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Governor



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TESTIMONY OF SANDRA LEE KUNIMOTO
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Friday, March 28, 2008
9:30 A.M.
Room 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 3120, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
RELATING TO ANIMAL QUARANTINE FACILITIES

Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 3120, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 which amends chapter 142-3.5, HRS, to remove the provision requiring the Department of Agriculture to receive fair market rent for the lease of unused property at the Animal Quarantine facility. The Department supports House Bill No. 3120, H.D. 2, S.D. 1.

Currently, chapter 142-3.5, HRS, adopted by the 2005 Legislature, authorizes the Board of Agriculture to contract with third parties for the use and rental of animal quarantine station property or facilities under the following conditions: the property or facilities are not required for quarantine program use; the property be leased or rented at fair market value; and the property be used only by the third party. In addition to requirements of chapter 142-3.5, the methods of lease or rent of public lands are provided in chapter 171, HRS.

Executive Order No. 4096, dated January 10, 2005, sets aside land situated in Halawa Valley, Oahu, to be under the management and control of the Department of Agriculture for the following public purposes: animal quarantine; animal welfare; and agriculture related purposes. The parcel under consideration for rent is approximately 5.5 acres within the animal quarantine station zoned as I-2 with an estimated fair market rent for the leasehold interest of \$310,050 per year (as of December 2005).

The Department believes removing the fair market value requirement may allow a broader spectrum of agricultural businesses or qualified organizations that are compatible with Animal Quarantine to participate in a competitive bid process for the land. An open and competitive bid process is expected to ensure the land is used appropriately and generates reasonable revenue to help offset program expenditures, ultimately resulting in reduced fees to users of the program.

testimony

From: Kawehi Yim [kyim@hawaiianhumane.org]
Sent: Thursday, March 27, 2008 12:50 PM
To: testimony
Subject: HB 3120, HD2, SD1: RELATING TO ANIMAL QUARANTINE FACILITIES

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB3120, HD2, SD1 – Relating to Animal Quarantine Facilities
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
DATE: Friday, March 28, 2008
TIME: 9:30 a.m.
FROM: Kawehi Yim, Community Relations Director
HAWAIIAN HUMANE SOCIETY

The Hawaiian Humane Society fully supports House Bill 3120, HD2, SD1, allowing the Board of Agriculture (BOA) to negotiate the lease rent for the use of the animal quarantine station located in Halawa Valley.

This bill authorizes the Board of Agriculture to contract, without any restrictions on what the Board may charge for leasing or renting the property or facilities, with third parties for the use or rental of a portion of the Halawa property.

As a non-profit organization and the animal control contractor for the City and County of Honolulu, the Hawaiian Humane Society has actively evaluated alternatives for a second shelter site to better serve the growing population of Oahu. This bill would afford us the opportunity to work directly with the Board of Agriculture towards negotiating the use for the unused portion of the Halawa facility so that we can better serve the communities of West and Central Oahu. Approximately 67% of Oahu's pet owners reside in West Oahu, with the next largest population of pet owners living in the North Shore/Central Oahu region, according to a 2005 survey conducted for the Hawaiian Humane Society by Ward Research.

We support the passage of House Bill 3120, HD2, SD1, and ask that this committee do the same.

Sincerely,
Kawehi Yim

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