

LATE TESTIMONY



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. BOX 61309, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96839-1309

HB 13
Wednesday, February 16, 2011
9:00am
Committee on Agriculture
Conference Room 312
State Capital

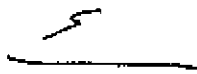
Dear Chair Representative Cliff Tsuji and committee members,

Thank you for hearing HB13. Thanks to Representative Theilen for introducing the bill. The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is strongly in support of the concept of HB13. Like our parent AVMA national organization, we represent 80%+ of veterinarians in Hawaii.

Personally, as past BVE chair and on behalf of the members of the Hawaii VMA, mandatory continuing education has been high on our agenda. The rapid advances and new challenges to veterinary medicine in practice demand it, especially with public health issues such as bioterrorism and food safety in governments worldwide. When we chose to become veterinarians, we all accepted the challenges of a lifetime of learning to advance the health of animals and people throughout our world.

We should offer, and have offered, to assist the State in this effort. We again offer ourselves in amending this bill to increase its support and hopefully move it smoothly through the legislative process. We are working openly with Representative Theilen's office at this time.

Respectfully submitted,


Eric Ako DVM
Executive V.P., HVMA
Practitioner
Past BVE Chair

LATE TESTIMONY

Dear esteemed members of the committee,

It has come to my attention that House Bill No. 13 (HB13) has been introduced for consideration by the Hawaii State Legislature to require mandatory continuing education for veterinarians. I have always believed that continuing education is very important in our field to ensure we keep up to date in the rapidly changing field of Veterinary Medicine.

However, I oppose HB13 in its current form for several reasons. First, the bill doesn't address what is considered "acceptable" continuing education and how compliance will be monitored. Secondly, 45 hours of continuing education biannually is higher than most other states. For example, the state of California requires 36 hours of continuing education in each two year license renewal period. I also believe that the unique geographic location of Hawaii should be considered since there will be an increased financial and temporal burden on veterinarians since it would be difficult to meet 45 hours of continuing education without flying out of the state of Hawaii.

In summary, I am a strong proponent of lifelong continuing education but oppose HB13 in its current form. I believe if the author of HB13 is willing to work with the Hawaii veterinary community, we can draft a bill that will ensure that veterinarians in Hawaii continue to practice exemplary Veterinary Medicine.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vance Kawakami

President of the Honolulu Veterinary Society 2011-2012

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 8:48 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB13 on 2/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2011 9:00:00 AM HB13

Conference room: 312
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Leianne K. Lee Loy
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:

Aloha!

My Name is Leianne K. Lee Loy and I am a licensed Veterinarian currently practicing in Honolulu. I am also the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association President. I would like to testify on behalf of House Bill No. 13. I agree with the need for Continuing Education for Veterinarians, however, I oppose the current bill.

Hawaii is one of the few States that does not require continuing education for Veterinarians. And yet, for me, I feel very strongly that in order to meet the changing tide of our society, especially when it comes to providing better, more specialized treatment to all of our "furry" friends, that there is only one way to meet this goal. That is, to take a position to require continuing education for all Veterinarians in Hawaii. Because of my commitment to this causes, I have, over a period of several years, personally enhanced my own professional growth in an array of continuing education, professional development, training and traveling opportunities for Veterinarians at conventions, through university courses and by extended education practices.

In order to promote our professional Veterinary development towards excellence, I am voicing what is currently being proposed and that is "require Hawaii State Veterinarians to enroll in continuing education courses in order to enhance professional growth in our ever changing profession and changing society."

This house bill is a start in the right direction, however, there is a portion of the bill that I would like to modify. The current recommendations states "an applicant for licensure renewal shall complete a minimum of forty-five hours of acceptable formal continuing education, a maximum of twenty-two and one-half hours of which may be self instructional course work acceptable to the department." I would recommend that the hours be reduced, such as to 30 hours.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to our stand on this bill.

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2011 10:03 PM
To: AGRtestimony
Cc:
Subject: Testimony for HB13 on 2/16/2011 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for AGR 2/16/2011 9:00:00 AM HB13

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Kaya
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail:
Submitted on: 2/15/2011

Comments:

After discussing HB13 at great length with my colleagues I will have to oppose this bill. We agree that continuing education is very important to the veterinary community but any policy needs to have the input of the veterinarians in Hawaii. I'm not certain this has been done prior to the writing of this bill. HB13 needs to have clarification in certain areas. What is considered "acceptable continuing education"? Who will be monitoring the veterinarians for compliance? Is 45 credits the appropriate amount? The intent of HB13 has merit but the issue needs to be brought before the veterinarians in Hawaii. Again, I believe continuing education is essential to the future of veterinary medicine but I oppose this bill as written. Thank you.