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## HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

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### VOTING MEMBERS

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BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &  
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

## RESOLUTION 19-2

SUPPORTING THE KEEPING OF PET CATS INDOORS AND THE USE OF PEER-REVIEWED SCIENCE IN PURSUING HUMANE MITIGATION OF THE IMPACTS OF FERAL CATS ON WILDLIFE AND PEOPLE

WHEREAS feral and free-roaming cats have been documented as predators of wildlife native to Hawaii, including endangered bird species; and

WHEREAS the toxoplasmosis parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*) reproduces only in the feline digestive system; and

WHEREAS toxoplasmosis has been documented as the cause of death in both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife in Hawaii, including but not limited to the spinner dolphin, the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, the endangered alala, the endangered nene, and the red-footed booby; and

WHEREAS in humans toxoplasmosis can present health risks to pregnant women and/or immunocompromised persons if they handle cat feces or eat raw or undercooked meat; and

RECOGNIZING that previous public policy discussions in Hawaii have included consideration of funding or exempting from other laws practitioners of a system referred to as “Trap-Neuter-Return” that includes the re-release of neutered feral cats into the wild; and

RECOGNIZING that indoor cats have greater life expectancy than free roaming or feral cats; and

RECOGNIZING that numerous scientific studies, summarized in a meta-analysis titled “Critical Assessment of Claims Regarding Management of Feral Cats by Trap-Neuter-Return” by Longcore et al (2009) in the journal *Conservation Biology*, have shown that “Trap-Neuter-Return” is not an effective strategy to reduce the number of feral cats in a given area or the predation and disease impacts of feral cats; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, authorizes the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to advise and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between state, federal, international, and private programs, and to coordinate the State’s position with regard to invasive species; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council recognizes that feral and free roaming cats can have a variety of impacts in Hawaii, including predation of native species and the proliferation and transmission of disease to wildlife and humans; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council supports the keeping

of pet cats indoors or otherwise contained to a pet owner's property through use of cat patios, fencing, or other tools to minimize impacts such cats may have on the surrounding environment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council recommends that proposed methods for mitigating the impacts of feral cats on native wildlife and/or humans should be both humane and supported by peer-reviewed, scientific evidence demonstrating the efficacy of such methods; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council does not recommend the use of "Trap-Neuter-Return" or other efforts that support the feeding or re-release of feral cats into the wild or into public spaces; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawaii, the President of the State Senate, the Speaker of the State House of Representatives, and to the directors or chairpersons of each HISC agency.

Adopted by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council on the following date: January 29, 2019

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Suzanne D. Case, Department of Land & Natural Resources

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Denise Albano, Department of Agriculture

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Keith Kawaoka, D. Env., Department of Health

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David Rodriguez, Department of Transportation

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Leo Asuncion, Office of Planning, Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

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Nicholas Comerford, Ph.D., University of Hawaii