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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2014

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2014
10:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2105
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE DEE MORIKAWA, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2105, Relating to Veterinary Technicians. My name is Daria Loy-Goto, Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). RICO offers the following comments on the bill.

House Bill No. 2105 creates a new chapter for the registration of veterinary technicians.

RICO concurs with the Board of Veterinary Examiners' position that §26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, would require a sunrise analysis by the Auditor prior to the regulation of any previously unregulated profession or vocation, as proposed in House Bill No. 2105.

Additionally, RICO has the following concerns regarding enforcement of House Bill No. 2105:

- 1) The bill does not adequately set forth the qualifications or the scope of practice of a veterinary technician. As the agency charged with enforcement, RICO would have difficulty determining what conduct would require registration under the new Chapter.
- 2) The bill does not contain specific provisions on the issue of supervision by a licensed veterinarian. It is unclear what, if any, activities, would require direction or oversight by a licensed veterinarian.
- 3) Finally, the bill does not enumerate the types of conduct that would give rise to disciplinary action or specify the practices that would be prohibited.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 2105. 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 HEALTH

TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

Wednesday, February 5, 2014
10:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2105, RELATING TO VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE DELLA AU BELATTI, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is John Kaya, D.V.M., and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on House Bill No. 2105, Relating to Veterinary Technicians.

The Board reviewed and discussed this bill at its January 29, 2014 Board meeting. House Bill No. 2105 creates a new chapter to regulate veterinary technicians. The Board understands that Section 26H-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, requires that new regulatory measures being considered for enactment be referred to the Auditor for a sunrise analysis. Referral shall be by concurrent resolution that identifies a specific legislative bill to be analyzed. The statute further requires that the analysis shall set forth the probable effects of regulation, assess whether its enactment is consistent with the legislative policies of the Hawaii Regulatory Licensing Reform Act, and assess alternative forms of regulation.

Therefore, the Board suggests this bill be deferred until a sunrise analysis on this measure is conducted by the Auditor. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 2105.



LATE

February 5, 2014

Testimony in Support of HB 2105, With Reservations

Chair Dela Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Dee Morikawa, and Members of the House Health Committee:

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a Hawai'i non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet ownership through education and advocacy. We generally support the purpose and intent of HB 2105, but with two reservations.

First, HB 2105 would permit only "full-time, regular employees" of the owner of one or more animals to provide care and treatment to the owner's animals. This would impose an onerous and unreasonable regulatory burden on farmers and companion animal owner-breeders, the vast majority of whom currently employ part-time assistants to help provide necessary care for their animals. We urge that this "full-time" requirement be omitted from the bill's requirements.

Second, while HB 2105 would leave it to the Board of Veterinary Examiners to establish the educational and training standards for registered veterinary technicians, we nonetheless believe that a definition of the required "formal training" for registration be specified in the proposed statute so as to ensure that competent, currently-employed technicians not be disenfranchised from the right to work. Many highly-competent veterinary technicians in our isolated state have been trained "on the job" by their employers, but have not completed formal educational programs at a college, university, or trade school. Formal educational programs for veterinary technician students have only recently become available locally in Hawai'i; in past years, veterinary technician students were compelled to attend mainland schools in order to receive formal education and training, which was cost-prohibitive for many of our citizens. Pacific Pet Alliance recommends that provisions be made to ensure that these valuable technicians who lack formal educational credentials will be granted "grandfather" status for purposes of registration, perhaps with a requirement that they successfully pass a standardized competency examination.

The Pacific Pet Alliance respectfully asks this Honorable Committee to revise HB 2105 in accordance with our suggestions. Thank you for your time and attention.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE

Kenneth Cribbs, Director

Print

Date: Tuesday, February 4, 2014 1:38 PM
From: akoe002@hawaii.rr.com
To: repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov
Cc: rephashem@capitol.hawaii.gov
Subject: HB 2105



Honorable Chair Representative Della Belatti, Vice Chair Representative Dee Morikawa, and members of the Committee on Health,

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the 265 veterinarians in Hawaii support HB 2105 and its intent to register Veterinary Technicians, formally recognizing our team members, and thereby improve the delivery of services to the community.

We have an accredited program at Windward Community College which has graduated 9 already, and expects 20 more this spring. Then, graduates sit the Veterinary Technician National Examination. In addition, we have 53+ veterinary technicians in practices across the state. Currently, state law does not recognize veterinary technicians.

Veterinary technicians are key members of the veterinary team. In practice, they are our nurses, our dental hygienists, our anesthetists, our office staff, our supervisors of veterinary assistants and kennel help. Some are practice managers. Like veterinarians, VTs play many other roles in the community. They may be a part of the Honolulu Zoo, the University of Hawaii, the Department of Agriculture, Division of Animal Industry, Rabies Quarantine system, and so on.

We are working closely with concerned parties. I would like to acknowledge the support of the BVE and RICO. We agree with the BVE that the sunrise review is essential. Therefore, we respectfully request that HB 2105 be deferred this year, and hope for your support for the concurrent resolution. We pledge to continue working on HB2105 and SB 2502, its sister Senate bill, to address additional issues so that it will be satisfactory for all in 2015.

Thank you very much,
Eric Ako DVM
Executive Vice President, HVMA

