



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloe, Chair
Rep. Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

HCR 195/HR 188

Tuesday, April 1, 2025, 11:15 AM
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HCR 195/HR 188** which requests the University of Hawaii System establish a veterinary medicine expansion working group to explore the feasibility of developing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at Windward Community College.

Veterinary doctors are crucial to a thriving livestock industry. Access to quality veterinarians who can service producers across the state is important for the health and well-being of livestock as well as for meeting the needs of veterinary requirements that livestock producers adhere to. We support the exploration of developing a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program, and this working group is the first step to reaching this.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four 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.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



HR-188-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 5:32:58 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/1/2025 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HR188 HD1 requesting the University of Hawai'i 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 represents an exciting potential first step toward addressing the persistent veterinary medicine shortage in your state by creating home-grown talent.

We beg to support this important Bill.

Committee: House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Bill Number: HB 739, RELATING TO HOUSING
Hearing Date & Time: April 1, 2025 at 11:15am
Re: Testimony of Malia Wisch **in Support of HCR195 / HR188**

Aloha Chair Kahaloe, Vice Chair Kusch and members of the committee:

My name is Malia Wisch and I am heavily involved in the effort to reduce the number of free-roaming cats on Oahu. I am a third-generation Kailua resident and a local professional.

I am testifying in support of HCR195 / HR188, 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.

So many of the efforts we're undertaking now to reduce the number of free-roaming cats are ultimately hamstrung by a lack of spay/neuter services. People want to spay/neuter their pets, but cannot due to the cost at private clinics and the lack of availability of subsidized services.

The Humane Society's spay/neuter center cannot meet current demand and appointments are filled months in advance because they cannot staff enough vets and technicians to provide more surgeries on more days of the week.

Meanwhile, cats and dogs are reproducing, adding more puppies and kittens to our community than we can humanely care for.

Any and all efforts to enable and incentivize local people to pursue veterinary education is a win-win, providing valuable job skills and providing desperately needed community service.

Mahalo for considering my testimony in support of this important legislation.

Sara Malia Wisch

HR-188-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2025 5:24:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 4/1/2025 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill. Hawaii has a serious shortage of vets and this will go some way towards addressing this shortfall.

HR-188-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2025 8:59:35 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/1/2025 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB493. We have a shortage of veterinarians in Hawai‘i, which, among other things, makes it difficult to get pet or feral cats spayed or neutered. This causes overpopulation of cats, which most people consider a problem.

Jane E Arnold

1763 Iwi Way, Apt D

Honolulu HI. 96816

HR-188-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2025 5:25:21 AM

Testimony for AGR on 4/1/2025 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill. Hawaii has a severe veterinarian shortage, often making it difficult for Hawaii residents to have their furry family members , livestock and other animals being cared for by a certified professional. Having a school will encourage these professionals to stay in the island to practice. The state has already embarked on similar efforts with the educating doctors here with the intent to practice in Hawaii and address the doctor shortage. Again please support this bill to improve care for Hawaii's animals!