

MAR 07 2025

SENATE CONCURRENT 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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1 WHEREAS, *Toxoplasma gondii* can also infect vulnerable human
2 populations, including pregnant women and those with weakened
3 immune systems; and
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5 WHEREAS, approximately two million feral cats live in
6 Hawaii, and mitigation efforts have been ineffective in reducing
7 the population or curbing its fatal impact on native wildlife;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, one female cat and her offspring are estimated to
11 produce more than four hundred thousand cats within seven years,
12 rendering euthanasia initiatives incapable of addressing the
13 feral cat population's exponential growth; and
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15 WHEREAS, despite their moderate success, existing
16 Trap-Neuter-Return programs have not substantially alleviated
17 the threat of feral cats in the State; and
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19 WHEREAS, pet animal sanctuaries present a potentially
20 viable method for protecting Hawaii's endangered species by
21 separating feral cats from the vulnerable wildlife upon which
22 they prey, increasing the sterilization rates, providing
23 sustainable alternative food sources, and socializing feral cats
24 so that community members can safely adopt them; now, therefore,
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26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
29 Agriculture is requested to identify existing departmental lands
30 unsuitable for agricultural use that may be leased or used as
31 pet animal sanctuaries; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Agriculture
34 is requested to submit a report of its findings and
35 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
36 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
37 the Regular Session of 2026; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the
3 Board of Agriculture.
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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. L. L.', written over a horizontal line.