

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

FEBRUARY 23, 2023
11:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

HOUSE BILL NO. 972, HD1
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND

Chairperson Yamashita and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 972 HD1 relating to the Animal Industry Special Fund. House Bill 972 HD1 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.

House Bill 972, HD 1 will provide some resources to support the state veterinary laboratory by providing veterinary diagnostic services to stakeholders, in-state, reducing delays in obtaining results from veterinary laboratories located outside of Hawaii, and may eventually generate revenue to help fund the operations of the animal industry division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-972-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:03:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Galase	Hawaii Cattlemen's Council	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council supports this measure