

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**FEBRUARY 14, 2022
1:20 P.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2972
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2972, relating to the Animal Industry Special Fund. House Bill 2061 proposes to amend section 142-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the animal industry division to deposit fees from work 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 conducts 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 2972 will provide some 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 may eventually generate revenue to fund the operations of the animal industry division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



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February 14, 2022

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 2972
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:20 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 2972, which deposits revenue from the State Veterinary Laboratory and Animal Control Branch into the Animal Industry Special Fund and allows funds from the special fund to be expended to make laboratory improvements.

HDOA's Animal Industry Division has a wide range of responsibilities in support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers. They are charged with safeguarding the State's livestock and poultry industries by controlling and preventing the entry and spread of pests and diseases, operating the rabies quarantine program and the airport holding facility, conducting investigations into violations of animal quarantine/importation statutes, and providing veterinary laboratory support for diagnosing animal diseases. Hawaii's \$74,000,00 aquaculture industry is also supported with planning and coordination, business counseling, and information dissemination efforts through the Aquaculture and Livestock Support Services, a branch of the Animal Industry Division.

HFB believes that the HDOA needs to be adequately funded so that the Animal Industry Division can effectively carry out the many responsibilities they are charged with. The new sources of revenue generated by the State Veterinary Laboratory and Animal Disease Control Branch and authorizing funds to be used for improvements to laboratory capabilities and operations will increase the Animal Industry Division's operational capacity in support of Hawaii's farming community.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

SB2972
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Monday, February 14, 2022, 1:20 PM
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the five county level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports SB2972** to deposit revenue from the State Veterinary Laboratory and Animal Control Branch into the Animal Industry Special Fund and allows funds from the special fund to be expended to make laboratory improvements. Improvements to laboratory capabilities and operations will be beneficial to Hawaii's livestock industry.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director

