



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 2498
RELATING TO HEALTH**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN K. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 2/8/18

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of H.B. 2498, but defers
2 to the Governor's Supplemental Budget Request for appropriations priorities.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on H.B. 2498.
4 While zoonotic diseases are one of many infectious disease concerns and a public health
5 veterinary epidemiologist would be helpful, the Department has built a strong partnership with
6 our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture. The State Epidemiologist routinely consults
7 with and refers to the State Veterinarian on animal concerns which impact human health and vice
8 versa. Staff from both state agencies have attended trainings and exercises together regarding
9 public health investigations and emergency response, and readily provide recommendations and
10 assistance in their respective areas of expertise as needed.

11 The responsibilities of the former veterinary medical officer have been assumed by others,
12 specifically epidemiologists, in DOH, and some responsibilities have been adapted based on
13 feedback from partners. For example, the Epi Bulletin has been modified to provide timely and
14 succinct information on important topics such as mumps, flu, norovirus, and rat lungworm
15 disease to public health and healthcare partners on a quarterly basis with current and past issues
16 posted online (<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/for-healthcare-providers/epi-bulletin/>).

17 A quality public health veterinary epidemiologist, while beneficial to our mission, would require
18 a considerable investment. Comments received by DOH from public health veterinarians in
19 other states and at the federal level as well as the then president of the National Association of

1 Public Health Veterinarians when DOH last attempted to recruit for the position indicated that
2 the salary level was well below expected. A 2016 American Veterinary Medical Association
3 Report on the Market for Veterinarians found that compensation in the range of \$110,000 to
4 \$120,000 per year would be required for an average career satisfaction rating level
5 (http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/Annual%20Reports/V3_ECON_2016_Report3_MketVet_0614
6 [16.pdf](#)). Appropriation of adequate funding to provide a competitive salary would be essential
7 to recruiting and maintaining a qualified individual in this position.

8 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 8, 2018
9:00 A.M.
Conference Room 329

HOUSE BILL NO. 2498

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chairman Mizuno and Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2498. As the introducer of HB2498, I am submitting testimony in support. I have also attached the curriculum vitae for David M. Sasaki, D.V.M., M.P.H. who served as the State Public Health Veterinarian in the Hawaii State Department of Health from 1982-1985 and from 1987 until at least 2003.

Dr. Sasaki's CV shows how much valuable work was done by him during the time he worked for the state as the state public health veterinarian and what we could hopefully expect from someone else that is hired for that position in the near future.

We have a medical emergency in our state (rat lungworm disease) that would greatly benefit from a veterinarian of his caliber and other serious zoonoses that affect our state, such as dengue fever, brucellosis and leptospirosis.

I apologize for not being able to attend the hearing to provide testimony in person. If there are suitable suggestions to amend HB2498, I ask that you at least maintain the intent of this bill. Please pass HB2498 to continue the discussion as this is important to the health of our citizens and visitors.

Thank you and all the best,

Richard Creagan, MD
State Representative, 5th District

CURRICULUM VITAE
OF
David M. Sasaki, D.V.M., M.P.H.

December 1, 2003

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA:

Place of Birth: Honolulu, Hawaii
Marital Status: Married, one child

EDUCATION:

1981-1984 University of Hawaii; Honolulu, Hawaii. Master
of Public Health (Epidemiology), December, 1984.
1975-1977 Lutheran Bible Institute of Seattle; Seattle,
Washington. Bachelor of Science (Biblical
Studies), May, 1977.
1966-1970 University of California at Davis, California.
Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, June, 1970.
1961-1966 University of Hawaii; Honolulu, Hawaii.
Bachelor of Arts (Zoology), January, 1966.

EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE:

1982-1985; State Public Health Veterinarian (Veterinary Medical Officer III) Hawaii
1987-present. Department of health. Practice of Infectious Disease Epidemiology and
Public Health (Disease Surveillance, Investigation, and Health Education).
Diseases responsible for included leptospirosis, rabies, murine typhus,
ciguatera poisoning and salmonellosis. Also research and administration on
zoonotic diseases including: 1) Administering a Leptospirosis Surveillance
and Research Grant (\$75,000 annually) for 7 years, directly supervising 2
people - an investigator and clerk-typist, while indirectly supervising 9 others
during a major research effort); 2) Administering a two year Rabies
Serosurvey grant (\$130,000), supervising another veterinarian, and was
responsible for initiating, and 3) Administering since 1987 an ongoing
community-based Leptospirosis Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee, comprised of
up to 25 members. Also edited two bimonthly newsletters; one to
veterinarians and one to physicians.

1986 Veterinary Medical Officer; United States Department of
Agriculture. Port, quarantine and animal welfare inspections.

1972-1978 Veterinary Small Animal Private Practice
1970-1971 Peace Corps Veterinarian; Western Samoa

PROFESSIONAL LICENSES:

State of Hawaii (Veterinary Medicine) - 00076
United States Department of Agriculture Accreditation
Drug Enforcement Administration Registration - AS5060823

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS:

American Veterinary Medical Association (1970-present)
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (1970-present)
Conference of Public Health Veterinarians (1983-1995)
National Association of State Public Health Veterinarians (1983-present)
American Leptospirosis Research Conference (1993-present)
International Leptospirosis Society (1994 -present)
American Association of Public Health Veterinarians (1995-2000)
Hawaii Public Health Association (1983-85; 1988-present)
California Veterinary Medical Association (1970-1976)
Honolulu Veterinary Society (1970-1985)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Editor, Hawaii Dept. of Health "Zoonoses Update" newsletter, 1982-1985.
Chairman, Leptospirosis Ad-Hoc Advisory Committee: 1988 - present.
Chairman, Leptospirosis Epidemiology Subcommittee: 1988 - present.
Chairman, Leptospirosis Health Education Subcommittee: 1994 - present.
Principal Investigator, Surveillance of Leptospirosis RCUH Grant: 1988 - 1994.
Principal Investigator, Animal Rabies Serosurvey RCUH Grant: 1990-1992.
Consultant on Leptospirosis to the Federated States Micronesia: 1990 - present.
Assistant Clinical Professor, University of Hawaii School of Public Health: 1991-
present.
Member, Steering Committee, International Leptospirosis Society: 1994-present.
Treasurer, Conference of Public Health Veterinarians; 1995.
Treasurer, American Association of Public Health Veterinarians; 1995-1996.
Member, Executive Board, American Association of Public Health Veterinarians; 1995-1996.
Editor, Hawaii Dept. of Health "Communicable Disease Report" newsletter, 1995- present.
Reviewer, Emerging Infectious Diseases Journal, 2002.

GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING:

Previous Advisees: 5 - 3 M.P.H. Candidates, 2 Preventive Medicine Residents.
Previous Committee Memberships: 2

PUBLICATIONS:

1. Sasaki, David M., DVM, and Gooch, John M., DVM, MPH, "Cost Effectiveness of Hawaii's Anti-Rabies Quarantine Program" (1983). Haw Med J, 42:7, 157-160.
2. Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH, and Minette, Henri P., PhD, "Salmonellosis in a Public Marine Aquarium" (1985). JAVMA, 187-11, 1221-1222.
3. Lum, Mark K, MD, Pien, Francis D., MD, MPH, & Sasaki, David M., DVM, "Human Brucella canis Infection in Hawaii" (1985). Haw Med J, 44:2, 66-68.
4. Fishbein, Daniel B., Corboy, John M., and Sasaki David M., "Rabies Prevention in Hawaii" (1990). Haw Med J, 49:3, 98-101.
5. Gollop, James H., Pang, Lorrin, and Sasaki, David M., "Leptospirosis: A Possible Cause of 'Aseptic Meningitis'" (1990). Haw Med J, 49:5,162-165.
6. Ching-Lee, Myra R., Katz Alan R., MD, MPH, Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH, and Minette, Henri P., Dr.PH. "Salmonella Egg Survey in Hawaii: Evidence for Routine Bacterial Surveillance" (1991). Am J Public Health, 81:764-766.
7. Katz, Alan R., MD, MPH, Manea, Sally Jo, BSN, and Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH. "Leptospirosis on Kauai: Investigation of a Common Source Waterborne Outbreak" (1991). Am J Public Health, 81:1310-1312.
8. Sasaki, D. M., Pang, L., Wakida, C.K., Fujimoto, W. J., and Middleton, C.R. "Active Surveillance for Leptospirosis on the Island of Hawaii," in Leptospirosis: Proceedings of the Leptospirosis Research Conference 1990, Kobayashi, Y., Ed., 1991, Hokusen-sha, Tokyo, 104-125.
9. Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH, Middleton, Charles M., MS, Sawa, Thomas R., DVM, PhD., Christensen, Charles C., MAg, Kobayashi, Glenn Y., BA, "Rabid Bat Diagnosed in Hawaii: A Case Report" (1992). Hawaii Med J,51(7):181-185.
10. Gooch, John M., DVM, MPH, and Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH, "Rabies Serosurvey of Quarantined Pets and Mongooses" (1992). Research conducted for the Hawaii Department of Agriculture and presented to the 16th State Legislature, March 1992, 75 pp. Supported by a legislative grant administered by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.
11. Sasaki, David M., DVM, MPH, Pang, Lorrin, MD, MPH, Minette, Henry P., Wakida, Chester K., BS, Fujimoto, Wallace J., BS, Manea, Sally Jo, BSN, Kunioka, R obert,

- BS, Middleton, Charles R., MS, "Active Surveillance and Risk Factors for Leptospirosis on the Island of Hawaii" (1993). Am J Trop Med Hyg, 48(1):35-43.
12. Gollop, J.H., MD, MPH, Katz, A.R., MD, MPH, Rudoy, R.C., MD, MPH, Sasaki, D.M., DVM, MPH, "Rat Bite Leptospirosis" (1993). West J Med, 159:76-77.
 13. Katz, A.R., MD, MPH, Terrell-Perica, S., MA, MPH, Sasaki, D.M., DVM, MPH, "Ciguatera on Kauai: Investigation of Factors Associated with Severity of Illness" (1993). Am J Trop Med Hyg, 49(4):448-454.
 14. Sasaki, D.M., DVM, MPH, Katz, A.R., MD, MPH, Middleton, C.R., MS, "Capnocytophaga and Related Infections," in CRC Handbook Series in Zoonoses, 2nd Ed (1994), Beran, G.W., Ed, CRC Press, Boca Raton, FL.
 15. Katz, Alan R., Sasaki, David M., Mumm, Alan H., Escamilla, Joel, Middleton, Charles R., and Romera, Sofio E., "Leptospirosis on Oahu: an outbreak among military personnel associated with recreational exposure" (1997). Mil Med, 162(2):101-104.
 16. Therien, N., Guichard, M., Lankford, S. et. al., "Outbreak of *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* Infections Associated with Eating Raw Oysters - Pacific Northwest, 1997." MMWR 47(22):458-463.
 17. Smits, HL, Anayina, Y.V., Chereshtsky, A., Dancel, L., Lai-a-fat, R.F.M., Chee, H.D. et. al., "International Multicenter Evaluation of the Clinical Utility of a Dipstick Assay for Detection of *Leptospira*-Specific Immunoglobulin M Antibodies in Human Serum Specimens" (1999). J Clin Microbiol, 37(9):2904-2909.
 18. Smits, HL, van der Hoorn, MAWG, Goris, MGA, Gussenhoven, GC, Yersin, C, Sasaki, DM, Terpstra, WJ, Hartskeerl, RA. "A simple latex agglutination assay for the quick serodiagnosis of human leptospirosis" (2000). J Clin Microbiol, 38(3):1272-1275.
 19. Effler, .PV., H.Y. Domen, S.L. Bragg, T. Aye, D.M. Sasaki. "Evaluation of the Indirect Hemagglutination Assay for the Diagnosis of Acute Leptospirosis in Hawaii" (2000). J Clin Microbiol, 38(3):1081-1084.
 20. Manea, SJ, Sasaki, DM, Ikeda, J, Bruno, PP. "Clinical and Epidemiologic Observations Regarding the 1998 Kaua'i Murine Typhus Outbreak." (2001). Haw. M. J., 60(1):7-11.
 21. Smits HL, Eapen C.K., Sugathan S, Kuriakose M., Gasem M.H., Yersin C, Sasaki D, Pujianto B, Vesterling M, Abdoel T.H., and Gussenhoven, G.C. "Lateral Flow Assay for Rapid Serodiagnosis of Human Leptospirosis" (2001). Clin. Diagn. Lab. Immunol.;8(1):166-169.

22. Smits, HL, Chee, H.D., Eapen, CK, Kuriakose, M, Sugathan, S, Gasem, MH, Yersin, C, Sasaki, D.M., Lai-A-Fat, R.F.M., Hartskeerl, R.A., Liesdek, B., Abodoel, T.H., Goris, M.G.A., Gussenhoven, G.C. "Latex Based Highly Stable, Rapid and Easy Screening Assay for Human Leptospirosis in a Single Test Format." (2001). Trop. Med. & Intl. Hlth.;6(2):114-118.
23. Middleton, CR, Ansdell, VE, Sasaki, DM. "Of Mice and Mongooses: A History of Leptospirosis Research in Hawaii." (2001). Haw. Med. J.,60:179-181,184-186.
24. Katz AR, Ansdell VE, Effler PE, Middleton CR, Sasaki DM. "Assessment of the clinical presentation and treatment of 353 laboratory confirmed leptospirosis cases in Hawaii, 1974-1998." (2001). Clin Inf Dis.,33:1834-41.
25. Katz AR, Ansdell VE, Effler PE, Middleton CR, Sasaki DM. "Leptospirosis in Hawaii, 1974-1998: epidemiologic analysis of 353 laboratory confirmed cases." (2002). Am.J. Trop. Med. Hyg.,66(1):61-70.
26. Effler, PE, Bogard, AK, Domen, HY, Katz AR, Higa, H, Sasaki, DM. "Evaluation of Eight Screening Tests for Acute Leptospirosis in Hawaii." (2002). J. Clin. Microbiol., 40(4):1464-1469.
27. Sasaki, David M. "Questions stated prevalence of leptospirosis in dogs." (letter) (2002). JAVMA,220(10):1452-1453.
28. Hoskinson, S., Lipetz, M., Sherer, C, Fraser, S.,Taniguchi, E., Tice, A. et. al. "Murine Typhus Surveillance. 2003. MMWR, 52(50):1225-1226.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Ansdell, V.E., Sasaki, D.M., "Leptospirosis in Hawaii: Important Implications for the Adventurous Traveler in the Tropics" (Poster Presentation) (1993). Third Conference on International Travel Medicine, Paris, April 1993, International Society of Travel Medicine.
2. Lewin, J.C., M.D., and Sasaki, D.M., D.V.M., M.P.H., "Rabies Prevention in Hawaii" (Oral Presentation) (1993). Advances Towards Rabies Control in the Americas, 4th Annual International Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, October 28-30, 1993.
3. Sasaki, D.M., Ansdell, V.E., Odello, L.M., Katz, A.R., "Surveillance of Leptospirosis in Hawaii: 1971-1990 and Changing Epidemiological Trends (Oral Presentation). VIIIth Meeting of European Leptospira Workers. Anzio, Italy, July 1994.
4. Ansdell, V.E., Sasaki, D.M., "Inadequacy of Post-Exposure Rabies Prophylaxis Received in Foreign Countries" (Poster Presentation). 4th International Conference on Travel

- Medicine, Acapulco, Mexico, April 1995, International Society of Travel Medicine.
5. Katz AR, Sasaki DM, Odello, LM, Ansdell, VE. "Leptospirosis in Hawaii, 1971-1990: Clinical and epidemiologic analysis of 187 laboratory confirmed cases" (Oral Presentation). Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine, San Antonio, Texas, November 1995.
 6. Kirschner KL, Sasaki DM, Cope SE and Olson JG. "Enzyme Immunoassay for detecting Rickettsia typhi infections in field collected rodents, Maui, Hawaii" (Poster Presentation). Navy Environmental Health Center Annual Conference, Virginia Beach, Virginia, March 21-28, 1996.
 7. Sasaki, David M. "Leptospirosis in Hawai'i and Its Importance in Surface Waters" (Oral Presentation). Appropriate Technologies and Issues for Water Resources Management on Tropical Islands in the Asia/Pacific Region, University of Hawaii Water Resources Research Center, Honolulu, Hawaii, June 12-14, 1996.
 8. Sasaki, David M. "Surveillance, Prevention and the Epidemiology of Leptospirosis in Hawaii: 1992-1996" (Oral Presentation). Symposium: Leptospirosis-A Re-emerging Disease. Annual Meeting of the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, Orlando, Florida, December 8-11, 1997.
 9. Burr, R., Sasaki, D, Aye, T, and Domen, H. "Hawaii's Leptospirosis Surveillance Program" (Poster Presentation). International Conference on Emerging Infectious Diseases, Atlanta, Georgia, March 8-11, 1998.
 10. Ansdell, V, Sasaki, D, Ching-Lee, M, Sugi, M., Effler, P. "Ciguatera Fish Poisoning in Hawaii: Important Implication for Travelers to the Tropics" (Oral presentation). European Conference on Travel Medicine, Venice, Italy, March 25-27, 1998.
 11. Sasaki, David M. "Leptospirosis in Hawaii" (Oral Presentation). Hawaii Society for Clinical Laboratory Science, American Society for Microbiology & Clinical Laboratory Management Association Joint Annual Meeting, Honolulu, Hawaii, May 4-8, 1988.
 12. Burr, R.K., Effler, P., Kahana, J., Kanenaka, R., Balmer, M., Angulo, F., Barrett, T., Hayes, P., Nekomoto, T., Nakata, M., Sasaki, D., Higa, H., Sawa, T., Choy, B. "Emergence of *Salmonella* Serotype Enteritidis Phage Type 4 in Hawaii Due to Locally-produced Contaminated Eggs" (Oral Presentation). EIS Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, April 1999.
 13. Ansdell, V.E., Sasaki, D.M. "Leptospirosis in travelers: An under-recognized hazard" (Poster presentation). International Leptospirosis Society, 2nd Meeting, Marysville, Australia, August 22-25, 1999.

14. Effler, P.E., Bogard, A.K., Domen, H.Y., Katz, A.R., Higa, H., Sasaki, D.M. "Evaluation of Eight Screening Tests for Acute Leptospirosis in Hawaii." (Poster Presentation). 2002. International Conference of Emerging Infectious Diseases., 31 - New or Rapid diagnostics - I, Board 121, March 24-27, 2002, Atlanta, Georgia.
15. Effler, P.E., Pang. L., Kitsutani, P, Nakata, M., Mills, K., Vorndam, V., Street, K., Elm, J., Tom, T., Reiter, P., Rigau, J., Hayes, J.M., Sasaki, D.M., Napier, M., Clark, G., Gubler, D. "Dengue Fever Outbreak in Hawaii - 2001." (Oral Presentation). 2002. International Conference of Emerging Infectious Diseases. 77 - Vectorborne Diseases II. March 24-27, 2002, Atlanta, Georgia.

OTHER SKILLS:

Use of a personal computer and Harvard Graphics, Word Perfect, Word, Excel and Dbase III+ software.

REFERENCES:

1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Dengue Fever." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Leptospirosis." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

3. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Dengue Fever." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

4. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Leptospirosis." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

5. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Dengue Fever." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

6. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Leptospirosis." *MMWR* 49:1-4 (1999): 1-4.

LATE

HB-2498

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 6:27:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-2498

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:23:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/8/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall		Support	No

Comments: