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From: Lisa Bray [mailto:mtghdude@aol.com]  
Sent: Tuesday, April 03, 2012 3:29 AM  
To:  
Cc:  
Subject: Budget Committee Testimony

To whom it may concern:

My name is Dr. Lisa Bray.

I am a practicing veterinarian in Oklahoma. I also have an active Hawaii veterinary professional license. I was born and raised in Hawaii. I grew up in the Hawaii horse communities on Oahu. I enjoyed the benefits and healthy responsibilities of growing up with my horses. I also worked in the horse industry and veterinary industry in Hawaii before leaving to go to college and starting my personal veterinary career. My family, the Nobriga's of Nobriga Ranch, headed up by Mr. Buddy Nobriga who is one of the organizers Maui Cattle Company, on the island of Maui still continues to use horses in their ranching operations.

I have dedicated my whole life to equine species, both personally and professionally. In addition to practicing veterinary medicine, I have continued my personal involvement with my horses through riding and competing. I have raised American Quarter horses both in Hawaii and here in Oklahoma. My horses have competed at the international level every year for the last 12 years, by qualifying for the AQHA World Invitational Championship Show.

I have maintained my ties in Hawaii through my family, professional and personal friends. I am also a property owner and business owner in Hawaii, and pay property and excise taxes promptly and on time.

I , personally am considering moving home, to Hawaii when I retire from my veterinary practice in Oklahoma. In the past few years I have been checking on arrangements for shipping and maintaining some of my personal horses from Oklahoma to Hawaii. I would like to resume the lifestyle of the Hawaiian paniola that I left so many years ago. But recently, I have been made aware that the cherished vibrant lifestyle and family heritage may no longer be possible in my home state.

I believe, you need to reconsider your stand on eliminating horses from the state of Hawaii. By eliminating the horses, you will eliminate business and revenue generated by these horse businesses and businesses associated with your horse communities. Have you considered the Hawaiian people that would become unemployed? Veterinarians, like Dr. Manny Himenez, veterinary assistants, farriers, like Mr. Abraham and son, Justin Gonzalas, and their assistants, horse professionals, both trainers, teachers and business professionals, like Bud and Katy Gibson, who have run New Town and Country Stables for the past 50 plus years. What about Honolulu Horse and Carriage Company? They are a thriving part of your Waikiki tourist and wedding scene. I have just touched upon the surface of your problem if you eliminate horses in Hawaii. All these professionals would have to find alternate jobs or professions in order to support their families and continue to thrive and prosper. You would force many of these individuals to move to the mainland, where their professions would be recognized. Where they could

continue making an honest living, working in a profession they love and have dedicated their whole lives to.

I think you need to rethink your decision to eliminate horses from Hawaii. You need to consider the Hawaiian lives you will impact. That impact, will impact your tax income base because many of these people's will be forced to leave their home state. People like myself, may reconsider investing monies in Hawaii, since I may not be able to enjoy or work in the professions and life style I choose. I can find an alternate place to retire, but I would really like to come home.

Do not eliminate Horses in Hawaii!

Respectfully,

Lisa Bray DVM

Sent from my iPad