

November 7, 2010

Aloha Ms. Kim-McCoy,

Thank you for speaking with me last Friday, November 5, 2010, regarding the trapping and transport to the Hawaiian Humane Society of feral cats, for euthanization. These cats were trapped beginning on or about October 6, 2010, and were removed at the hands of reluctant City employees who work at the Pearl City Refuse Yard.

When I asked you about the status of your investigation (which you indicated you would initiate following our October 27, 2010 telephone conversation), you said, "I think you already know the story." Just for the record, then, I would like to ask you if I am correct in thinking that you have confirmed the report I gave to you regarding Mr. Primiano and Mr. Crabbe, and others, in the trapping/removal activities? Please confirm whether the activities we reported to you actually took place.

Reports we received from City employees indicate that at least 10 cats were killed. We would like to work aggressively together with you, to ensure that this will never happen again.

As you may know, Trap Neuter Release (TNR) is a program of caring for colonies of feral cats, with a proven track record of success. Cats are spayed or neutered to prevent breeding. The government, at both the City and State levels, has by and large supported TNR. However, there have been instances over the years where feral cat caretakers have not been given access to areas, under State or City jurisdiction, where the cats live. In some instances, the caretakers have been feeding the colonies for many years, but when a new superintendent or security guard comes on board, access is denied. Thus, it has sometimes been difficult to care for and feed the cats.

TNR is not a program of trapping and taking cats away. It is designed to control breeding, and ultimately the feral colony will cease to exist as older members die, and no new kittens are born.

It is important to note that all of the expenses for caring for the cats, providing fresh food and water and, when necessary, veterinary care,