



HB 2929

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: 586-2850
Fax Number: 586-2856
www.hawaii.gov/dcca

LAWRENCE M. REIFURTH
DIRECTOR

RONALD BOYER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-FIFTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2010

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2010
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2929
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE GLENN WAKAI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2929, Relating To Veterinary Medicine. My name is Jo Ann Uchida, RICO's Complaints and Enforcement Officer. RICO offers the following comments in support of this bill.

House Bill No. 2929 authorizes the Board of Veterinary Medicine to revoke or suspend a license or fine a licensee for conduct or practice that is contrary to

recognized principles of medical ethics of the profession as adopted by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association.

At the present time, RICO prosecutes ethical violations in a variety of ways. A few boards, such as the Hawaii Medical Board, have explicit language in their licensing laws that identifies the applicable ethical standard to be applied. Some boards may reference a particular ethical standard in the course of issuing disciplinary orders. Most professional licensing laws, however, do not specify a specific ethical standard to be applied. As a result, RICO relies on the language of §436B-19(9), Hawaii Revised Statutes, which prohibits conduct "contrary to recognized standards of ethics for the licensed profession or vocation". The language in this bill that specifies the ethical standard to be applied will remove any ambiguity as to the appropriate ethical standard. For this reason, RICO supports this bill.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2929. I will be happy to answer any questions that the members of the Committee may have.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Monday, February 8, 2010
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2929, RELATING TO VETERINARY
MEDICINE.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROBERT N. HERKES, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lynn Bhanot, Executive Officer for the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). I appreciate the opportunity to present testimony on behalf of the Board in strong support of House Bill No. 2929.

The purpose of this bill is to amend Section 471-10(b), HRS, by updating the current standards of practice of a licensed veterinarian to include language that recognizes the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association guidelines.

The Board supports House Bill No. 2929, as it will provide clarification and consistency to enforce the veterinary standards of practice.

The Board respectfully requests your Committee's approval and passage of this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2929.

February 8, 2010

Representative Robert Herkes , Chair

Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 2929 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Chairman Herkes and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii State Board of Veterinary Examiners and the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, we are encouraging you to pass HB 2929. We request the language change to update our Hawaii Revised Statutes and establish a professional reference for the standard of conduct and practice for veterinarians in Hawaii.

Most professions in Hawaii establish a legal reference to a national standard for their profession, which for veterinarians is the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA). Our Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA) already follows the standard of the AVMA principles of medical ethics but has no legal authority on regulating veterinarians.

We rarely have complaints concerning veterinarians in Hawaii. However, when we do, our current language in the Hawaii Revised Statutes is too broad and has no recognized professional reference for the minimum standards of veterinary conduct or practice. The suggested language in HB 2929 will establish this legal reference to both the HVMA and AVMA as a minimum standard by which all veterinarians must adhere to.

We hope you will pass HB 2929 to update our laws to ensure the delivery of quality veterinary medical services to our community. Thanks you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Sincerely,

Rebecca H. Rhoades, D.V.M.,
Chairperson
Hawaii Board of Veterinary Examiners
Phone: 808-632-0610x106

Eric Ako, DVM
Executive Secretary
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
808-733-8828