

Save Maui Cats Summary

Mission: To control and protect the feral cat overpopulation on Maui.

Category: Animal Protection

Contact: Michael and Donna Willinsky, Founders

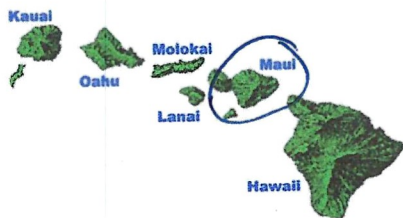
Address: P.O. Box 10723, Lahaina, HI 96761

Grant History: N/A

2025 Request: \$15,000 for general operating support

Notes:

- Feral cats are a major problem on the islands. No natural predators. Warm climate.
- Trap, neuter, release and manage is the only way to control the population.
- Many funders lost due to Maui wildfire.
- All volunteer staff depends on donations for sustaining feeding, medical procedures, and operations.





*Dedicated to the abandoned
cats of Maui, the environment,
and our community*

Save Maui Cats

Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation Grant Proposal

Grant Amount Requested: \$15,000

Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation
81 East Seventh Street, Suite 125
St. Paul, MN 55101
Attn: Tammy Davis Cownie, JD, MACL

Aloha Tammy,

Date: January 31, 2025

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to the Laurence H. Dorcy Hawaiian Foundation Grant. We are grateful that among his vast and varied interests, "Baron" (if we may be so bold) used his own Kula property to create a Koa seed orchard to help reforest Mount Haleakala. We are saddened to learn that he has passed, it would have been wonderful to have gotten to know him, as we think he might have appreciated what we do. We believe that by working with and conserving our island's natural habitat (which has included cats since the 1800's) we are aligned in our ecological and humane approach, and will strive to continue Mr. Dorcy's legacy by sharing and supporting his values and principles.

Needs Being Addressed:

For centuries, Maui County has suffered a major cat overpopulation problem, with some estimates numbering as high as 50,000 struggling and neglected stray cats at any given time (roughly the same *human* population as St. Louis Park, Minnesota.)

Residents, as well as tourists, often find themselves at a loss as to what they can do to help alleviate this tragedy. Well intentioned animal lovers will sometimes feed the hungry cats, which may provide comfort in the short term. Longer term consequences for this simple act of kindness, however, are significant. Feeding cats without sterilizing them encourages cats to produce more kittens, many of which will only survive long enough to breed, then sadly succumb to illness, injury or starvation, in what becomes a perpetual conveyor belt of doom. Simply put, feeding unfixed cats ultimately prevents more effective, permanent and humane solutions from being accomplished.

Due to Maui's lack of natural predators and its ideal weather conditions, cats reproduce at an alarming rate. A single pregnant cat and her offspring (and their offspring - and *their* offspring....) will grow into 50 cats in just two short years. That's from **one, single pregnant cat**. By the time five years passes, that same **one** cat and her offspring will have exponentially birthed a [staggering 20,000 cats](#).

In an attempt to slow the breeding cycle, it is imperative to sterilize as many cats in as short a time as possible. Maintaining colonies of fixed cats is also critical in order to prevent any population resurgence. Cats are an apex predator on nearly every island worldwide. In an effort to create a "quick fix," some understandably frustrated individuals and groups have attempted to eradicate the island's cats by means of poison, shooting, or simply "starving them out." However, numerous studies have proven that killing or removing stray cats has not - nor ever will - create a permanent solution to overpopulation. Island cat populations will always rebound.

The only effective **long-term** solution is to:

1. Humanely trap unfixed cats
2. Spay and neuter them
3. Return *fixed* cats to their colonies
4. Manage and regularly feed the colonies, while ensuring that any potential new arrivals also get sterilized as quickly as possible

This widely embraced strategy, often referred to as TNRM (Trap - Neuter - Return - Manage) has been proven to be the only **successful long-term** solution to cat overpopulation, benefiting communities in over 500 major cities worldwide. Maui is no exception; in the 18 years since our team's humble beginnings, we at *Save Maui Cats* have helped to sterilize over 2,600 cats, which has made a significant impact on the entire Maui community. Our all-volunteer group looks forward to continuing our lifesaving missions, but we can't do it alone.

How Our Organization Is Meeting This Need:

On his very first night of what he thought would be a short vacation in paradise, our founder, Michael Willinsky saw what many others either didn't want to see, or were at a loss as to how to help. Despite the island's picturesque beaches and stunning sunsets, Maui's streets were littered with the mangled bodies of deceased cats. Starving kittens were crying out their last breaths in dumpsters, and a dismal view of the future of Maui's cats and their effect on the landscape and community was palpable.

Being raised in a volunteer animal rescue family, Michael quickly realized that his "vacation" was likely over before it ever began. Jumping into action, he purchased a few humane live traps, and got to work, using his own money to help get dozens of cats fixed. He began reaching out to the community and found other like-minded people who also wanted to be part of the solution. Before long, *Save Maui Cats* was formed.

Currently, our all-volunteer based team feeds over 260 sterilized, healthy, stray cats in 32 different locations throughout West Maui every night.

Because cats are territorial, a fixed, healthy and fed colony will work together, like a team, to prevent new, unfixed cats from entering their area. Our program has effectively prevented the breeding cycles of thousands of cats across West Maui, where cat populations have been stabilized with over a 90% sterilization rate. Over time, these established, fixed colony cats will die naturally and populations will diminish.

Without a robust TNRM program in place, within months, cat population numbers will skyrocket. This is why it's crucial for us to stay focused, committed and supported in our efforts to humanely solve this problem - for the cats, the environment, and our local community.

In less than 20 years, our work has helped to finally stabilize West Maui's cat overpopulation problem. While there are many areas that still need our help, our efforts have made a massive difference. And our dedication and commitment to our island's cats and community has never wavered, as evidenced by Michael sometimes devoting 70 hours a week to our mission.

SMC has created an outreach program, educating others via social media, brochures, speaking at schools and fairs, and participating in community functions where we share information about our programs and progress. We offer volunteer opportunities to our community's local residents - as well as tourists - who wish to participate in helping to be part of the solution, including partnering with Maui Preparatory High School by implementing a program that provides school credits in exchange for volunteering, which is a criteria for graduating high school students here.

Save Maui Cats is a 501c (3) nonprofit and has also been recognized by *America's Best Local Charities*, *The County of Maui Environmental Protection & Sustainability Division*, *The Doris Day Animal Foundation*, *ASSERT Animal Disaster Rescue*, *Hawaii Animal Kuleana Alliance* and *The Makana Aloha Foundation*.

The Broad-Based Categories of Clientele And Numbers Of Individuals Served By Our Programs:

While we are based in Lahaina, Hawaii and mostly serve West Maui, we also share our limited resources, guidance and assistance with the entire island of Maui. We work with other island rescuers, regularly providing free pet food, traps, supplies, advice, training and help to anyone in need, including fire victims who cannot afford to feed their own pets without our assistance. Using local internet bulletin boards, we often post educational advice as well as our needs for more islandwide volunteers.

Since the devastating wildfires of August, 2023, many pets, as well as colony cats perished. But, despite the loss of life and habitat, our team managed to recover dozens of surviving cats that had been struggling in inaccessible burn zones. We reunited several cats (and a few dogs) with their families, who had been forced to flee and who otherwise had lost everything. Tears of joy and gratitude have become part of our daily experience.

After the fires, and through earnest fundraising, we were able to obtain veterinary treatment for many lost, scared and injured cats. We were also able to relocate and adopt out these desperate animals who are now living happy, healthy lives in well-established, safe and secure locations.

Geographical Region Covered:

Most of our operations and volunteers are based in West Maui. However, we assist people all over the island. Our aim is to support every local resident and tourist that reaches out to us for help, in hopes of creating humane and permanent solutions.

How Dorcy Foundation Grant Money Would Make A Difference To Our Organization And Clientele:

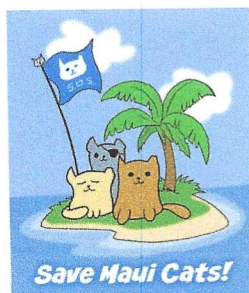
Our current operating expenses exceed \$3,200/month and, unfortunately, we have lost a majority of funding from local residents and regular donors since the devastating fires. Except for the occasional grant, we receive about \$850 in monthly donations and are concerned that, for the first time since our inception, we may face a shortfall. Many essential local Maui nonprofits have already been forced to close their doors due to the inability to raise funds to cover their operating costs. The local community has come to rely on us and we don't want to let them down, but we need your help.

A Dorcy Foundation grant of \$15,000 will help ensure that we are able to continue to provide critical support and services to the community. We will utilize your generous grant to secure funding of our operating costs through the end of the year, and hopefully beyond. Your grant will most certainly benefit the entire island of Maui...one cat and one night at a time.

We at *Save Maui Cats* are striving toward a future where we can *all* flourish, while continuing to care for, respect, and preserve our island's diverse, unique and extraordinary ecosystem. We are honored for the opportunity to apply for this life-saving grant and are grateful for your consideration.

Very truly yours,

Michael Willinsky and Donna Willinsky



Save Maui Cats, Inc

P.O. Box 10723

Lahaina, HI 96761

SaveMauiCats.org

SaveMauiCats@gmail.com

808-344-6999

Tax ID: 83-1221198



Save Maui Cats!

Dedicated to the
abandoned cats of
Maui, the
environment,
and our community

SAVE MAUI CATS

A 501(c)(3) non-profit | Tax ID # 83-1221198

Website: SaveMauiCats.org

Email: SaveMauiCats.org

P.O. Box 10723 Lahaina, HI 96761

(808) 344-6999

Profit and Loss Statement Summary

Tax Year: 2024

2024

SAVE MAUI CATS

Profit and Loss Statement

Revenue

Surplus from 2023	6,960.00
Individual Donations (Website)	18,000.00
Individual Donations (Checks/Cash)	2,850.00
Grants (Pet Food Donations)	13,000.00
TOTAL	40,810.00

Expenses

Cat Food	26,370.00
Humane Live Traps	2,370.00
Gas / Helpers	7,800.00
P.O. Box / Shipping for Donated Pet Food	242.00
Marketing / Website Management etc.	300.00
Vaccines / Medications	1,740.00
TOTAL	38,822.00

NET PROFIT / LOSS

Revenue	40,810.00
Expenses	(38,822.00)
TOTAL SURPLUS / LOSS	1,988.00



Dedicated to the
abandoned cats of Maui,
the environment,
and our community

SAVE MAUI CATS

Profit and Loss Report - Details | Tax Year: 2024

Website: SaveMauiCats.org
 Email: SaveMauiCats.org
 P.O. Box 10723 Lahaina, HI 96761
 (808) 344-6999

Save Maui Cats Inc is a 501(c)(3) non-profit | Tax ID # 83-122198

2024	Cat Food	Insurance	P.O. Box / Shipping	Gas / Helpers	Cat Food	Cat Food	Vaccines / Meds	Traps / Storage	Cat Food	Marketing	Total Liabilities
	Target	NPIA	USPS	Gas / Helpers	Amazon	Costco	Vaccines	Tomahawk	Petco	Website	
Jan	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$160	\$110		\$3,125
Feb	\$705	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$660	\$110		\$3,680
March	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$160	\$110		\$3,125
April	\$705	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$160	\$110	\$300	\$3,480
May	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$160	\$110		\$3,125
June	\$705	\$100	\$121	\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$660	\$110		\$3,801
July	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$160	\$110		\$3,125
Aug	\$705	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$125	\$110		\$3,145
Sept	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$125	\$110		\$2,965
Oct	\$705	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145	\$125	\$110		\$3,145
Nov	\$650	\$100		\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145		\$110		\$2,965
Dec	\$705	\$100	\$121	\$650	\$590	\$720	\$145		\$110		\$3,141