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Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FEBRUARY 26, 2021
9:30 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1026 SD1
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 1026 SD1, relating to the Animal Industry Special Fund. Senate Bill 1026 proposes to amend section 142-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the animal industry division to deposit fees generated by the veterinary laboratory and animal disease control into the fund to assist with its operations.

The animal industry special fund was established to receive moneys from the use or rental of under-utilized animal industry division property to assist with division operation expenditures. The relocation of OCCC to the animal quarantine station in Halawa will eliminate the original funding mechanism for the special fund.

The state veterinary laboratory is in the animal industry division of the department of agriculture. The veterinary laboratory provides laboratory services, diagnostic support and disease surveillance projects in poultry, swine, dairy, other livestock and aquaculture industries. The state veterinary laboratory assists these industries, practicing veterinarians, the state animal quarantine branch and other governmental animal health agencies by providing a variety of testing services,



including pathology, histopathology, parasitology, and serology. The division intends to continue expanding veterinary laboratory capabilities and services.

Senate Bill 1026 provides resources to support the state veterinary laboratory by providing stakeholders veterinary diagnostic services in-state, reducing delays in obtaining results from veterinary laboratories located outside of Hawaii, and eventually generating revenue to fund the operations of the animal industry division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.