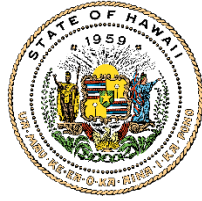


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

DIVISION OF AQUATIC RESOURCES
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 330
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
FIRST DEPUTY
M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

July 25, 2023

TO: Board of Agriculture, Hawaii Department of Agriculture
FROM: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources
SUBJECT: Testimony on Plant Quarantine Branch Agenda Item #1

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) **opposes the request from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to initiate administrative rule-making and rule amendment to Ch. 4-71 to change the list placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, crossed of the Serval cat with the domestic cat, on the list of prohibited animals to enable individual possession.**

The introduction of such a cat will increase the already known impacts of the large abundance of feral cats and cats at large (outdoor pet cats) in the Hawaiian islands. There are an estimated 300,000 feral cats on O'ahu alone. At present, Humane Societies across the state are at full capacity and are unable to handle cats brought in for adoption—feral or domestic—so cannot assist with removing cats from the landscape.

Cats are the only known species that spreads *Toxoplasma gondii* eggs into the environment. *Toxoplasma gondii* is a single-celled protozoan parasite with a variety of host organisms. Cats are the definitive host, where the parasite can complete its life cycle and reproduce, making cats the only species that can shed infective oocysts (parasite eggs). Cats can shed millions of oocysts in their feces throughout the watershed, mauka to makai. The oocysts can live at least two years in freshwater, salt water and soil. In wildlife, *Toxoplasma gondii* causes organ damage in multiple organs (including the brain), reproductive failure, and death. In humans, *Toxoplasma gondii* can cause serious illness; if pregnant women are infected, *Toxoplasma gondii* can cause stillbirth, or hydrocephaly, microcephaly, neurological damage, or blindness in the baby. To date, there are 15 known Hawaiian monk seal deaths due to toxoplasmosis, likely an underestimate because many seals die undetected or found in advanced decomposition. In Hawai'i, two spinner dolphins have died of the disease and recently, a bottlenose dolphin. Toxoplasmosis is also a threat to endangered native bird species including the nene and 'alalā.

To diminish the threat of toxoplasmosis to Hawai'i's native wildlife, the input of oocysts into the environment must be reduced, requiring the reduction of feral and pet cats that shed oocysts into the environment. DAR cannot allow the introduction of a hybrid cat species with unknown genetic and behavioral predispositions and disease transmission potential to Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition.

Clingan, Marci

From: Alice Olivia Flyng <alice.olivia.f@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:38 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in favor of banning the importation of exotic animals

Dear HDOA,

I support a ban on the importation of exotic animals.

Best regards,
Alice Olivia Flyng

Clingan, Marci

From: Suhani Sahoonya <suhanimahajan11@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:16 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in favour of banning the importation of exotic animals

Hi there,

It is 2023. Clearly humans have found 2023 new ways of entertaining themselves than to rely on wild animals to parade and perform for them like they are not a living being with emotions . Please stop 🙏

Thank you
Suhani Mahajan

Clingan, Marci

From: Jaime Turgeon <jaime.turgeon@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, July 24, 2023 11:26 AM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY In favor of banning the import of exotic animals

I fully support a ban on the importation of exotic animals for exhibition in Hawaii.
Thank you.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Hob Osterlund](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose rule change
Date: Friday, July 21, 2023 11:55:29 AM
Attachments: [small - Kauai Albatross Network final logo with website TRANSPARENT copy.png](#)
[small - Kauai Wildlife Coalition Circle copy.png](#)

Aloha HDOA Board,

I stand in fierce opposition to the proposed rule change to allow cat hybrids to even step foot in Hawaii. The feral cat population is already totally out of control, and these cats are putting more and more pressure on our native birds. The one thing they don't need is bigger fiercer predators roaming around. The transition of our shelters to "no kill" has made the problem exponentially worse, since these shelters have washed their hands of the feral cat issue.

I beg you to deny this rule change.

Please don't be fooled by any excuse to bring hybrid cats here.

Mahalo.

[Senior Fellow, Safina Center](#)

[Founder and Bird Guide, Kaua'i Albatross Network](#)

[Author, Holy Mōi: Albatross and Other Ancestors \(multiple printings\)](#)

[Producer, Telly Award-winning "Kalama's Journey"](#)

[Photographer, Audubon Top 100, 2019](#)

[Recipient, Koa Conservation Leadership Award, Conservation Council for Hawai'i, 2022](#)



From: lindasherylmolino@gmail.com
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY in favor of Banning The Importation of Exotic and All Animals
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 3:46:21 AM

Dear Hawaii Board and To Whom This May Concern,

I hope this email finds you all in good health and spirits. I am writing on behalf of EK Fernandez Shows to never again use animals for their entertainment purposes and for the BANNING OF IMPORTATION OF EXOTIC AND ALL (WILD) ANIMALS .

For example, Tyke the elephant was used inhumanly and escaped the circus in your beautiful state of Hawaii and was shot 86 times before dying in the streets of Honolulu. Animals are often subjected to inhumane conditions and circumstances in various industries and one in particular is entertainment. They are treated as mere commodities and their well being is often compromised for the lining of the entertainers pockets for profit.

Please be willing to support this cause and stop this which is absolutely repulsive!!!!

With your help we can make a difference in the lives of animals in need. They deserve to just be, since all animals have souls, have feelings and to ensure they are treated with the respect and dignity they so deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration and I look forward to your support.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Linda Molino
43 Concord St
Clifton, NJ 07013
Sent from my iPhone

From: [christina richman](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY In Favor Of Banning The Importation Of Exotic Animals!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 12:54:54 AM

Please stop this cruel and unnecessary practice.
Have a beautiful day!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Dablu Kumat](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY in favor of Banning the importation of Exotic Animals!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 2:16:10 AM

I support a ban on the importation of exotic animals for exhibition in hawaii.

From: [Kayla Worden](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Favor of Banning the Importation of Exotic Animals!
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:54:46 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

As a homeowner in Hawaii, I am writing to you to urge you to please ban the importation and exhibition of exotic animals in Hawaii.

Allowing this importation and exhibition of exotic animals is extremely dangerous for all concerned, both human and non-human alike. And it is extremely cruel to these beautiful beings in question.

Please do the compassionate and sensible thing and BAN the importation and exhibition of these exotic animals in our beautiful state now.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kayla Worden

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

From: [Mele Ana Kastner](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition to cat hybrids
Date: Monday, July 24, 2023 7:03:44 AM

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in opposition to the introduction of cat hybrids in Hawaii. We have already seen the effects that feral cats have had on our native bird population. Should we see cats crossbred with servals introduced to the islands, these cats could breed with the current feral feline population and introduce traits that improve their size and hunting efficiency.

Please do not allow these felines onto our islands.

Mahalo,

Mele Ana Kastner



Bringing back the birds

July 24, 2023

The Honorable Sharon Hurd
Hawai'i Board of Agriculture
1428 S. King Street
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: Petition to Allow Importation of Savannah Cats

Chairperson Hurd:

On behalf of American Bird Conservancy and our members throughout Hawai'i, I am writing to express our **opposition** to the petition by Ms. Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to remove the hybrid feline known as "savannah cats" from the List of Prohibited Animals.

American Bird Conservancy is sympathetic to the needs of Ms. Nerveza-Clark regarding her specific savannah cats and recognizes her assurances of safety for the cats and the community. However, a sweeping authorization enabling the importation and possession of savannah cats throughout Hawai'i is inappropriate and would constitute a grave threat to Hawai'i's native wildlife.

Savannah cats are a hybrid feline consisting of a cross between the domestic cat (*Felis catus*) and the African serval (*Leptailurus serval*, aka *Felis serval*). Servals are considerably larger than a domestic cat and skillful predators that can leap high into the air to catch birds. Should any savannah cats escape confinement, be purposely released, or begin to breed in Hawai'i, the consequences could be disastrous.

Hawai'i is already experiencing a domestic cat crisis. In short, there are too many domestic cats for the number of homes that want pet cats, and the impacts of these animals on the landscape are vast and include the unsustainable killing of Hawai'i's native birds, as well as parasite and disease transmission to people, domestic animals, and wildlife.

Domestic cats are among the world's most harmful invasive species and instinctive predators that have contributed to the extinction of two endemic Hawaiian species, the Lāna'i Hookbill and Moho (Hawaiian Rail), and the decline of countless others. Sadly, Hawai'i is already the bird extinction capital of the world. Introducing new, hybrid felines to the mix could transform the existing domestic cat population through interbreeding and escalate the level of devastation already imposed upon Hawai'i's at-risk, native birds.

Consequently, American Bird Conservancy stands in agreement with the Plant Quarantine Board and its recommendation to deny the request to initiate rulemaking.



Bringing back the birds

Mahalo for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grant Sizemore".

Grant Sizemore, M.S., CWB®
Director of Invasive Species Programs



The Wildlife Society
Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 22192
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96823-2192

To: Hawaii Board of Agriculture

From: The Wildlife Society, Hawaii Chapter

Re: Subject: (1) Request for Review of the Petition from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to Initiate Administrative Rule Making and Rule Amendment to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), to Change the List Placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, crosses of the Serval, *Felis (Leptailurus) serval* with the domestic cat, *Felis catus*, From the List of Prohibited Animals to enable individual possession.

The Wildlife Society (TWS), Hawai'i Chapter is strongly opposed to the above request to change the list placement of hybrid cats of any kind (including "Savanna cats"). Cats that are hybrids between domestic cats and other Felids including Servals (hybrids) are on the Prohibited Animals list for good reason and must remain prohibited.

TWS is composed of wildlife professionals within the State of Hawai'i and is dedicated to the conservation and preservation of flora and fauna endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.

It is well documented that Hawaii's native species are highly impacted by cats both directly through predation and through the diseases that cats carry. Hawaii's native species, including birds and marine mammals, evolved without cats in the environment and therefore do not have the behaviors, awareness, or immunity to the threats cats pose. Bringing additional cats of non-domestic hybrids in the mix would increase these cats' predatory abilities. This in turn would allow such cats to increase their impact into areas they are not currently. Some of these places which are the last refuges of these rare and endangered species.

Unfortunately, our current regulations, laws, and enforcement are not enough to protect much our native species from the impacts of outdoor domestic cats. Should there be additional non-domestic Felids introduced, even as hybrids, more of our native birds and marine mammals will be pushed towards extinction.

TWS urges the Board of Agriculture to continue to protect Hawaii's wildlife by rejecting the petitioner's request and continuing to prohibit the importation of non-domestic cats including hybrids such as the "Savanna cat".

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter. Should you have any questions regarding our testimony, please contact our Conservation Affairs Chair, Patrick Chee, at twshicac@gmail.com .

Respectfully yours,

The Wildlife Society
Hawaii Chapter



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: July 21, 2023

To: Chairperson Sharon Hurd
and Members Hawai'i State Board of Agriculture

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

RE: Testimony with comments on Request for Review of the Petition from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to Initiate Administrative Rule Making and Rule Amendment to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), to Change the List Placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, crosses of the Serval, Felis (Leptailurus) serval with the domestic cat, Felis catus, From the List of Prohibited Animals to enable individual possession.
Tuesday, July 25, 2023, 9 a.m., Plant Quarantine Conference Room,
1849 Auiki St., Honolulu, HI 96819

The Hawaiian Humane Society is dedicated to promoting the human-animal bond and we are sympathetic to the hardship Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark has endured in being separated from her pets. Our concerns about this petition are not personal to her situation.

Hawaiian Humane is grateful for the rules the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture has in place to prohibit the importation of exotic animals to be kept as pets. Undomesticated birds, reptiles, hedgehogs, monkeys, exotic cats and other species, whether wild caught or captive bred, are not suitable as companion animals because it is not possible to address these animals' behavioral and psychological needs in captivity. Regardless of how far removed from the Serval cat an individual Savannah cat might be, it owes its existence to wild animals that are being kept in captivity to create this line of designer pets.

Savannah cats are a lucrative business, with individual animals selling for \$20,000-\$30,000. With its rabies-free status, Hawai'i would be an attractive location for anyone wanting to breed these animals for export. The fact that wild animals are kept in captivity in these operations and that the state does not regulate animal breeders would combine to create an animal welfare disaster.

Hawaiian Humane has also invested enormous resources in the humane management of our existing Free-Roaming cat population. We implore you not to further exacerbate this already complex issue.

We defer to the department as to whether it is possible to help the petitioner reunite with her pets without opening the door to these other harms. The cats already exist, they are unable to breed and she has made a commitment to keep them indoors. We would not oppose such a solution. We strenuously oppose any broader exemption to the existing rules.

Mahalo for your consideration and please let me know if I can be of any assistance.

Clingan, Marci

From: Belinda Isley <belindaroseisley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2023 3:40 AM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in favor of banning the importation of exotic animals

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Animals are sentient beings and do not want to be forced to perform for us, nor should they be! They want to live their lives in their natural setting.

Please ban the importation of exotic animals.

Sincerely,

Belinda Isley

Clingan, Marci

From: Luke Swann <lukeswann501@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2023 1:54 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] TESTIMONY

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

End the importation and exploitation of innocent exotic animals. Like Tyke the elephant from 27 years ago who was mercilessly abused and then killed! This is abhorrent in all manners of human morality!

From: [Laura Berthold](#)
To: [HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Request for Review of the Petition from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to Initiate Administrative Rule Making and Rule Amendment to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), to Change the List Placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, cros...
Date: Monday, July 31, 2023 10:07:30 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to **oppose the request for hybrid Savannah cats to be removed from the Prohibited Animals list.**

This prohibition needs to continue.

As we know, domestic cats are decimating several of Hawaii's native species already. Having the potential of these hybrid cats introduced is of grave concern because they could cause significantly more predatory damage to wildlife and if released onto the landscape could breed their genes into the already large feral cat population. There is no place for non-domestic cats (including hybrids) in Hawaii. As we've seen with other exotic pets, there is the potential for these animals to be released onto the landscape and wreak havoc on our native ecosystems. Please prevent that and oppose this petition.

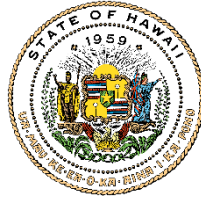
Again please support native wildlife and oppose this petition.

Mahalo,
Laura Berthold

--
Laura Berthold
Maui Forest Bird Recovery Project
Ornithological Research/Logistics Senior Technician
2465 Olinda Road, Makawao, HI 96768
(808) 573-0280- office
(808) 269-9381- cell
www.mauiforestbirds.org

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
1151 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND

July 25, 2023

TO: Board of Agriculture, Hawaii Department of Agriculture
FROM: Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
SUBJECT: Testimony on Plant Quarantine Branch Agenda Item #1

The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (Division) **opposes the request from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to initiate administrative rule-making and rule amendment to Ch. 4-71 to change the list placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, crossed of the Serval, with the domestic cat from the list of prohibited animals to enable individual possession.**

The Savannah cat is a hybrid of a domestic cat and an African serval, making the cat much larger than a normal domestic cat and retaining many of the serval's features including enhanced hunting capabilities. The hybridization with the serval cat poses major risks to native fauna. In Australia, attempts to import Serval cat hybrids have been denied because of the risk they would pose to Australia's native mammal and bird populations. An Australian study from 2019 predicted with modeling that an estimated "91% of Australia's extant terrestrial mammal fauna would likely face some risk of predation from savannah cats, including 93% of non-volant mammal species that have threatened conservation status" ([Dickman et al 2019](#)).

In Hawaii, many of our migratory and forest bird populations that still remain are already under threat from invasive species such as mosquitoes and free-roaming "domestic" cats. Free-roaming cats have been caught on game cameras predating on migratory seabirds (Image 1) and pose a major challenge for ongoing conservation efforts. They also spread toxoplasmosis to Hawaiian monk seals and birds. We have seen countless cats be abandoned into Hawaii's natural areas, parks, and public spaces where they pose an environmental and human health risk. The allowance of a new predator to Hawaii that has the potential to harm the unique fauna that is already at risk would be irresponsible and set a precedent that other harmful species could be removed from the prohibited list allowing their importation into the State for individual possession.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in opposition.



Image 1 (DLNR) Image from game camera in 2016 where researchers discovered the bodies of six endangered Hawaiian Petrels at a remote breeding colony in Hono o Na Pali Natural Area Reserve, Kauai. All had been dragged from their breeding burrows by feral cats and partially eaten, including one incident that was caught on a monitoring camera.



Board of Agriculture
July 25, 2023
Department of Agriculture
9 a.m. Plant Quarantine Branch
1849 Auiki Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96819

**Testimony to Oppose Amendment to Hawaii Administrative Rules, Ch 4-71
To Authorize Importation or Individual Possession of Serval Hybrids**

Aloha Chairperson and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **opposes amendment to chapter 71, Hawaii Administrative Rules, that would allow the importation or possession of the Savannah cat, crosses of the Serval, *Felis (Leptailurus) serval* with the domestic cat, *Felis catus*.**

The chapter 71 HAR Prohibited List includes any cross between a domestic cat and a species on the chapter 71 HAR Prohibited List or Restricted List. The serval is on the chapter 71 HAR Restricted List Part A (authorized for research and exhibition only; not for individual, private, or commercial use). The Prohibited List also includes all hybrid crosses where one or both parents are prohibited. Since a hybrid of a domestic cat x serval is prohibited, any cross of that hybrid with a domestic cat or another Savannah cat would also be prohibited.

We hope the Board will maintain the Savannah cat as a prohibited species. The potential impacts of Savannah cats in Hawaii are unknown. While some Savannah cat owners will be very conscientious and ensure that their Savannah cat is never allowed outside or to mix with stray or feral cat populations, other owners may not. A pet Savannah cat could also inadvertently sneak out from even the most conscientious owner.

The exact percentage of serval genes in each Savannah cat is unknown. Even if the Savannah cat is spayed or neutered, the larger size of Savannah cats compared to domestic cats and the potential for retention of serval traits could allow a Savannah cat to predate on native species more effectively or on a wider range of species than Hawaii's current feral or stray cat populations. The potential threat to native birds, including threatened and endangered species, and other species is unknown in Hawaii.

In 2008, the Australian Government published a Final Environmental Assessment of the Suitability of the Import of the Savannah Cat (Domestic Cat x Serval Hybrid Specimens) into

Australia.¹ That Assessment concluded, “the importation of Savannah Cats at any generation could exacerbate and increase the threat to the Australian environment.”² We hope the Department of Agriculture will thoroughly consider the risks described in that Assessment with respect to allowing importation of Savannah cats into Hawaii before making any amendment to the Savannah cat’s status in chapter 71, HAR.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this issue.

Aloha,



Christy Martin
CGAPS Program Manager



Stephanie Easley
CGAPS Legal Fellow

¹<http://www.environment.gov.au/archive/biodiversity/trade-use/publications/pubs/savannah-cat-assessment-report.pdf> (Australian Final Environmental Assessment)

² Australian Final Environmental Assessment, p. 33.

Clingan, Marci

From: helen raine <helenraine1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 5:30 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] testimony - hybrid cat ban

Dear Board,

As a conservation professional working in Hawai'i, I urge you in the strongest terms not to change, weaken or amend the current ban on the importation of hybrid cats to our island state. I see first hand on a regular basis the devastation that existing domestic cats cause to threatened and endangered wildlife in Hawai'i- allowing the importation of a potentially more deadly predator into the islands will continue to put pressure on native birds that are already close to extinction, with species such as the 'alae 'ula and koloa maoli numbering less than 1000 birds each globally. We have a responsibility to protect these native Hawaiian birds from predators - introducing new predators in the form of hybrid cats moves us further away from that goal. Moreover, I do not believe that the vast majority of local people would support the wishes of a small minority of people to bring these non native species into Hawai'i, given the appalling consequences of previous introductions on our unique wildlife.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and am happy to discuss this further.

Thanks and regards

Helen Raine
Biologist.

Clingan, Marci

From: Jessica Miller <jmiller@marstel-day.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2023 3:39 PM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Hybrid Cats in Hawaii

Hi,

I would like to provide a testimony against the petition to change the list placement of the hybrid Savannah cat from the list of prohibited animals to enable individual possession. Feral cats are already a significant issue in Hawai'i as they predate on threatened and endangered species that are critical to the ecosystem. The possibility for hybrid cats to escape or be released from their enclosed quarters poses unnecessary risk to current and future wildlife. I believe it is more appropriate to dedicate our time and resources to effectively addressing the current feral cat issue before introducing new and more dangerous cats to Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Jessica Miller
Climate Resilience and Natural Resource Partnerships Planner
<http://www.marstel-day.com>
(540) 498-8365

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Maui Nui Seabird
Recovery Project

P.O. Box 903, Makawao, HI 96768
808.572-3500 – mauinuiseabirds@gmail.com
www.mauinuiseabirds.org

July 20, 2023

To: Hawai'i Board of Agriculture

From: Jay F. Penniman
Manager, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project

Subject: Subject: (1) Request for Review of the Petition from Tiffany Leilani Nerveza-Clark to Initiate Administrative Rule Making and Rule Amendment to Chapter 4-71, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR), to Change the List Placement of the hybrid Savannah cat, crosses of the Serval, *Felis (Leptailurus) serval* with the domestic cat, *Felis catus*, From the List of Prohibited Animals to enable individual possession.

Please note my absolute opposition to approval of the above referenced Request for Review to change List Placement for these or any other *Felis species*.

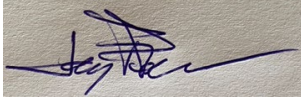
I manage the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) of the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, in close cooperation with the Hawai'i Division of Forestry & Wildlife. Our mission is to restore and protect Hawaiian native seabird populations.

Feral cats are one of the most invasive alien mammals that impact our native wildlife. They have no place on the landscape of the Hawaiian Islands. Before human occupation of the archipelago there were two mammals present; ilio-holo-i-ka-uaua (*Monachus schauinslandi*, Hawaiian monk seal) and 'Ōpe'ape'a (*Lasiurus cinereus*, Hawaiian hoary bat). Neither of these species predates Hawaiian avian species; seabirds, forest birds, or water birds. Therefore all of our native avifauna has evolved with no mammalian predator adaptation. Our birds are uniquely vulnerable to alien mammal predation. All *Felis species* are obligate carnivores; they are genetically programmed to hunt and present an insurmountable threat to our native wildlife. In addition, for the parasitic protozoan, *Toxoplasma gondii*, Felids are the only known definitive host in which the parasite may undergo sexual reproduction. The disease caused by this organism, Toxoplasmosis, may be passed to any mammal and has also infected nene (*Branta sandvicensis*, Hawaiian goose) and alala (*Corvus hawaiiensis*, Hawaiian crow).

Conservation biologists in Hawai'i are working to develop means to remove existing feral cats and maintained cats on the landscape. These mammals have no place free ranging on our islands. Adding the potential to increase the diversity of *Felids* in Hawai'i must be rejected. It seems that regulations requiring cats to be kept indoors or on leashes are routinely opposed by the cat care community. People regularly abandon pet cats, believing that the cats will be able to survive on their own and ignoring the fact that cats predate native wildlife and when freely roaming, have exposure to disease, and accidents when not kept as controlled pets.

Please reject this request and join in efforts to further regulate cats that are already held as pets. All cats should be treated as pets in the same way as dogs are. Cats should be licensed to individuals, be kept indoors and on leashes when outdoors. These requirements are best for the health and well being of the cats themselves as well as for protection of our native wildlife.

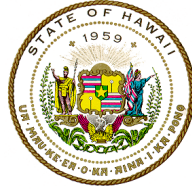
Mahalo nui for your attention,

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light-colored background. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Jay F. Penniman".

Jay F. Penniman

jayfp@hawaii.edu

808-280-4114



The Senate
Ka 'Aha Kenekoa

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

August 7, 2023

Board of Agriculture
Hawaii State Department of Agriculture
Agricultural Resource Management Division
1428 South King St.
Honolulu, HI 96814

RE: Schedule of Rates Fees and Charges for Irrigation Water Delivery Systems at All DOA Irrigation Systems

Dear Chairperson Hurd and Members of the Board of Agriculture,

I am writing to you on behalf of my former constituents and State Senator Tim Richards' current constituents in the Lalamilo Farm Lots Association (LFLA), as well as on our own behalf. We are writing to express our alarm and deep concern over the proposed increase of water rates from \$0.50 to \$1.11 per 1,000 gallons—a staggering and unacceptable 122% increase.

By way of introduction, LFLA has been at the forefront of Hawaiian agriculture since its formation nearly two decades ago. With vegetable farming as its central product and an irrigation system as its lifeblood, the association thrives within a unique and challenging environment. The foresight of the Territorial Land Department and Governors Quinn, Burns, and Ariyoshi established Hawaii's first and foremost agricultural park, giving life to what is otherwise a desert-like terrain.

Our concern arises from the proposed Administrative Rule Changes, Chapter 4-157, which would elevate the water rate in a manner that is both insensitive and unrealistically abrupt for the continued success and growth of our diversified agriculture. Such an increase undermines the historically intended affordable rates and threatens to revert the best farmlands back to non-productive dry-desert rangelands.

The justification for this exorbitant increase appears weak, especially when enforcement steps for the collection of delinquencies within the DOA's own 4-157 Rules seem to be ignored. This proposal does not align with our shared vision of self-sufficiency, sustainability, and food security for Hawaii's future.

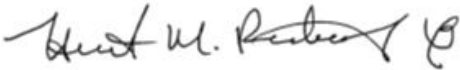
August 2, 2023
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We respectfully ask the board to reconsider the proposed water rate hike and consider the serious concerns from the Senators' constituents. In good faith, LFLA has submitted a proposal for water rate elevations that could more favorably work for agriculture's benefit, adhering to the incremental, affordable rates that were historically intended. We trust that you will give our deep concerns and LFLA's proposal your careful consideration. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Senator Lorraine R. Inouye
1st Senatorial District, Hawai'i Island



Senator Tim Richards,
4th Senatorial District, Hawai'i Island

cc: Lalamilo Farm Lots Association