

SB2522

Measure Title: RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS.
Report Title: Veterinarians; Continuing Education
Description: Establishes veterinary license renewal requirement of twenty continuing education credit hours, beginning with renewals for the licensing biennium commencing on July 1, 2014.
Companion: HB2242
Package: None
Current Referral: CPN
Introducer(s): RYAN (BR)

<u>Sort by</u> <u>Date</u>		Status Text
1/20/2012	S	Introduced.
1/23/2012	S	Passed First Reading.
1/23/2012	S	Referred to CPN.
1/31/2012	S	The committee(s) on CPN has scheduled a public hearing on 02-23-12 9:00AM in conference room 229.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2012**

Thursday, February 23, 2012
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2522, RELATING TO CONTINUING
EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 Senate Bill No. 2522, Relating to Continuing Education for Veterinarians, which is the companion bill to House Bill No. 2242. House Bill No. 2242 was heard on Monday, January 30, 2012, by the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, and was passed with amendments to include our proposed changes to Sections 2 and 3.

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, 2014.

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, however, recommends amendments to Sections 2 and 3.

The Board proposes amending Section 2 to clarify that only courses approved by the Board, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' Registry, or other board-approved organizations will be accepted to meet the twenty credit hour continuing education requirement as follows:

""Continuing education courses" means courses approved by the board of veterinary examiners, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards' Registry, or other board-approved organizations.

The Board also proposes amending Section 3 to:

1. Include language to align the continuing education requirement with other licensing areas under the department to clearly state that the failure to renew a license on or before June 30 of each even-numbered year shall constitute the forfeiture of the license until such time that the continuing education requirements are met and the license is restored.

2. Clarify whether the continuing education requirement must be completed by the 2014 or 2016 license renewal period. We propose these requirements be effective with the June 2016 renewal to effectuate a smooth transition that allows proper notice to the licensees and time to meet the continuing education requirement prior to license renewal.

3. Repeal proposed sections (f) and (g) as the license restoration issues will be addressed in our proposed section (b) which incorporates terminology (forfeiture vs. suspension) consistent with other licensing areas.

Therefore, the Board recommends amending Section 3 of the bill as follows:

"§471-9 Licenses. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this [~~section,~~] chapter, the board of veterinary examiners shall issue a license [~~upon payment of a license fee~~] to engage in the practice of veterinary medicine to all persons meeting the requirements of this chapter[~~;~~] upon payment of a license fee.

(b) All licenses issued by the board shall expire on June 30 of each even-numbered year next following the date of issuance. Failure to renew the license on or before June 30 of each even-numbered year shall automatically constitute a forfeiture of the license; provided that the license shall be restored upon written application thereof

together with payment of the renewal fee, a penalty fee, and the applicable continuing education credits.

(c) ~~[Every veterinarian shall pay a biennial renewal fee in each even-numbered year. The payment of the renewal fee shall entitle the veterinarian to renewal of the license.]~~ Prior to the June 30, 2016 renewal of the license, and prior to every license renewal thereafter, the applicant shall:

(1) Pay all required fees; and

(2) Complete at least twenty credit hours of continuing education within the two-year period preceding the renewal date.

(d) A licensee who has graduated from an accredited veterinary school within one year of the licensee's first license renewal shall not be subject to the continuing education requirement for the first license renewal.

(e) Each licensee shall be responsible for maintaining the licensee's continuing education records. At the time of renewal, each licensee shall certify under oath that the licensee has complied with the continuing education requirement of this section. The board may require a licensee to submit, in addition to the certification, evidence satisfactory to the board that demonstrates compliance with the continuing education requirement of this section.

~~[(d) Any holder of an expired license may be reinstated as a veterinarian upon payment of the renewal fee and a penalty fee.]~~ (f) The board may conduct random audits of licensees to determine compliance with the continuing education requirement. The board shall provide written notice of an audit to a licensee randomly selected for

audit. Within sixty days of notification, the licensee shall provide the board with documentation verifying compliance with the continuing education requirement established by this section.

[(e)] (g) Notwithstanding any other provision, no license shall expire while the [holder thereof] licensee is serving on active duty in the armed forces of the United States during any emergency declared by the President or Congress and six months after the termination thereof."

The Board respectfully requests your Committee's approval and passage of this measure with the suggested amendments. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill No. 2522.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 23, 2012 at 9:00AM
by
John Morton
Vice President for Community Colleges, University of Hawai'i

SB 2522 – RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR VETERINARIANS

Chair Baker, Vice Chair Taniguchi and Members of the Committee:

Windward Community College is highly supportive of the intent of S.B. NO. 2522 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.

Testimony Presented Before the
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
February 23, 2012 at 9:00am

SB 2522 – Relating to Continuing Education for Veterinarians
Chair: Senator Rosalyn Baker
Vice Chair: Brian Taniguchi

Testimony by Jan Chouljian, DVM

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2522 that amends current veterinary license laws, to include a section requiring mandatory continuing education for Hawaii's licensed veterinarians.

My name is Dr. Jan Chouljian and I've been a veterinarian for the past 22 years. I've worked in companion animal veterinary practice and for the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture as well as at the federal level for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Agency for International Development. And for the past year, I've been teaching in our new veterinary assisting and technology program at Windward Community College.

There's an old adage that the amount of medical information doubles every 10 years. It is probably considerably faster now given the speed of advances in medicine and the tremendous impact of the Internet to disseminate information faster than ever before. Physicians need to keep pace with new and updated medical information for their patients and they are dealing with one species; while in the veterinary field, most of us work daily with many different species with different anatomy and physiology as well as different diseases, parasites, and various different impacts on human public health. Our patients are dogs and cats, birds and rats, cattle, sheep and goats, horses and llamas and even dolphins and penguins.

To be able to provide the best care for our animal patients, veterinarians regularly attend conferences, read monthly medical journals and take continuing education courses online. So continuing education is already an ingrained part of our work and our lives.

Mandating continuing education for veterinarians would be a way to formalize what we are already doing to keep up-to-date in our profession. I believe that a requirement of 20 hours over a two-year period would not be overly burdensome, either in terms of time or finances. There are in-state CE opportunities such as the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association's annual meeting that provides 2 ½ days of CE hours. There are also many CE opportunities online that can be done from any computer.

In summary, I support this bill and thank you for your time.

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Chouljian, DVM

Testimony for CPN 2/23/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2522

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Eric Ako DVM
Organization:
E-mail: AKOE002@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/2/2012

Comments:

Dear Chair Baker and committee members,

Veterinarians are a profession dedicated to a lifetime of learning. The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association represents the majority of practitioners in the state, and strongly supports SB 2522.

We have considered CE for many years. We were moved to action after the introduction of HB13 last year. We have worked closely with all Hawaii veterinarians, the Board of Veterinary Examiners, DCCA administrators, education providers, and of course, legislators. All are in concert.

Attention was given to ensure the system is clearly administered, and CE opportunities readily available without off island expense.

Today's world demands ongoing learning as we serve our community, not just as practitioners, but also to address new public health concerns and threats. 40% of our profession protects our food supply, serves to advise our legislators, teaches our students, guides research, and numerous other tasks.

We wish to thank Senator Pohai Ryan for introducing SB 2522.

Please support SB2522.

Thank you,
Eric Ako DVM
Executive Vice President, HawaiiVMA
Practice owner
Past BVE Chair

Testimony for CPN 2/23/2012 9:00:00 AM SB2522

Conference room: 229

Testifier position: Support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Shawn Lathrop

Organization: Individual

E-mail: slathrop73@hotmail.com

Submitted on: 2/15/2012

Comments:

I fully support this bill and recommend the committee pass it.

Mahalo.