

MAR 07 2025

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO IDENTIFY EXISTING
DEPARTMENTAL LANDS THAT ARE UNSUITABLE FOR AGRICULTURAL USE
BUT MAY BE UTILIZED AS PET ANIMAL SANCTUARIES.

1 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to protect
2 endangered indigenous wildlife, which hold ecological, economic,
3 and spiritual importance to the people of Hawaii; and
4

5 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to over four hundred threatened or
6 endangered species, many of which are particularly vulnerable to
7 predation and parasitic infection by feral cats; and
8

9 WHEREAS, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council lists feral
10 cats as one of the most devastating threats to the State's
11 unique wildlife; and
12

13 WHEREAS, feral cats on islands are responsible for at least
14 fourteen percent of global bird, mammal, and reptile extinctions
15 and are the principal threat to nearly eighty percent of
16 critically endangered bird, mammal, and reptile species; and
17

18 WHEREAS, feral cats are the greatest source of direct,
19 human-associated mortality to birds in the United States,
20 killing approximately 2.4 billion birds per year; and
21

22 WHEREAS, uncontrolled feral cats prey on native birds
23 endemic to Hawaii's forests, shorelines, and wetlands, posing an
24 existential threat to endangered species such as uau and palila;
25 and
26

27 WHEREAS, cats are the definitive hosts that harbor the
28 deadly parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*, which is fatal to other
29 organisms, including the state mammal, the endangered Hawaiian
30 monk seal; and
31

32 WHEREAS, *Toxoplasma gondii* can also infect vulnerable human
33 populations, including pregnant women and those with weakened
34 immune systems; and
35



1 WHEREAS, approximately two million feral cats live in
2 Hawaii, and mitigation efforts have been ineffective in reducing
3 the population or curbing its fatal impact on native wildlife;
4 and

5
6 WHEREAS, one female cat and her offspring are estimated to
7 produce more than four hundred thousand cats within seven years,
8 rendering euthanasia initiatives incapable of addressing the
9 feral cat population's exponential growth; and

10
11 WHEREAS, despite their moderate success, existing
12 Trap-Neuter-Return programs have not substantially alleviated
13 the threat of feral cats in the State; and

14
15 WHEREAS, pet animal sanctuaries present a potentially
16 viable method for protecting Hawaii's endangered species by
17 separating feral cats from the vulnerable wildlife upon which
18 they prey, increasing the sterilization rates, providing
19 sustainable alternative food sources, and socializing feral cats
20 so that community members can safely adopt them; now, therefore,

21
22 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
23 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025,
24 that the Department of Agriculture is requested to identify
25 existing departmental lands unsuitable for agricultural use that
26 may be leased or used as pet animal sanctuaries; and

27
28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
29 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
30 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
31 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
32 the Regular Session of 2026; and

33
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
36 Agriculture.

37
38
39

OFFERED BY: _____

