

LINDA LINGLE
Governor



SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
February 21, 2008
11:30 A.M.

HOUSE BILL NO. 3120, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ANIMAL QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Chairperson Oshiro and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 3120, H.D. 1 which amends chapter 142-3.5, HRS, to modify the provision requiring the Department of Agriculture to receive fair market rent for the lease of unused property at the Animal Quarantine facility. The Department supports the original HB3120 which is the Administration bill and requests amendments to the House Draft 1.

Currently, chapter 142-3.5, HRS, adopted by the 2005 Legislature, authorizes the Board of Agriculture to contract with third parties for the use and rental of animal quarantine station property or facilities under the following conditions: the property or facilities are not required for quarantine program use; the property be leased or rented at fair market value; and the property be used only by the third party. In addition to requirements of chapter 142-3.5, the methods of lease or rent of public lands are provided in chapter 171, HRS.

Executive Order No. 4096, dated January 10, 2005, sets aside land situated in Halawa Valley, Oahu, to be under the management and control of the Department of

Agriculture and states, "hereby set aside for the following public purposes: animal quarantine; animal welfare; and agriculture related purposes." The parcel under consideration for rent is approximately 5.5 acres within the animal quarantine station zoned as I-2 with an estimated fair market rent for the leasehold interest of \$310,050 per year (as of December 2005).

The Department believes that an open and competitive bid process without a minimum or maximum lease rent will ensure that the land is used appropriately and generates reasonable revenue to help offset program expenditures, ultimately resulting in reduced fees to users of the program.

The Department requests that lines 10 to 12 on page 1 be deleted. In addition, the Department requests that lines 13 to 15 on page 1 be amended to be consistent with Executive Order No. 4096 to read:

"(3) The property or facilities shall be set aside for the following public purposes: animal quarantine; animal welfare; and agriculture related purposes; and"

FINtestimony

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Wednesday, February 20, 2008 5:17 PM
To: FINtestimony
Subject: 2/21/2008 HB3120 Agenda #3

TO: Representative Oshiro and Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Kawehi Yim, Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

SUBJECT: Testimony supporting the intent of HB 3120 with concerns

Mr. Chair and Members of the House Committee on Finance,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the intent of HB 3120, relating to animal quarantine facilities, however we do have concerns regarding the current language of the bill which states, "the property or facilities shall be leased or rented at a minimum of fifty per cent of fair market value".

As a non-profit entity, the Hawaiian Humane Society has actively pursued opportunities to serve the growing needs of Oahu's population in the leeward, central, and north shore regions. We feel that the Halawa quarantine facility would allow us to better provide much-needed services to these areas. A lease rent based on a minimum of 50% of "fair market value" would have a significant impact on the level and quality of services that we could provide.

Since 1897, the Hawaiian Humane Society has been committed to promoting the human – animal bond and the humane treatment of all animals. While the issues have changed with the times, our focus has remained on ensuring the quality of life, care and justice for animals, and to empower those responsible for their care. While the Humane Society supports the intent of HB 3120, we feel that in its current version, this bill would severely curtail the opportunity to better serve these growing communities. The Hawaiian Humane Society strongly urges all committee members to consider the impact that any percentage of "fair market value" would have on a non-profit entity, and ask that you delete this language from this bill.


Respectfully submitted,

Kawehi Yim
Community Relations Director
Hawaiian Humane Society

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