



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 0146
RELATING TO HEALTH

REPRESENTATIVE RICHARD P. CREAGAN, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date: 1/31/19

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health (DOH) defers to the priorities set forth in the
2 Governor's Executive Biennium Budget request. The bill appropriates out of the general
3 revenues an unspecified amount for fiscal year (FY) 2019-2020 and the same sum as may be
4 necessary for FY 2020-2021 for the establishment of one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE)
5 permanent veterinary medical officer position in the Department of Health.

6 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) offers comments on H.B. 146. A
7 quality public health veterinary epidemiologist, while beneficial to our mission, would require a
8 considerable investment. Comments received by DOH from public health veterinarians in other
9 states and at the federal level as well as the then president of the National Association of Public
10 Health Veterinarians when DOH last attempted to recruit for the position indicated the salary
11 level was well below expected. A 2016 American Veterinary Medical Association Report on the
12 Market for Veterinarians found that compensation in the range of \$110,000 to \$120,000 per year
13 would be required for an average career satisfaction rating level
14 (http://www.aavmc.org/data/files/Annual%20Reports/V3_ECON_2016_Report3_MketVet_0614
15 [16.pdf](#)). Appropriation of adequate funding to provide a competitive salary would be essential
16 to recruiting and maintaining a qualified individual in this position.

17 While zoonotic diseases are one of many infectious disease concerns and a public health
18 veterinary epidemiologist would be helpful, the Department has built a strong partnership with
19 our colleagues at the Department of Agriculture. The State Epidemiologist routinely consults

1 with and refers to the State Veterinarian on animal concerns which impact human health and vice
2 versa. Staff from both state agencies have attended trainings and exercises together regarding
3 public health investigations and emergency response, and readily provide recommendations and
4 assistance in their respective areas of expertise as needed.

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

11 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

LATE

HB-146

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 6:16:40 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dale Sandlin	Hawaii Cattlemens Council	Support	No

Comments:



LATE

January 28, 2019

Testimony in Support of HB 146

Representative Creagan and Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:
Representative Mizuno and Members of the House Committee on Health:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy. We appreciate the opportunity to offer testimony on HB 146.

Animals are a significant part of the daily lives of many individuals and families. The risk of exposure to zoonotic diseases comes with our relationships with our pets. Rat lung disease is only the latest example of this. The effects of this devastating disease were first noted in people, and later the public has learned that it can also infect our companion animals.

Having a veterinarian in the health department would have a positive impact on public education, control, and treatment for zoonotic diseases, both for people and for our pets. For this reason the Pacific Pet Alliance supports funding the Department of Health to include a veterinarian on staff.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. We respectfully request that you pass HB 146.

Lynn Muramaru
Board Member
Pacific Pet Alliance

HB-146

Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:58:22 AM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-146

Submitted on: 1/28/2019 5:51:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 1/31/2019 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joy Marshall	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: