

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

2121

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR 16

, 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 192
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 Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred S.C.R. No. 192, H.D. 1, entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT 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,"

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 and submit a report to Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

Your Committee has received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, and two individuals. Your Committee has received comments from the University of Hawai'i System. Your Committee has received testimony in opposition of this measure from one individual.

Your Committee finds that the State faces a critical shortage of veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal and agricultural veterinary services. Moreover, the State's lack of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program forces aspiring

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the likelihood that a newly licensed veterinarian will return to Hawaii to practice.

Your Committee further finds that establishing a Doctor Veterinary Medicine program in Hawaii could include collaborations between the University of Hawaii System, private veterinary practices, and nationally accredited bodies to ensure academic excellence and program sustainability. This measure requests the University of Hawaii System to establish a Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working Group to conduct a feasibility study to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program and report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2026.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 192, H.D. 1, and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,


KIRSTIN KAHALOA, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: SCR 192, HD1	Committee Referral: HED, AGR	Date: 4/15/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input 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)				
AGR Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. KAHALOA, Kirstin (C)	✓			
2. KUSCH, Matthias (VC)	✓			
3. LOWEN, Nicole E.	✓			
4. PERRUSO, Amy A.	✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean				✓
TOTAL 5	4			1
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: -10px;"> <small>committee acronym(s)</small> </div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: -10px;"> </div>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				