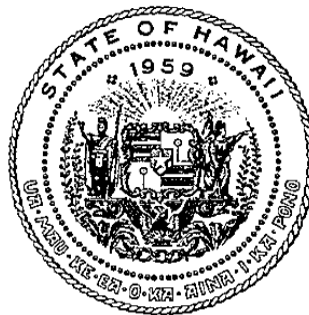


**REPORT TO THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
2017 REGULAR SESSION
STATE OF HAWAII**

**REPORT ON THE FEASIBILITY OF BOTH DECOMMISSIONING AND RELOCATING THE ANIMAL
QUARANTINE STATION IN HALAWA VALLEY**

H.C.R.34, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2016



Prepared by:

**THE STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

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Feasibility of Decommissioning and Relocating the Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture was tasked in H.C.R.34, SLH 2016 to report on the feasibility of decommissioning and relocating the Animal Quarantine Station in Halawa. This measure was a concurrent resolution passed by the 2016 Legislature without any resources or funding attached. The following sections highlight the Department's Animal Industry Division assessment of such action.

Facility Needs

Any new site should be chosen based upon criteria such as location, size, cost, existing infrastructure, and neighboring community acceptability. A suitable relocation property would at a minimum need to be appropriately sized and already possess or be capable of housing the infrastructure needed to provide for the daily care of a concentrated population of dogs and cats in a way which would have a minimal impact on the surrounding communities and the other operations of the facility.

The current location is ideally situated for the Animal Quarantine Station due to the following factors: (1) Proximity to the ports of entry such as the Honolulu International Airport where the vast majority of dogs and cats enter the State; (2) The central location which provides ease of access for public visiting and public business with the Animal Quarantine Station, and also minimizes travel time of pets between the station and quarantine approved veterinary hospitals located from Hawaii Kai through Honolulu to Ewa/Waipahu and Kailua/Kaneohe; and (3) The valley topography and inland location have enhanced the facilities' resilience to withstanding past adverse weather events (i.e. hurricanes). (4) The neighboring community is comprised of industrial areas that have not reported being adversely impacted by the presence of the Animal Quarantine Station.

Decommissioning Process: Initial Steps

At this time, no other divisions of the Hawaii Department of Agriculture have been identified as being able to utilize the properties at Halawa. For the property to be decommissioned, the following actions would need to first be successfully undertaken: (1) a new site must be identified to house the animals currently in compliance with HAR 4-29 and the aforementioned factors; (2) construction funding would have to be located from a source outside of existing operating budgets; and (3) communication with the many affected internal and external stakeholders: employees; public; other state departments; federal agencies; transportation agencies.

Reestablishment Process

To establish and operate an animal quarantine station at a new location, the following actions must be considered: (1) design and planning: incorporate biosecurity measures for dealing with disease agents; plan for dog and cat confinement that is mindful of the human-animal bond; design facilities that would take into account safe handling of carnivores while still attending to their daily needs; (2) select contractor and construct facilities; and (3) transfer process: establish planning for transfer of location operation, including a communication plan; facilities plan; logistics plan; maintaining at all times even during the movement the critical functions of animal care: veterinary dispensary care, pet qualification and data entry by office, accounting and veterinary staff, including all necessary associated IT systems, equipment, material and supplies.

Good logistical planning would minimize negative effects upon animals located at the Animal Quarantine Station when transferred to the new location. An animal in good health should be able to endure the stresses associated with a reasonable transport method and acclimation to new surroundings. If distance and travel time from the existing site to the new facility is minimal, it may be feasible for newly arrived animals to be directed to the new site. The Department would temporarily maintain two sites for up to 4 months until all (or most) of the animals are released from the old site. This process assumes sufficient staff is available to operate both sites. If distance, travel time and/or staffing does not permit two site operations for an extended period, transfer of animals and staged transition over an abbreviated period such as a week will be necessary. It is possible this will require all, or portions of, sections to relocate at different intervals.

Timeline

The amount of time needed to decommission the animal quarantine station at Halawa Valley and subsequently establish and operate an animal quarantine station at a new location may be up to eight years. The Animal Industry Division will require two years to identify potential relocation sites and determine their suitability, and three to five years after that for construction and communication with stakeholders. Upon completion of construction, it will take approximately six months to plan movement of the existing population, establish new Standard Operating Procedures, and train staff to accommodate to working at the new facilities. It is highly recommended that the move be complete before the final decommissioning of the current Animal Quarantine Station is completed.

Ultimately, determining a suitable alternate location for the Animal Quarantine Station would be outside the capabilities of staff for the Animal Industry Division. Assessment would necessarily involve the identification of properties that are available for evaluation, which would then undergo an evaluation process for suitability, including the suitability considerations provided by the Division in this report.