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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBRUARY 23, 2018  
1:30 PM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 5/SENATE RESOLUTION 4  
ENCOURAGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO EVALUATE THE  
IMPORT REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS FOR DOMESTIC ANIMALS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 5/SR 4. This resolution encourages the Department of Agriculture to evaluate the import requirements and process for domestic animals. The Department opposes this bill because upgrades and solutions applicable to this resolution have already been implemented or are in-process.

Rabies is a progressive fatal neurologic disease that can infect all mammals, including humans. Globally, dogs are recognized as the leading source of rabies infections in humans. Most of those deaths are in children under the age of 15. For this reason, Hawaii has maintained a rabies quarantine program to regulate the movement of dogs and cats into Hawaii. The Rabies Quarantine Branch is tasked with ensuring that a dog's or cat's capability to carry and transmit the rabies virus has been reviewed and validated for compliance with import regulations.

The program has been working with a vendor to replace the current computer system for the Animal Quarantine Station. In December 2017, the first of phase of a new database system was implemented. This portion of the system increased efficacy of internal operations for record review, Neighbor Island Permit creation, and accounting. An additional part of the system that is nearing completion is an online portal that owners will be able to access. This web portal will allow payment with credit



card and the capability for owners to register and see the status of their pet's application. It is estimated that this phase will be completed by summer 2018.

Service animals are provided modified entry requirements. For example, service animals are not charged any fees by the Department including the Direct Airport Release Program. In addition, service animals are not subject to the same timing requirements as other pets for passing the rabies titer test or rabies vaccination. Amendments to Chapter 4-29, HAR governing dog and cat importation are in process which will also reduce preparation time and increase the number of animals that qualify for direct airport release.

Honolulu is the only port of entry into Hawaii. To accommodate the request for direct flights to neighbor island ports, a Neighbor Island Inspection Permit (NIIP) system was put in place in 2008. Each entry is approved by the Department prior to the dog or cat's arrival by issuing a NIIP after confirming an approved veterinary facility will meet the animal to conduct an inspection and document review. Private facilities on the neighbor islands with veterinarians were enlisted to conduct these inspections and processing because the program only has staff on Oahu.

The Department does not control prices for services provided by private operations that perform inspection services on the neighbor islands. An endeavor to do so will likely result in significantly reducing the number of participating veterinary facilities. This was experienced when the NIIP system was developed. An alternative is for the state to perform neighbor island inspections and processing. However, the Animal Quarantine Special Fund does not receive general fund support and all expenditures must be defrayed by program fees. Based on the experience the Division gained with the Airport Animal Quarantine Holding Facility in Honolulu, the expense for personnel, equipment and facilities necessary to provide inspection capability on the neighbor islands would be ineffective in reducing costs to the NIIP pet owner while subsequently increasing fees for others that enter Honolulu.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this measure.

**SCR-5**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 2:35:21 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/23/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Malia Lino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I believe it's about time to take a look about importing dogs and cats into Hawaii. This process is grueling and unclear in the directions and requirements to import cats and dogs. I personally have tried once to import my cat and was refused due to the blood test. It has resulted in me leaving my cat longer than expected because of all the rules and restrictions. Not only are the rules grueling but the associates are extremely rude and inconsiderate to people's feelings. I almost feel the rules are so difficult it results in many people leaving their dogs and cats with the department because they have no other option. It makes people think like myself they are out to get more money from people and have to their pets in awkward situations due to the restrictions of our state.

**SCR-5**

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 10:10:59 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/23/2018 1:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Coby Foreman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, my name is Coby Foreman. I am in AP Environmental Science at Mililani High School. I am testifying for the bill SCR5 because I think it's a very important bill. It's to prevent any domestic animals that carry diseases or rabbies and they are coming into the ports, which they are killing our native species and we need our native species. Hawaii has beautiful plants and animals that only grow and live in Hawaii. Once these species become extinct, there wouldn't be anymore of these species in this world. Also, it could get us sick and probably kill us as well. So to prevent that from happening, we need to make sure that we don't bring any thing that carries diseases.