

**PRESENTATION OF THE  
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012

Thursday, February 23, 2012  
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2242, H.D. 1, RELATING TO CONTINUING  
EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE MARCUS R. OSHIRO, CHAIR,  
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Lynn Bhanot, Executive Officer for the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). The Board is in support of House Bill No. 2242, H.D. 1, Relating to Continuing Education for Veterinarians.

The purpose of this measure is to mandate twenty credit hours of continuing education to renew a license.

Section 2 of this bill amends chapter 471-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), by adding two definitions – (1) continuing education courses and (2) credit hour.

Section 3 of this bill amends chapter 471-9, HRS, by:

1. Adding a new requirement that all licensed veterinarians shall complete at least twenty credit hours of continuing education for the licensing biennium commencing on July 1, 2016.
2. Requiring each licensee to be responsible for maintaining the licensee's continuing education record.
3. Authorizing the Board to conduct random audits of licensees to determine compliance with the continuing education requirement.

4. Authorizing the Board to suspend the license until the licensee presents to the Board documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education requirement.

Section 4 of this bill clarifies that pursuant to section 471-10(b)(7), HRS, making a false statement on any document includes a false certification of compliance with the continuing education requirement.

The Board supports the intent to require continuing education and respectfully requests your Committee's approval and passage of this measure. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of House Bill No. 2242, H.D. 1.



## UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM Legislative Testimony

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Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
February 23, 2012 at 2:00pm

by

John Morton

Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

HB 2242, HD1 – RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committee:

Windward Community College is highly supportive of the intent of H.B. NO. 2242, HD1 Relating to Continuing Education for Veterinarians. As the only provider in the State of a credit Certificate of Achievement program for Veterinary Assisting and as a campus currently finalizing its preparations to seek approval from the U.H. Board of Regents for an Associate of Science degree in Veterinary Technology the College is well connected to an active Veterinary Studies Advisory Committee. Through its Office of Career and Community Education (OCCE) the College is experienced with the contracting challenges in offering significant continuing education opportunities for clients requiring services at a high level of professional expertise. Should the proposed legislation become law OCCE would be interested in applying to the American Association of Veterinary State Boards for *Provisional Provider Status* to be accepted into its Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) sites to provide veterinarians with access to highly qualified speakers. With six months of qualifying experience OCCE could then apply for permanent approval as a RACE site. Providing such services would have to be on a self-supporting financial basis for the program and these details would have to be carefully reviewed before a formal proposal could be made. However the activity is very pertinent to a field of interest and expertise for the College. Moreover the effort to support high standards for professional development opportunities in the field of Veterinary Medicine is consistent with the direction taken in the College's development plans for its academic credit program, as well as the College's continuing education interests.



**Hawaii Farm Bureau**  
F E D E R A T I O N

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FEBRUARY 23, 2012

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 2242 HD1  
**RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS**  
Room 308  
2:00 PM

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Chief Operating Officer and Government Affairs Liaison for the Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation (HFBF). Organized since 1948, the HFBF is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interest of our diverse agricultural community.

HFBF offers the following comments on HB 2242 that would establish a veterinary license renewal requirement for continuing education. Our interest in this proposed mandate is to ensure that veterinarians not only keep abreast of new developments in their field so that they can remain competent, but also that the new requirements are not so burdensome that they discourage recruitment and retention of government veterinarians in Hawaii. Our farm and ranch members work closely with these dedicated professionals and we request that any new mandate imposed upon them be reasonable, fair, and cost-effective.

We respectfully request that the Committee incorporate into the legislation the mandate that course requirements are reasonably priced, easily available in Hawaii, and relevant.

- Continuing education classes should be offered on a wide range of topics and **relevant to all types of veterinary practices**, including that of livestock veterinarians.
- **Online classes or webcasts** should be offered in addition to "in person" attendance, allowing veterinarians to take the classes after work hours or on weekends. There is precedent for this—the Hawaii State Bar Association mandatory continuing legal education program for Hawaii attorneys offers webcasts for a \$60 fee for three credit hours, on demand throughout the year.
- Classes should be **readily available in Hawaii** so that the law does not tacitly mandate expensive mainland travel and excessive missed work time.

If the above options cannot be accommodated, we respectfully request that the State reduce or eliminate the new requirement for veterinarians who work for the government. Lower license fees and class fees for government veterinarians may also be appropriate.

Although HFBF certainly supports the intent of this measure, we want to make sure that this additional burden will not discourage our much-needed agriculture-related veterinarians by making it less attractive for them to stay in government practice in Hawaii.

The nation is already suffering from a dearth of large animal and livestock veterinarians and Hawaii should not compound the problem. Hawaii State veterinarians are already behind their counterparts in salary; requiring them to pay for mainland trips to fulfill a new continuing education mandate will equate to a several thousand dollar annual pay cut for them. It is unfair to make our State veterinarians pay exorbitant costs from their own pockets to make trips to the mainland; however, it is also unrealistic to think that our State agencies' budgets can incur these expenses.

Thank you very much for your support of Hawaii's farmers and ranchers through your thoughtful consideration of our comments on this measure.

Please contact Janet Ashman at (808) 848-2074 if you have any questions.