
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. However,



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

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

18 The purpose of this Act is to allow out-of-state
19 veterinarians who are licensed in good standing by another
20 state, to obtain a temporary veterinary license to perform
21 veterinary services in Hawaii.



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

4 "§471- Temporary licensure without examination; out-of-
5 state veterinarians. (a) The board may grant a temporary
6 license to practice veterinary medicine that shall not exceed
7 ninety days to an applicant who has not fulfilled the
8 requirements of section 471-8 but meets the requirements of this
9 section and is found by the board to be fit for licensure.

10 (b) The applicant shall:

11 (1) Pay all required fees;

12 (2) Submit a completed application;

13 (3) Verify that the applicant:

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

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

21 (C) Has not been subject to disciplinary action by
22 any jurisdiction in which the applicant is or has



1 been previously licensed to practice veterinary
2 medicine; provided that if the applicant has been
3 subject to disciplinary action, the board shall
4 review that action to determine if it warrants
5 refusal to issue a temporary license to the
6 applicant; and

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

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

17 (5) Submit any other information required by the board to
18 determine the applicant's fitness for licensure."

19 SECTION 3. Section 471-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

21 "(a) ~~[No]~~ Except as provided under section 471- , no
22 person shall be licensed to practice veterinary medicine unless



1 the person has passed an examination of the qualifications and
2 fitness to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine given
3 by the board of veterinary examiners. Before any applicant
4 shall be eligible for examination under this chapter the
5 applicant, at least sixty days before the date set for
6 examination, shall file an application in the form as shall be
7 prescribed by the board, pay to the department of commerce and
8 consumer affairs application and examination fees, and furnish
9 proof satisfactory to the board that the applicant:

- 10 (1) Is eighteen or more years of age; and
11 (2) Is a graduate of a veterinary college meeting all the
12 standards established by the American Veterinary
13 Medical Association, or, in lieu thereof, has actively
14 practiced for ten out of twelve years immediately
15 preceding the date of application in a state having
16 standards for licensing comparable to those in this
17 State."

18 SECTION 4. Section 471-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

20 "(b) ~~[All]~~ Except as provided in section 471- , all
21 licenses issued by the board shall expire on June 30 of each
22 even-numbered year next following the date of issuance."



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
4 provided that the board of veterinary examiners shall begin to
5 accept applications for licensure under section 2 no later than
6 September 1, 2006.

7

INTRODUCED BY: *James Murray*

Michael P. Kalukina

John Dan...
~~*[Signature]*~~

Kenya Janda
Wendy Drou...
Hein H...

Michael J. Murray
[Signature]

JAN 17 2008

Report Title:

Veterinarians; Temporary License

Description:

Authorizes, upon certain conditions and without examination, temporary licensure of veterinarians who are licensed in good standing in another state that has licensing standards equivalent to or higher than Hawaii's.

