



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

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1891 HD1
RELATING TO HEALTH.**

REP. SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Hearing Date: February 20, 2020

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Recommended \$95,000 salary and \$15,000 operational expenses;
2 however, any moneys authorized pursuant to this measure should not displace priority
3 appropriations requests described in the Governor's Executive Biennium Budget Request.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the creation and funding
5 of a Public Health Veterinarian to focus on zoonosis and animal-related illnesses (e.g., rat
6 lungworm disease, Leptospirosis, toxoplasmosis, and other infectious diseases), which can be
7 relatively underfunded when compared to diseases that are transmitted from person to person.
8 This position may also focus on ciguatera and other types of fish and shellfish poisoning, for
9 which the department is unaware of dedicated resources in the State.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

11



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 18, 2020

Committee on Finance
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
Representative Ty J.K. Cullen, Vice Chair

RE: HB 1891, HD1, Relating to Health

Dear Committee on Finance,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, I would like to express our support of HB 1891 and the re-establishment of a public health veterinarian position within the Department of Health.

We believe a public health veterinarian would bring a necessary and invaluable resource to the Department of Health. Veterinarians go through unique training beyond the typical human medical practitioner, including training in comparative physiology, toxicology, immunology, herd health, and zoonotic diseases (diseases spread between animals and people) to earn their Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree. Furthermore, the veterinary profession has a recognized specialty for practitioners of public health and preventive medicine, the American College of Veterinary Preventive Medicine (ACVPM), that certifies core competencies of epidemiology, infectious disease, environmental health, food safety, and public policy.

Other federal health agencies such as the US Department of Health and Human Services, US Department of Agriculture, Army Veterinary Corps, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as 32 state health departments already recognize and utilize veterinarians in public health roles. A public health veterinarian within Hawaii's Department of Health would be essential in promoting disease control responsibilities and serving as a liaison to animal and wildlife health experts and other non-traditional public health partners when unusual public health challenges arise such as zoonotic disease outbreaks like the recent coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak and ongoing rat lungworm disease threat.

Please SUPPORT HB 1891 and re-establish a public health veterinarian position within Hawaii's Department of Health. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo".

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

HB-1891-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2020 11:34:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a past Chair,Board of Veterinary Medicine,past President and Executive Officer,Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association,I support the intent of HB1819.

A veterinarian is needed to provide professional guidance regarding bioterrorism,dual use research concerns,zoonoses ESPECIALLY in this day and age.AND,not in 2050...NOW.

HB-1891-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2020 11:24:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/20/2020 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
J Ashman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: