

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

1373

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 31 2025

RE: S.C.R. No. 192

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Higher Education, to which was referred  
S.C.R. No. 192 entitled:

"SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 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,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to request 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.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from the Hawaiian Humane Society, Kaua'i Humane Society, Animal  
Interfaith Alliance in Britain, and seven individuals.

Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this  
measure from one individual.

Your Committee received comments on this measure from the  
University of Hawai'i System.

Your Committee finds that the State faces a critical shortage  
of veterinarians, especially in rural areas and for large animal



and agricultural veterinary services. Your Committee further finds that the absence of a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program in the State compels aspiring veterinarians to seek education on the United States mainland or internationally, which can increase financial burdens and reduce the likelihood that a newly licensed veterinarian will return to the State to practice. Your Committee also finds that Windward Community College currently offers a Veterinary Technology Program and expanding it to include a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine pathway could alleviate the State's veterinary workforce shortages and support local agriculture, animal welfare, and biosecurity. This measure addresses the State's need for animal science-related education.

Your Committee notes the concern raised by the University of Hawaii System that community colleges are not authorized to offer doctoral programs. Therefore, your Committee requests that the Veterinary Medicine Expansion Working Group consider a systemwide approach assessing the demand for a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine Program and its potential integration within the University of Hawaii System.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Higher Education that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.C.R. No. 192 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Higher Education,



---

DONNA MERCADO KIM, Chair



