



LINDA LINGLE  
GOVERNOR  
JAMES R. AIONA, JR.  
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS  
335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310  
P.O. Box 541  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809  
Phone Number: (808) 586-2850  
Fax Number: (808) 586-2856  
[www.hawaii.gov/dcca](http://www.hawaii.gov/dcca)

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH  
DIRECTOR  
RONALD BOYER  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE  
Regular Session of 2009

Wednesday, March 11, 2009  
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE NO. 271.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") thanks you for the opportunity to testify on Governor's Message No. 271, regarding the **reappointment** of Rebecca H. Rhoades, DVM to the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Rhoades' reappointment to the Board.

Dr. Rhoades is being reappointed to the Board as a licensee member. She has been licensed as a veterinarian since February 25, 1987, and her license is current, active, and in good standing.

As the Board's Chairperson, Dr. Rhoades has actively and effectively participated in the Board's proceedings. Dr. Rhoades has excellent attendance at the Board's meetings. Her active participation during the meeting discussions

demonstrates that she is always prepared for matters that are on the Board's agendas. By sharing valuable insights that she has gained over her many years of experience as a licensed veterinarian in active practice, Dr. Rhoades makes significant contributions when making Board decisions. Further, on many occasions, the Board has called upon Dr. Rhoades to assess an issue, articulate the finer points and make recommendations. We believe that her interest in serving on the Board, experience in the profession, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to enhance the effectiveness of the Board.

The Department supports the confirmation of Dr. Rebecca H. Rhoades to the Board of Veterinary Examiners and thanks you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

March 3, 2009

Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Testimony for Rebecca H. Rhoades, D.V.M.  
Board of Veterinary Examiners Nominee

Dear Chair Baker and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for this opportunity to provide information about myself for your consideration of my confirmation to the Board of Veterinary Examiners. Unfortunately due to prior commitments, I am unable to attend the hearing before your committee on Wednesday, March 11, 2009.

I have been a member of the Board for the past two years and would very much like to serve another term. As a board member, we represent the community of veterinary professionals in Hawaii. Our job is to review and authorize licensure for new veterinarians and provide guidance and oversight on the standard of practice of veterinary medicine in Hawaii for the State.

I have worked in all types of veterinary practices here in Hawaii and now work for the community running a nonprofit animal welfare organization as well as enforcing animal related laws for the County of Kauai. I am familiar with running my own private practice, working with regulatory issues and working for the community. I bring a broader perspective related to animals in our community to the board than most veterinarians. I demand a high level of professionalism when it comes to working with animals and will apply this same philosophy with my work on the board if approved.

The Board of Veterinary Examiners is critical to maintain the high quality of care provided for our four-legged family members. We are so fortunate here in Hawaii to have a small but very talented veterinary community, and it would be my honor to continue to serve them.

Thank you,



Rebecca H. Rhoades, D.V.M.  
Executive Director

Rebecca Hollyn Rhoades, D.V.M.

---

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Kauai Humane Society**, P.O. Box 3330, Lihue, HI 96766  
January 2001 to Present Supervisor: Laura Wiley, Board President

**Executive Director Duties:**

- ◆ Direct and manage 28 staff to provide all programs and services including State approved satellite quarantine center and private pet boarding services.
- ◆ Direct and manage animal care and control services for County of Kauai
- ◆ Direct and manage thrift store at separate location in Lihue
- ◆ Develop and manage 1.8 million budget annually

**Major Accomplishments**

- ◆ Completion of new facility construction and transfer of all services to new site in summer, 2001
- ◆ Received endorsement from American Red Cross and Kauai Civil Defense to provide pet friendly emergency evacuation sheltering services at the Society for Kauai residents in the event of a disaster
- ◆ Created and opened State approved satellite quarantine center for new resident owned pets moving to Kauai, February, 2002
- ◆ Implemented new community pet spay/neuter and I.D. program with 100% participation of all Kauai veterinary clinics
- ◆ Successfully passed and implemented County dangerous dog ordinance October, 2002
- ◆ Opened private pet boarding services November, 2003
- ◆ Passed certification for Certified Animal Welfare Administrator 2004

**The Humane Society of the United States**, 2100 L Street, NW, Washington, DC 20037  
May 2000 to 2002 Supervisor: Martha Armstrong, Vice President of Companion Animals

**Consultant Duties:**

- ◆ Provide training services nationally and internationally on euthanasia, early spay/neuter, cat behavior and handling, shelter operations and management, etc.
- ◆ Member of Animal Services Consultation Team which evaluates shelter programs and services upon request
- ◆ Assist with variety of services including equine protection, veterinary issues and animal shelter services

**Major Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Wrote and published "Euthanasia Training Manual" August, 2002

**The Cat Clinic**, 1131 Kapahulu Ave., Honolulu, HI 96816

**May 2000 to  
May 2001** Supervisor: Dr. Suzanne Sylvester-Palumbo, owner

**Part-time Veterinarian Duties:**

- ◆ Provide veterinary medical and surgical services
- ◆ Assist with staff development and management

**Palm Beach County Animal Care**, 7100 Belvedere Road, West Palm Beach, FL 33411

**May 1999 to  
May 2000** Supervisor: Paul Milelli, Director of Public Safety Department

**Director Duties:**

- ◆ Directed and managed performance of 90 employees
- ◆ Developed and managed animal care and control services
- ◆ Developed and managed 4 million annual budget

**Major Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Developed and implemented adoption agreement with community animal rescue groups
- ◆ Developed and implemented shelter dog training program with staff and community volunteers
- ◆ Implemented significant improvements to shelter operations

**Hawaiian Humane Society**, 2700 Waiialae Avenue, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

**May 1994 to  
May 1999** Supervisor: Pamela Burns, President

**Director of Shelter Operations Duties:**

- ◆ Directed and Managed:
  - performance of 40 staff
  - care of 30,000 animals received annually
  - education and enforcement of animal-related laws
  - customer services including adoptions, dispatch operators, lost and found, etc.
  - maintenance and repair of all equipment, buildings and grounds
  - assist and advise other departments, organizations, media and public of shelter operations and animal-related issues

- ◆ Developed and managed approximately 3.5 million budget for shelter operations

**Major Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Developed and performed training program for Taiwan government on stray dog control
- ◆ Authored and successfully lobbied state legislature for establishing minimum care standards in state animal cruelty statute
- ◆ Managed 1.7 million dollar renovation of current facility in 1997 while maintaining full operations
- ◆ Directed investigation and assisted prosecutors with successful conviction of first animal neglect trial in state of Hawaii
- ◆ Designed and implemented levels I and II statewide humane investigator training for small and large animal cruelty investigations

May 1992 to  
May 1994

**Staff Veterinarian Duties:**

- ◆ Managed animal care and veterinary treatment for all shelter animals
- ◆ Managed ten staff members
- ◆ Designed, implemented, and performed sterilization surgeries for adopted animals and cats living in colonies on Oahu

**Major Accomplishments:**

- ◆ Implemented prepubescent sterilization program of adopted animals
- ◆ Organized and developed efficient sterilization program averaging 30 surgeries daily
- ◆ Developed and performed statewide euthanasia training and certification

**OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE**

1986 – 1993

**Veterinary Practitioner**

- ◆ Rhoades Equine Veterinary Service: Self-employed equine veterinarian with emphasis on reproduction services
- ◆ Companion Animal Hospital: Small animal; general and emergency services
- ◆ Kaneohe Veterinary Clinic: Small animal emergency services
- ◆ Department of Agriculture: Relief veterinarian for animal quarantine station
- ◆ Oahu Equine Veterinary Clinic: Internship in equine medicine and surgery

**1979 – 1983**     **Animal Control Officer.** Humane Society for Larimer County, Ft. Collins, Colorado

**EDUCATION**

1986                Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado  
1979                Bachelor of Science in Zoology and secondary education teaching certification, Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

2006 - current    Hawaii State Board of Veterinary Examiners  
2006                Graduate of Hawaii Community Foundation PONO Leadership Program  
2005 - 2008        Board Member, Society of Animal Welfare Administrators and Chair of Disaster Committee  
2001 - 2003        Vice President, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association  
1997 – 2002        Speaker for The Humane Society of the United States and the American Humane Association at national and international conferences  
1998                Director of Operations Steering Committee for Society of Animal Welfare Administrators  
1995 – 1997        Vice President, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association  
1990 – 1992        Animal Welfare Committee, American Association of Equine Practitioners

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

2008 - current    Board Member, Kauai Planning & Action Alliance  
2004 – 2006        Vice President, Dog Fanciers of Kauai  
1991 – 1996        Board of Directors, Hawaii Horse Show Association  
1992 – 1993        Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters  
1989 – 1992        Horse show attendant, American Horse Show Association

**REFERENCES**

Pamela Burns, President CEO  
Hawaiian Humane Society

████████████████████  
██

Dr. Eric Ako  
The Pet Doctor

██  
██

Dr. Sue Sylvester  
The Cat Clinic

██  
██

Laura Wiley, Board President  
Kauai Humane Society

██  
██