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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Guide Dogs of Hawaii  
2 is a private, not-for-profit education and community service  
3 organization that was initially founded in 1952 to specifically  
4 address and mitigate complications that arose from quarantine  
5 restrictions placed upon guide dogs that were professionally  
6 trained on the mainland United States, and has for sixty-seven  
7 years provided vital unduplicated programs and services to  
8 Hawaii's blind and visually impaired community that include  
9 adaptive aids, professionally trained guide dogs, and community  
10 education and advocacy.

11           The legislature also finds that all programs either  
12 currently operated or proposed by Guide Dogs of Hawaii provide  
13 professionally trained guide dogs, services, and assistive aids  
14 for Hawaii's blind and visually impaired community, which yields  
15 higher employment with less need for lifetime support services  
16 for youth, and leads to greater independence and mobility for  
17 adults and seniors, thus minimizing the need for long term home



1 and nursing care and fewer burdens to family, friends, and the  
2 community.

3       The legislature further recognizes that only half of the  
4 twenty-nine acre site in lower Halawa valley that constitutes  
5 the State's animal quarantine facility has been slated for use  
6 by the department of public safety as the location for the new  
7 Oahu community correctional center, and that an environmental  
8 impact statement has already been prepared for the site, which  
9 can allow the State to repurpose the remainder of this  
10 underutilized site for public benefit. Guide Dogs of Hawaii has  
11 expressed an interest in developing an operational facility in  
12 Hawaii for the professional training of guide dogs for eventual  
13 service to blind and visually impaired residents, which will  
14 reduce the dependence of Hawaii's residents on the importation  
15 of such professionally trained guide dogs from places like  
16 Australia. This reduction would be to the public benefit, and  
17 the legislature finds Guide Dogs of Hawaii is fully qualified to  
18 fulfill this mission. The legislature also finds that other,  
19 similar organizations already have access to and utilize the  
20 State's animal quarantine facility in a manner similar to that  
21 proposed by Guide Dogs of Hawaii.



1           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate sufficient  
2 funding to the department of agriculture for the planning and  
3 design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and  
4 other professionally trained service dogs, which is to be  
5 developed on behalf of Guide Dogs of Hawaii and partner  
6 organizations on a designated portion of the State's animal  
7 quarantine facility site as determined by the department of  
8 agriculture.

9           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000 or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the  
12 planning and design of a professional training facility for  
13 guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on  
14 behalf of Guide Dogs of Hawaii and partner organizations, on a  
15 designated portion of the State's animal quarantine facility  
16 site in Halawa valley on the island of Oahu.

17           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
18 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.



1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.

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JAN 17 2020



# H.B. NO. 1940

**Report Title:**

Animal Quarantine Facility; Guide Dogs of Hawaii; Assistance Animals; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds for the design and development of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on an undeveloped portion of the State's animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

