



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

February 4, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2473 – RELATING TO GUIDE DOGS**

Hearing: February 7, 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: The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained career dogs on a designated portion of the state animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu.

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 on 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

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

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

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON HUMAN SERVICES
AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**FEBURARY 7, 2020
1:15 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2473
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairpersons Ruderman and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2473, 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 career 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.



To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Ron Nagasawa

Date: February 3, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

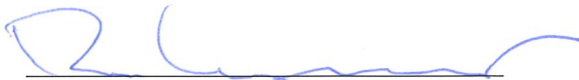
Thank you for allowing me to write in support of S.B. 7423. I respectfully ask for your consideration of this bill due to the extreme importance it has on our blind and visually impaired community. Overall, the location and facility will bring together professional dog groups and is ideal to help accomplish their mission, which is to serve and protect our community. Having facilities located in this location, in proximity to the State's long established animal quarantine, can create positive synergy between these groups.

The ever-expanding need for these professional dogs requires better living facilities and one where key-operating expenses can be shared. Another benefit is that the location is not near residential neighborhoods where housing animals, particularly dogs, could be a concern.

This is truly an opportunity to positively impact these service dogs and the people and families who benefit from the services they provide.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge passage of S.B. 2473.

Respectfully submitted,



Ron Nagasawa
Board Director
Guide Dogs of Hawaii

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Kenneth Kaneshiro

Date: February 4, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

My brother-in-law, Jay, is blind. With his guide dog, Xandria, he walks to/from work 3 miles each way every day through the busy Aiea/Waimalu commercial district behind Cutter Ford. This independence has enabled him run his own business as a massage therapist and put his twin daughters through optometry school. This is why I serve on the board of the Guide Dogs of Hawaii.

I am writing in support of S.B. 7423 and humbly ask for your consideration in the passage of this bill. The combining of resources for centralized medical care, grooming, training and exercise for guide dogs and other professional canine service departments will directly impact the quality of care for these working dogs. Many of Hawaii's blind and visually impaired depend on these hard working dogs to lead active and independently productive lives. This will also bring together a community of professional service dog organizations that protect and support our community to share in best practices and support for these specialized service dogs.

I respectfully request your support in the passage of this bill. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions or comments.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge passage of S.B. 2473.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Kaneshiro', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Kenneth Kaneshiro
Board President, Guide Dogs of Hawaii
Kenneth.kaneshiro@lpl.com
808 681-7799

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 8:09:58 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Craig	Testifying for Guide Dogs of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony to support S.B. 2473. Working dogs have special needs that include training, veterinary care, and housing while training. Working dogs are more than just guide dogs. They can also be employed in law enforcement, search and rescue, and detection. Having a centralized location for service animals to receive the care that they need so that they can continue to deliver the assistance that so many rely on to keep people safe and secure when in the community is important to ensure not only efficiency but is also economically sound. Through the sharing of specialty services, expenses can be efficiently shared between groups.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge passage of S.B. 2473.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Craig

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 11:32:40 AM

Testimony for HMS on 2/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Trudy Fernandez	Testifying for Guide Dogs of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

I am writing in support of S.B. 2473 to appropriate funding for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs.

Guide dogs are incredibly precise and require highly specialized training. They are required to be at optimal condition in their daily work with blind and visually impaired handlers. In addition to providing directional guidance, guide dogs are often required to properly react to potent risks in keeping their handlers safe. For these reasons, a training facility for all professionally trained service dogs is the ideal.

With this, I humbly ask for your support in the passage of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Trudy Fernandez, Guide Dogs of Hawaii

SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:12:23 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
victoria cozloff	Testifying for Guide Dogs of Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman Chair

Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Victoria Cozloff

Date: February 6, 2020

RE: Testimony in support of S.B. 2473

I am in support of S.B. 2473 and wish your consideration on the passage of this Bill. It will make a considerable difference in the lives of our client's Hawaii's blind or visually impaired of all to bring together these professional dog groups. These service animals serve and protect our community. The sharing between these professional dog groups will provide a savings through through shared operational expenses.

I respectfully request your support in the passage of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Cozloff

Treasurer/Vice-President of Internal Affairs

Guide Dogs of Hawaii

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Susan Nonaka, Board Member – Guide Dogs of Hawaii

Date: February 7, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

I am in support of SB 2473 relating to Guide Dogs. The purpose is to provide resources for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained working dogs. These organizations and agencies do so much to serve and protect our community. Having a facility that will be shared amongst several organizations can result in operational cost savings and a synergy between the groups.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge passage of S.B. 2473.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Nonaka". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Susan Nonaka

(SAMPLE TEMPLATE)

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Jeanne torres

Date: 31 January 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

I write in support of S.B. 7423 and desire your consideration with the passage of this bill as it will make a daily difference in the lives of Hawaii's blind and visually impaired of all ages while bringing together a community of professional dogs that serve and protect our community. The collaboration between these professional dog groups will provide for savings through shared operational expenses. Finally, these high performance dogs will benefit from better living conditions

I respectfully request your support in the passage of this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeanne torres
Executive director

Guide Dogs of Hawaii

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Joy nakata-Muranaka)

Date: (February 1, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

I am a blind individual who uses a guide dog. I am in support of SD Bill 2473. It will be beneficial to the community who depend on high performance dogs with protection and safety. These dogs are trained in multiple areas to perform different services to benefit the community's safety.

I ask that you please support Bill 2473.

Respectfully submitted,

(Sign)
(Your Name)

SB-2473

Submitted on: 1/29/2020 4:39:29 PM

Testimony for HMS on 2/7/2020 1:15:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Jay Kamibayashi

Date: February 4, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

I am Jay Kamibayashi, I am a blind owner of a guide dog. I have a wife and twin daughters, just starting their optometry career.

We strongly support Bill 2473.

I would like to mention, that guide dogs are amazing animals. They provide a variety of benefits, psychologically, socially, physically and most important, with independent mobility! They will transform the life of any person in a positive way!

Please support Bill 2473.

Thank you

Respectfully submitted,

(Your Name) (Sign)

To: The Honorable Russell E. Ruderman, Chair
Senate Committee on Human Services

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

From: Nicole Brodie

Date: February 6, 2020

RE: **Testimony in support of S.B. 2473**

I write in support of S.B. 2473 and request your support for the bill as well. Guide dogs have been proven to allow adults and seniors to live more productive and independent lives thus alleviating time and financial burdens on their family, community members, and the state as a whole.

Additionally, this shared facility with other professionally trained career dogs will allow for cost-savings as well as improvements to the existing conditions. This will support the dogs that serve and protect our community to perform better at their duties.

This allocation of funds will yield great rewards for the state and its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration. I urge passage of S.B. 2473.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicole Brodie