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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARIANS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there are not enough  
2 homes to accommodate the seventy thousand puppies and kittens  
3 born every day across the nation. In six years, one fertile  
4 female and male dog and their offspring could produce sixty-  
5 seven thousand puppies. In seven years, a pair of male and  
6 female cats and their offspring could produce four hundred  
7 twenty thousand kittens.

8           In Hawaii, the problem of unwanted animals is widespread.  
9 Some animals are abandoned and appear in shopping centers,  
10 hotels, small businesses, subdivisions, and residents'  
11 backyards. Many of these abandoned animals are unable to  
12 survive and die from starvation, disease, abuse, or when struck  
13 by cars. Each year in Hawaii, thousands of healthy, unwanted  
14 animals are euthanized because there are not enough homes for  
15 them.

16           Studies show that spaying and neutering are the most  
17 effective and efficient means to control animal overpopulation,  
18 as well as to prevent abandonment and animal cruelty. Public



1 education on the benefits of spaying and neutering is the best  
2 way to effect change in our community. However, there is a lack  
3 of qualified veterinarians to perform these services. The  
4 problem is especially acute in the county of Hawaii. The  
5 surgery facility at Keaau and Kona Humane Society has been  
6 without a veterinarian for over two years. As a result,  
7 adoption periods are delayed because private veterinarians are  
8 overwhelmed with sterilizations. In efforts to help control  
9 animal overpopulation, local veterinarians have contributed  
10 nearly one thousand low-cost spay and neuter services each year.  
11 Although helpful, it is not enough to cover the additional five  
12 thousand spay and neuter surgeries needed annually for the  
13 Hawaii Humane Society. More veterinarians are needed to help  
14 control animal overpopulation.

15 Veterinarians from other states who are vacationing in  
16 Hawaii have demonstrated an interest in assisting the State by  
17 volunteering to spay and neuter animals. However, Hawaii law  
18 only authorizes veterinarians licensed in the State of Hawaii to  
19 perform these services.

20 The purpose of this Act is to allow out-of-state  
21 veterinarians who are licensed in good standing by another



1 state, to obtain a temporary veterinary permit to address animal  
2 overpopulation in Hawaii.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§471- Temporary permit without examination; out-of-  
7 state veterinarians. (a) The board may grant a temporary  
8 permit to practice veterinary medicine that shall not exceed  
9 ninety days per year to an applicant who has not fulfilled the  
10 requirements of section 471-8 but meets the requirements of this  
11 section and is found by the board to be fit to receive a permit.

12 (b) The applicant shall:

13 (1) Pay all required fees;

14 (2) Submit a completed application;

15 (3) Verify that the applicant:

16 (A) Has graduated from a general veterinarian  
17 education program accredited by the American  
18 Veterinary Medical Association;

19 (B) Holds a current active license issued by another  
20 state with licensing standards at least  
21 equivalent to Hawaii's standards that is not  
22 revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted;



1           (C) Has not been subject to disciplinary action by  
2           any state or other jurisdiction in which the  
3           applicant is or has been licensed to practice  
4           veterinary medicine; provided that if the  
5           applicant has been subject to disciplinary  
6           action, the board shall review that action to  
7           determine if it warrants refusal to issue a  
8           temporary permit to the applicant; and

9           (D) Has no felony convictions of any kind and no  
10           other criminal convictions that may affect the  
11           applicant's ability to render competent  
12           veterinary care;

13           (4) Submit a self-query report from the National  
14           Practitioner Data Bank and verification of  
15           registration status with the federal Drug Enforcement  
16           Administration. The board shall review this  
17           information to determine if it warrants refusal to  
18           issue a temporary permit to the applicant; and

19           (5) Submit any other information required by the board to  
20           determine the applicant's fitness for a temporary  
21           permit.

1        (c) A temporary permit issued under this section shall  
2 authorize the holder to perform veterinary services that are:

3        (1) Limited to:

4            (A) Health examinations;

5            (B) Minor treatments, including treatment for  
6            internal and external parasites;

7            (C) Sterilization;

8            (D) Vaccination;

9            (E) Emergency first aid; and

10          (F) Euthanasia;

11          and

12          (2) Performed in conjunction with a non-profit, 501(c)3  
13          organization or a government agency providing animal  
14          management services."

15          SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;  
17 provided that the board of veterinary examiners shall begin to  
18 accept applications for permits under section 2 no later than  
19 September 1, 2006.



HB 1836

HD1

**Report Title:**

Veterinarians; Temporary Permit

**Description:**

Authorizes, upon certain conditions and without examination, temporary permits to be issued to veterinarians who are licensed in good standing in another state that has licensing standards equivalent to or higher than Hawaii's (HB1836 HD1).

