

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1574

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27, 2025

RE: H.R. No. 188
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
H.R. No. 188 entitled:

"HOUSE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM
TO ESTABLISH A VETERINARY MEDICINE EXPANSION WORKING GROUP TO
EXPLORE THE FEASIBILITY OF DEVELOPING A DOCTOR OF VETERINARY
MEDICINE PROGRAM AT WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the University of
Hawaii System to establish a Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working
Group to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor of
Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community College.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Hawaiian Humane Society; Animal Interfaith Alliance in
Britain; Kaua'i Humane Society; and nine individuals. Your
Committee received comments on this measure from the University of
Hawai'i System.

Your Committee finds that the State faces a critical shortage
of veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal
and agricultural veterinary services. The lack of a Doctor of
Veterinary Medicine program forces aspiring veterinarians to seek
education outside of Hawaii, which can increase financial burdens

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and reduce the likelihood that a newly licensed veterinarian will return to the State to practice.

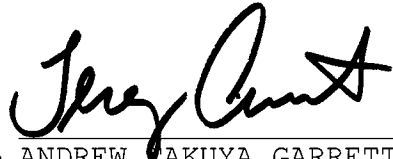
Your Committee further finds that Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology program has a strong foundation in veterinary education. Your Committee believes that establishing a working group to explore the feasibility of expanding Windward Community College's existing Veterinary Technology program to include a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine pathway will help address the State's veterinary workforce shortages.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Including a representative of the University of Hawaii at Hilo's Veterinarian Education Program as a member of the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working Group;
- (2) Directing a certified copy of this measure to the Chancellor of the University of Hawaii at Hilo; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of H.R. No. 188, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems in the form attached hereto as H.R. No. 188, H.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Higher Education,

For 
ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: HR 188	Committee Referral: HED-AGR	Date: 03/19/25		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
HED Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. GARRETT, Andrew Takuya (C)	✓			
2. AMATO, Terez (VC)	✓			
3. EVSLIN, Luke A.	✓			
4. KAPELA, Jeanne				✓
5. KILA, Darius K.	✓			
6. LA CHICA, Trish	✓			
7. OLDS, Ikaika	✓			
8. SAYAMA, Jackson D.				✓
9. WOODSON, Justin H.	✓			
10. MURAOKA, Christopher L.	✓			
11. SOUZA, Kanani	✓			
TOTAL (11)	9	-	-	2
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				