



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

February 22, 2020

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

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

Hearing: February 24, 2020, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308, 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 American 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

**FEBRUARY 5, 2020
11:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1940 HD1
RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1940 HD1, relating to guide dogs. The bill proposes to appropriate 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.



HB-1940-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2020 1:05:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2020 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments: