

SB 2502

Measure Title: RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.
Report Title: Veterinary Technicians; Registration
Description: Establishes requirements for the practice and registration of veterinary technicians. Requires the Board of Veterinary Examiners to adopt rules. Effective July 1, 2014.
Companion: [HB2105](#)
Package: None
Current Referral: CPN, WAM
Introducer(s): BAKER, Shimabukuro, Wakai



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

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

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

TWENTY-SEVENTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2014

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 2014
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2502
RELATING TO RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE BRIAN T. TANIGUCHI, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2502, 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.

Senate Bill No. 2502 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 Senate Bill No. 2502.

Additionally, RICO has the following concerns regarding enforcement of Senate Bill No. 2502:

- 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 licensure 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 Senate Bill No. 2502. 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 SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014**

Friday, January 31, 2014
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2502, RELATING TO VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, 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 Senate Bill No. 2502, Relating to Veterinary Technicians.

The Board reviewed and discussed this bill at its January 29, 2014, Board meeting. Senate Bill 2502 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.

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2502
Friday, January 31, 2014
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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 Senate Bill No. 2502.



PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE

January 28, 2014

Testimony in Support of SB 2502, With Reservations

Chair Rosalyn H. Baker, Vice-Chair Brian T. Taniguchi, and Members of the Senate Commerce and Consumer Protection 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 SB 2502, but with two reservations.

First, SB 2502 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 SB 2502 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

Honorable Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair Senator Brian Taniguchi, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, and its 200 members, supports SB 2502 and its intent to register veterinary technicians.

Registration of veterinary technicians is necessary in order to formally recognize our team members and will benefit the State by improving the delivery of veterinary services.

We have an accredited program at Windward Community College, which has successfully graduated 9 students, and expects 20 more this semester. Bonafide graduates then sit the National Board examination. Currently, there is no recognition of these achievements in our rules and statutes.

Veterinary technicians are key team members of our profession. Like veterinarians, they serve many roles, including those at the Honolulu Zoo, the University of Hawaii, the Division of Animal Industry and our Hawaii Rabies Quarantine System, and so on. In private practice, they are our nurses, our anesthetists, dental hygienists, our supervisors for veterinary assistants and kennel help. Some are practice managers. As has occurred in the rest of the nation, their role will continue to grow. These are necessary ingredients for the team to continue to address increasing consumer demands.

We have been working closely with concerned parties. We agree with the Board of Veterinary Examiners that the sunrise review process is essential. Therefore, we expect SB2502 to be deferred this year, and hope to gain your support for the related resolutions. We also pledge to continue working on SB 2502 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

SB2502

Submitted on: 1/30/2014

Testimony for CPN on Jan 31, 2014 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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