A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that programs operated by organizations that provide professionally trained guide dogs, services, and assistive aids for Hawaii's blind and visually impaired community yield higher employment levels with less need for lifetime support services for youth, and lead to greater independence and mobility for adults and seniors, thus minimizing the need for long term home and nursing care and placing fewer burdens on family, friends, and the community.

The legislature further recognizes that only half of the twenty-nine acre site in lower Halawa valley that constitutes the State's animal quarantine facility has been slated for use by the department of public safety as the location for the new Oahu community correctional center, and that an environmental impact statement has already been prepared for the site, which can allow the State to repurpose the remainder of this underutilized site for public benefit. The legislature finds that there is an interest in developing an operational facility
in Hawaii for the professional training of guide dogs for eventual service to blind and visually impaired residents, which will reduce the dependence of Hawaii's residents on the importation of such professionally trained guide dogs from places like Australia. This reduction would be to the public benefit. The legislature also finds that the State's existing animal quarantine facility is currently being accessed and utilized in a similar manner.

The purpose of this Act is to appropriate sufficient funding to the department of agriculture for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on a designated portion of the State's animal quarantine facility site.

SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $300,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for the planning and design of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on a designated portion of the State's animal quarantine facility site in Halawa valley on the island of Oahu.
1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
2 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.
3 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.
Report Title:
Animal Quarantine Facility; Assistance Animals; Appropriation

Description:
Appropriates funds for the design and development of a professional training facility for guide dogs and other professionally trained service dogs on an undeveloped portion of the State's animal quarantine facility in Halawa valley on Oahu. Effective 7/1/2020. (SD1)

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