

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1373

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 192

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2025
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred
S.C.R. No. 192 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 AT WINDWARD COMMUNITY
COLLEGE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent 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, Kaua'i Humane Society, Animal
Interfaith Alliance in Britain, and seven individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this
measure from one individual.

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. Your Committee further finds that the absence of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program in the State compels aspiring veterinarians to seek education on the United States mainland or internationally, which can increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a newly licensed veterinarian will return to the State to practice. Your Committee also finds that Windward Community College currently offers a Veterinary Technology Program and expanding it to include a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine pathway could alleviate the State's veterinary workforce shortages and support local agriculture, animal welfare, and biosecurity. This measure addresses the State's need for animal science-related education.

Your Committee notes the concern raised by the University of Hawaii System that community colleges are not authorized to offer doctoral programs. Therefore, your Committee requests that the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working Group consider a systemwide approach assessing the demand for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program and its potential integration within the University of Hawaii System.

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 S.C.R. No. 192 and recommends its adoption.

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



DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Higher Education
HRE

Bill / Resolution No.:* SCR 192	Committee Referral: HRE	Date: 3/20/2025		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
KIM, Donna Mercado (C)	✓			
KIDANI, Michelle N. (VC)	✓			WA <i>WA</i>
FUKUNAGA, Carol				✓
HASHIMOTO, Troy N.	✓			
FEVELLA, Kurt				✓
TOTAL	3			2
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: <div style="text-align: center; font-family: cursive; font-size: 1.2em;">Michelle N. Kidani</div>				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink Goldenrod File with Committee Report Clerk's Office Drafting Agency Committee File Copy				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes