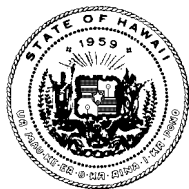


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



PANKAJ BHANOT
DIRECTOR

CATHY BETTS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 22, 2020

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Pankaj Bhanot, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2473 – RELATING TO GUIDE DOGS**

Hearing: February 25, 2020, 12:40 p.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports the intent of the bill and defers to the Department of Agriculture in terms of implementation and sufficient appropriation amount.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this bill is to make an appropriation for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained career dogs on a designated portion of the state animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu.

Increasing training resources that would make more trained guide dogs available to Hawaii's residents with disabilities would support more individuals' ability to work and participate in other social activities to meet their human and economic potential.

Also, while the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not require a service animal to be professionally trained, the ADA allows owners to train their own service animal. Resources should be developed to provide owners with information, education, and coaching strategies to train their own service animals.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

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**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

**FEBURARY 25, 2020
12:40 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2473
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2473, relating to guide dogs. The bill proposes to appropriate funds for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained career dogs on a designated portion of the state animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu.

The Department is in support of the bill provided the planning and design is subject to approval by the Department, and is compatible with Animal Industry Operations and the planned relocation of the Animal Quarantine Station.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



SB-2473

Submitted on: 2/20/2020 4:59:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/25/2020 12:40:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anne Marie Jacintho	Individual	Support	No

Comments: