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**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**

March 21, 2016  
10:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO 34  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE THE  
FEASIBILITY OF DECOMMISSIONING THE ANIMAL QUARANTINE STATION IN  
HALAWA VALLEY**

Chairperson Yamane and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution 34. The bill requests the Department of Agriculture examine the feasibility of decommissioning the Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa Valley. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture offers comments.

The Rabies Quarantine Program is successful in fulfilling its mission of preventing the entry of dogs, cats and other carnivores with the rabies virus. It is important to clarify that since 2003, dogs and cats meeting specified rabies vaccination, serology testing, microchip identification, waiting period and inspection no longer require quarantine to enter Hawaii. Approximately 89% of animals qualified for release after inspection in FY 2015.

The facilities at the Animal Quarantine Station (AQS) were constructed in the early 1980's when the program required that all dogs and cats entering Hawaii be confined and observed for 120 days. In 2003, the Direct Airport Release Program was introduced and has reduced the number of dogs and cats housed at AQS. There is an average daily population of approximately 200-280 dogs and cats. The Department has



requested \$1.5 million from the legislature this session to support the design and construction of facilities to house the Animal Industry Division as a cohesive unit, including the Animal Quarantine Station as part of a single footprint. .

The timeline to accomplish the resolution's objectives for a feasibility study is ambitious. The variety and magnitude of issues to be examined will require expertise in a number of areas such as: land and real property appraisal and evaluation, infrastructure, design and construction review, impact on community, environment and stakeholders, suitability and accessibility, impact on staff and the logistics of relocation. Many of the objectives in the resolution are outside the expertise of the Animal Industry Division and the Department. It is recommended that the Department be allowed additional time and financial support to identify an entity capable of managing the various specialized objectives presented in this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
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**HCR34**

Submitted on: 3/18/2016

Testimony for WAL on Mar 21, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Barbara Barry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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**LATE**

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee on Water and Land

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 21, 2016

HCR 34 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE TO EXAMINE THE FEASIBILITY  
OF DECOMMISSIONING THE ANIMAL  
QUARANTINE STATION IN HALAWA VALLEY

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, provides comments on HCR 34, which requests that the Department of Agriculture examine and consider the feasibility of decommissioning the Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa Valley.

It is suggested that the intent of decommissioning should be clarified as the content of HCR 34 implies it's a relocation of the Animal Quarantine Station versus a decommissioning of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HCR 34.

Respectfully submitted,

*for* Randy Perreira  
Executive Director