



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 Fax: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
FEBRUARY 6, 2014, 9:40 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 2189  
RELATING TO THE ANIMAL QUARANTINE SPECIAL FUND

Chairperson Jessica Wooley and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2189 that repeals the Animal Quarantine Special Fund. The Hawaii Department of Agriculture opposes the bill due to strong concerns over the potential long-term effects on the program.

The Animal Quarantine Special Fund was established in 1998 to cover all costs of operating the rabies exclusion program. For the past 16 years, the program has successfully met its mission of preventing the introduction of rabies and exotic ticks into Hawaii with no cost to the general taxpayer. The program has been able to defray all of the costs of operation with revenue acquired through user fees. The State Auditor's report in January 2014 reviewed the Animal Quarantine Special Fund and found that the fund meets all the criteria set forth by the Legislature and Auditor to continue as a Special Fund.

Although the State is currently experiencing a growing economy, adding financial burdens to the general taxpayer seems inappropriate as it is anticipated that this fund will continue to meet all of the criteria required to continue as a special fund. Furthermore, economic downturns resulting in restrictions and reductions in staff can create serious operational issues negatively affecting program effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

