNRM process. **If this bill were passed, it seems I would be fined for and prohibited from providing this valuable community service to my neighbors from my own property.**

I never like to shoot down an idea without offering alternatives. Please consider supporting these active, local efforts instead to humanely reduce the population of free-roaming cats:

- **Make spay/neuter surgeries more accessible.** Volunteers fixed over 15,000 stray cats last year through the Hawaiian Humane Society and the NPO Cat Friends. Their slots fill up weeks or months in advance, so we have not yet maxed out the capacity of TNRM just through volunteer efforts.
- **Subsidize a public education campaign** to encourage cat owners to keep them indoors or in enclosures, and the importance of spay/neuter for their pets and their communities.
- **Incentivise landlords to make rentals pet-friendly**, which would reduce the abandonment of pet cats and the prevalence of free-roaming pet cats.
- **Support cat sanctuaries** to enable the relocation of cats away from sensitive areas.

Mahalo nui loa for considering my testimony.

Sara Malia Wisch
629 Hanale Place, Kailua HI 96734
808-341-4543
malia@wisch-design.com

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:12:51 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Marie Saymon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While we appreciate the concerns about the health and safety of our keiki, as written the bill presents a barrier to humanely reducing the population of homeless cats living near schools. Feeding is an essential component of trap-neuter-return for Free-Roaming cats. **We will be asking for an amendment based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that “Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program.”**

- Feeding is an important component of trap-neuter-return, which is the only humane option for controlling free-roaming cats

- Without feeding and TNR, more cats will be on campuses - this is the opposite of what we want

- Without feeding, cats will scavenge and that will equal cats looking for food in school trash cans and dumpsters

- Responsible feeding should be done when students are not on campus and no trash or leftover food should be left behind

- Teaching students about TNR and responsible colony care is an opportunity for project-based learning and the importance of being a responsible steward in your own community

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 1:32:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Loftus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

- Feeding is an important component of trap-neuter-return, which is the only humane option for controlling free-roaming cats
- Without feeding and TNR, more cats will be on campuses - this is the opposite of what we want
- Without feeding, cats will scavenge and that will equal cats looking for food in school trash cans and dumpsters
- Responsible feeding should be done when students are not on campus and no trash or leftover food should be left behind
- Teaching students about TNR and responsible colony care is an opportunity for project-based learning and the importance of being a responsible steward in your own community

Mahalo nui loa

Elizabeth Loftus

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:03:05 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Cornejo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here's my testimony.

- Feeding is an important component of trap-neuter-return, which is the only humane option for controlling free-roaming cats
- **Without feeding and TNR, more cats will be on campuses - this is the opposite of what we want**
- **Without feeding, cats will scavenge and that will equal cats looking for food in school trash cans and dumpsters**
- Responsible feeding should be done when students are not on campus and no trash or leftover food should be left behind
- Teaching students about TNR and responsible colony care is an opportunity for project-based learning and the importance of being a responsible steward in your own community

Not feeding the cats on a daily regular schedule will cause the cats to get on the campus night/day scavenging for food therefore defeats the purpose of this potential new rule.

Thank you so much for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Crystal Cornejo

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:06:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Conway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Feeding is an important component of trap-neuter-return, which is the only humane option for controlling free-roaming cats
- Without feeding and TNR, more cats will be on campuses - this is the opposite of what we want
- Without feeding, cats will scavenge and that will equal cats looking for food in school trash cans and dumpsters
- Responsible feeding should be done when students are not on campus and no trash or leftover food should be left behind
- Teaching students about TNR and responsible colony care is an opportunity for project-based learning and the importance of being a responsible steward in your own community

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:15:46 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Wall-Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is vital to the future hope for reduction of abandoned/unwanted cats that feral colonies be allowed to exist and thrive regardless of their location. Feeding at these colonies enables feeders to immediately identify abandoned/new cats which are not neutered or spayed and have the potential to add to the number of feral cats within the community. The immediate identification process is vital for TNR to succeed. Persistent colony feeding in conjunction with consistent TNR will enable Hawaii to potentially reduce the number of feral population by more than 1/3 every two years resulting in possible controlled communities by 2028-2030. Feral cat colonies form wherever these cats come together and are not established by humans. If feeding feral cat colonies currently established near schools ceases the TNR process for that location and others near will fail causing Hawaii's feral population to increase exponentially.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:31:01 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Mertens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully, please reconsider the wording for SB2114.

Feeding is an essential component of trap-neuter-return for Free-Roaming cats. Please amend/revise to (based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2): "Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program."

Let's set the example for keiki (even in school settings) that compassion and responsibility for all animals starts with them.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:31:57 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tran Vo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senate Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the bill SB2114 for the following reasons:

The feral population on island is the direct result of negligence and ignorance of people. Instead of ignoring the root cause of the problem and the subsequent responsibility (i.e., adding a fine), it is more effective to put resources to solve the problem.

- Feeding is an important component of trap-neuter-return, which is the ONLY humane option for controlling free-roaming cats.
- Without feeding and TNR, more cats will be on campuses - this is the opposite of what we want.
- Without feeding, cats will scavenge and that will equal cats looking for food in school trash cans and dumpsters.
- Responsible feeding should be done when students are not on campus and no trash or leftover food should be left behind. This is where you can opt to add fines, only with the intention to use the resulting funds to invest it back into the needs to solve the problem. Like, for example, more affordable spay/neuter surgeries, a cat sanctuary, and more education programs.
- Teaching students about TNR and responsible colony care is an opportunity for project-based learning and the importance of being a responsible steward in your own community.

Thank you for your time.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:41:17 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to submit my opposition to SB2114 regarding fines for feeding of feral animals on Department of Education campuses. Feeding free-roaming cats is a vital part of TNR (trap-neuter-release) programs. TNR has been well-demonstrated to be the most effective and humane way to control free-roaming cat populations. Feeding as part of a TNR program can be done in a manner which is respectful of the surroundings and safe for students. For example, by keeping the feeding area clean and not feeding in an area disruptive to students. In addition, these TNR programs are actually something the students can learn from. They set a wonderful example of working together to responsibly care for animals and for our community.

Thank you so much for your kind consideration.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 2:58:52 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this concerns,

Cats being starved will only intensify the situation. Not feeding cats on certain properties, although may seem like the final and a good solution, it is not. Not only is it INHUMANE, but it is imperative to keep colony numbers down. When we can feed cats at a designated time and place, they will come on schedule, and therefore trap, neuter, and release efforts can continue. If left unattended, without TNR, colonies will continue to multiply. Cats will eat garbage, which is often found near buildings and people.

I have been a cat rescuer for many years, and this sort of legislature only harms the community. It is not a long term solution, it is not even a short term solution. There are many other solutions that need to be looked at. No feline advocate, who wants all cats safe and to not harm the environment or the community, would think this is a good idea. Only those who despise cats would encourage this as a "good idea".

I have put the financial, emotional, and time burdens on myself to help cats. When you help cats you help the community. What kind of lesson would we be teaching our youth, to let innocent animals starve? To ignore them? To not offer help? This sounds like reckless and senseless suffering. The state of Hawaii knows suffering in its many forms. Don't add this one to the list.

Solutions that do make sense: 1. Responsible feeding when students are not on the property. No trash or leftover food should be left behind. 2. Teaching children about the importance of animal welfare as a measurement of health of a community. Being a responsible steward of the community you inhabit.

Problems to expect: 1. cats scavenging for food in garbage and dumpsters near buildings and children. 2. Without feeding there is no TNR and that means the population will INCREASE EXPONENTIALLY. Making the problem worse.

Let's be compassionate, let's be curious about solutions, and let's be the best we can be. Letting anything or anyone starve sounds like a desperate measure. Let us all take a second and use our brains and our hearts to figure this one out. And hey, maybe some funding to help the cats. Because if we prevent suffering of our houseless cats, and we can, we can set a precedent to other communities, to our children, and even to ourselves that we are a kind society and all God's creatures deserve respect.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Dr Kristine Williams

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:13:22 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Schumacher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

While I appreciate the concerns about the health and safety of our keiki, as written the bill presents a barrier to humanely reducing the population of homeless cats living near schools. Feeding is an essential component of trap-neuter-return for Free-Roaming cats. We will be asking for an amendment based on language in Hawaii Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that "Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program."

Imposing fines and banning people from feeding feral animals will severely impact the positive effects of proper Trap Neuter Return efforts in reducing the wild and free-roaming cats on the island.

Without organized feedings, more cats can find their way onto campuses in search of food. TNR communities help organize and establish colonies for free-roaming, allowing the cats to know their designated feeders as well as the times they are fed. Without these consistencies of a food source, cats will begin to spread out, roam, and forage for food. This means cats finding their way onto campuses searching for leftover food left in trash cans and dumpsters.

Our keiki would benefit from service projects where they learn about responsible pet ownership, neutering their own animals, and becoming responsible members of our community as they grow.

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:17:35 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members:

My name is Barbara Cigainero and I am a resident of Keaau, on the Big Island of Hawaii. I am in strong opposition to SB 2114 that relates to so-called feral animals. My opposition is primarily due to the definition within the bill for the term "feral animal."

I am one of hundreds of volunteers in this state that feed and tend to cats and kittens that have either been abandoned by their owners or trapped and dumped by neighbors. We refer to these cats that live in colonies as community cats.

In the past year alone, I have personally rescued and fostered more than 40 cats/kittens out of one of the local transfer stations. I belong to an organization that fosters, vaccinates, microchips and spay or neuters cats from these abandoned situations. In addition, we provide any necessary medical attention to the animals we foster to prepare them for new homes. None of these animals meet any definition of wild and they are generally eager to be re-united with previous owner if they were trapped or new owners if they were abandoned.

The County of Hawaii has set local regulations about feeding feral animals at a transfer station that includes a significant fine. While the purpose of those regulations may have been focussed on feral pigs, SB 2114 would create a great likelihood that the definition as currently proposed would subject colony cat feeders to harsh penalties.

I imagine that the problem I am describing is unintended by the bill proposer. I hope if the bill is given consideration that it would be possible to find a way to amend the definition to avoid the concerns I have expressed.

Thank you for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:17:11 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Kaio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

I am a mother of 4 children so I understand the importance of protecting the health and safety of our keiki which is the purpose of Bill SB2214. However, I am also an owner of 3 beautiful rescue cats and know that this bill will only make the feral cat situation worst. My testimony today is not to oppose the bill but to have it state that "nothing in this bill will apply to animals being cared for as part of a designated population management program."

I volunteer in these management programs by providing food for the animals, helping with TNR (trap/neuter/release) and for medical care, help find fosters or adopters for socialized kittens/cats, etc and have seen the good these programs do. TNR is a necessity in order to maintain the control of the feral population and feeding these ferals is a key component to TNRing. If feeding is banned, the population will grow out of control and these cats will start going on the school campuses to scavenge for food in the trash cans and dumpsters. I request allowing these management programs to continue responsible feeding when the children are not on campus as well as teaching the students about TNR and responsible colony care as an opportunity for project-based learning. This will not only keep the feral population in check, but also teach the future generation how to be model citizens in the community as well as caring human beings.

As our keikis deserve to be protected at all cost, these animals too deserve protection and life so I hope you find in favor of omitting population management programs from this bill.

Thank you,

Renee K.

SB-2114

Submitted on: 2/4/2024 3:33:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/5/2024 3:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and esteemed Committee,

I am testifying in opposition to SB2114 as it relates to the feeding of feral animals within a certain distance from D.O.E public school campuses.

The bill, as written, presents a barrier to to humanely reducing the population of homeless cats living near schools. In order for "Trap-Neuter-Return" (TNR) programs to be effective, we need to be able to feed cats in order to trap them in the first place.

Please consider an amendment to Hawai'i Revised Statutes 143-2.2 stating that "Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to animals being cared for as a part of a designated population management program".

Mahalo for your consideration,

Abby Simmons

Hawai'i Island