

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
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State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

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

**MARCH 11, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224
HOUSE BILL NO. 1940 HD1
RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1940 HD1, relating to guide dogs. This bill appropriates funds for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on a designated portion of the state animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu.

The Department is in support of the bill provided the planning and design is subject to approval by the Department and is compatible with Animal Industry Operations and the planned relocation of the Animal Quarantine Station.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Wednesday, March 11, 2020 at 1:15 p.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, PhD
Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1940 HD1 – RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS

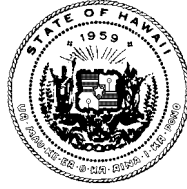
Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 1940 HD1.

This is the same testimony that was previously submitted. We defer to the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA) as to its ability to meet the requirements of this bill.

However, we wish to note that as the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa moves to develop a companion animal program within the animal science curriculum, we see opportunities to partner with this program. We can envision supporting it with research and education, as well as it being a source of internships for our students. We also envision that programs like this could encourage students to take this direction in their careers.

In summary, we are in support of HB 1940 HD1, but defer to the HDOA on the outcome.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

March 7, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1940 HD1 – RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS**

Hearing: March 11, 2020, 1:15 p.m.
Conference Room 224, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill and defers to the Department of Agriculture in terms of implementation and sufficient appropriation amount.

PURPOSE: 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. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

Increasing training resources that would make more trained guide dogs available to Hawaii's residents with disabilities would support more individuals' ability to work and participate in other social activities to meet their human and economic potential.

Also, while the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require a service animal to be professionally trained, the ADA allows owners to train their own service animal. Resources should be developed to provide owners with information, education, and coaching strategies to train their own service animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HB-1940-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/5/2020 3:05:08 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1940-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/8/2020 2:33:34 PM

Testimony for AEN on 3/11/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Pcola_Davis	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I highly **SUPPORT** the funding for HB1940

A training facility in Hawaii will allow for not only service dogs for the blind and visually impaired but can be expanded for other disabilities like PTSD.

A program like this can support many segments of our community. As stated; provides professionally trained guide dogs, services, and assistive aids for Hawaii's blind and visually impaired. I would further suggest an expansion of the services of others in our community such as hearing impaired, mental illnesses in children and adults, PTSD to name only a few. This can minimize the need for long term home and nursing care and fewer burdens to family, friends, and the community. However it is also important to recognize the benefits to their quality of life!!

Since there is sufficient land resources (State's animal quarantine facility) the state should repurpose the remainder of this underutilized site for public benefit.

Developing an operational facility in Hawaii for the professional training of guide dogs for eventual service to. Any resident in need of a trained service dog, which will reduce the dependence of Hawaii's residents on the importation of such professionally trained guide dogs.

Since the State's existing animal quarantine facility is currently being accessed and utilized in a similar manner.

Please don't limit or narrow down the ways a trained service dog can be used to support others that would benefit from a service dog.

I **SUPPORT** the appropriate sufficient funding to the department of agriculture for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on a designated portion of the State's animal quarantine facility site.