

FEB 06 2018

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN
SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO PROVIDE
CLARIFICATION AND OVERSIGHT OF THE ROLE OF SERVICE ANIMALS.

1 WHEREAS, service animals play an important role in caring
2 for disabled residents of the State; and

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4 WHEREAS, there are many competing and overlapping
5 designations and definitions of animals that provide services
6 for their owners, such as "service animal", "comfort animal",
7 "assistance animal", and "emotional support animal"; and

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9 WHEREAS, service animals are often given different names
10 and roles depending on the agency, including the Department of
11 Justice, Hawaii Civil Rights Commission, and state Department of
12 Health; and

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14 WHEREAS, there is no state-wide definition used in all
15 circumstances for service animals or state certification of
16 service animals; and

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18 WHEREAS, some pets may be passed off fraudulently as
19 service animals, diminishing the respect given to service
20 animals who have received years of professional training; and

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22 WHEREAS, vests falsely identifying animals as service
23 animals are readily available; and

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25 WHEREAS, there is confusion among business owners and
26 service providers as to which animals are required to access
27 their premises; and

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29 WHEREAS, the confusion created by unclear terminology and
30 lack of certification harms local business owners and residents
31 with disabilities; now, therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the House of Representatives concurring, that the department of health and department of human services are requested to establish a working group on service animals; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group is requested to:

- (1) Examine existing state and federal definitions of "service animal" and related designations;
- (2) Discuss how to better oversee and regulate service animals; and
- (3) Report its findings and recommendations to the Legislature, including any proposed legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the 2019 legislative session; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health and the Director of Human Services.

OFFERED BY:

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