

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

MARCH 30, 2023
10:05 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 972, HD1
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 972 HD1 relating to the Animal Industry Special Fund. House Bill 972 HD1 proposes to amend section 142-3.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to allow the animal industry division to deposit fees from work by the veterinary laboratory and animal disease control into the fund to assist with its operations.

The animal industry special fund was established to receive moneys from the use or rental of under-utilized animal industry division property to assist with division operation expenditures. The relocation of OCCC to the animal quarantine station in Halawa will eliminate the original funding mechanism for the special fund.

The state veterinary laboratory is in the animal industry division of the department of agriculture. The veterinary laboratory conducts laboratory services, diagnostic support and disease surveillance projects in poultry, swine, dairy, other livestock and aquaculture industries. The state veterinary laboratory assists these industries, practicing veterinarians, the state animal quarantine branch and other



governmental animal health agencies by providing a variety of testing services, including pathology, histopathology, parasitology, and serology. The division intends to continue expanding veterinary laboratory capabilities and services.

House Bill 972, HD 1 will provide some resources to support the state veterinary laboratory by providing veterinary diagnostic services to stakeholders, in-state, reducing delays in obtaining results from veterinary laboratories located outside of Hawaii, and may eventually generate revenue to help fund the operations of the animal industry division.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-972-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 12:34:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Miyamoto	Testifying for Hawaii Farm Bureau	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

HB972 HD1
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY SPECIAL FUND

Thursday, March 30, 2023, 10:05 AM
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

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.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB972 HD1** which adds revenue generated by the State Veterinary Laboratory and Animal Disease Control Branch as sources for the Animal Industry Special Fund and clarifies that the funds from the special fund may be expended to make laboratory improvements.

It is important to ensure there is revenue to continue providing services by the State Veterinary Laboratory. This branch should be adequately funded to properly carry out their duties, as it is vital to supporting the livestock industry, continuing research, and monitoring and addressing disease outbreaks.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council
Managing Director



LATE

HB-972-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 10:13:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Weidenbach	Testifying for Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaii Aquaculture and Aquaponics Association strongly supports this measure which will increase the essential financial support and flexibility to upgrade for the Animal Disease Laboratory and program.

HB-972-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 5:00:24 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 972.

Mahalo,

Theresa Thompson

HB-972-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/29/2023 8:44:47 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/30/2023 10:05:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy Esposito	Testifying for Pacific Hybreed Inc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please allocate more funding to facility and staff upgrades. This input of resources will bolster HI's cabpability to offer in-state testing for the aquaculture industry; rather than sending testing to Pacific US Coast. More expertise needs to be fostered locally in HI.