
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Veterinary technicians are key members of the
2 veterinary health care team, second only to licensed
3 veterinarians, in delivering quality animal care to the
4 community. In public service, veterinary technicians ensure
5 compliance with animal care and control at the University of
6 Hawaii and at the department of agriculture in the animal
7 industry division, in laboratories, and in the rabies quarantine
8 branch. Veterinary technicians assist veterinarians at the
9 Honolulu zoo, in the shelter and rescue community, in
10 laboratories, and other veterinary-related establishments to
11 promote and ensure animal health. In private practice,
12 supervised by licensed veterinarians, veterinary technicians
13 assist in managing the veterinarian's practice and the
14 veterinary health care team. Because of their superior
15 training, they are able to assist the veterinarian in educating
16 the staff and public and provide hands-on quality veterinary
17 medical and surgical services.



1 While students must travel to the continental United States
2 to seek a doctorate of veterinary medicine, Hawaii has a
3 successful, accredited veterinary technician program at Windward
4 community college that has been accredited by the American
5 Veterinary Medical Association since 2013. Entering its fourth
6 year, the program enjoys ongoing popularity and outstanding
7 success, and its graduates are easily placed in gainful
8 employment.

9 Currently, the State of Hawaii is the last state to
10 recognize veterinary technicians as bona fide health
11 professionals. Veterinary technicians should be regulated in
12 Hawaii to ensure the continuing delivery of quality veterinary
13 service to the community and to protect animal welfare.

14 The purpose of this Act is to recognize the important role
15 veterinary technicians play in the level of care of animals in
16 the State by:

- 17 (1) Establishing requirements for the regulation of
18 veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary
19 technology; and
- 20 (2) Establishing registration requirements and limitations
21 on use of titles.



1 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE

6 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

7 "Department" means department of commerce and consumer
8 affairs.

9 "Intubate" means to pass a tube into the trachea for
10 purposes of anesthesia and airway maintenance.

11 "Monitor" means to evaluate patient health by tracking
12 vital signs via physical examination and multi-parameter
13 monitors in order to recognize abnormalities while an animal is
14 under anesthesia.

15 "Practice of veterinary technology" includes but is not
16 limited to the following procedures only under the direct
17 supervision of a licensed veterinarian:

- 18 (1) Monitoring anesthesia;
19 (2) Intubating;
20 (3) Performing dental cleaning;



1 (4) Creating a relief hold in the skin to facilitate
2 placement of an intravenous catheter; and

3 (5) Practice and laboratory management activities.

4 § -2 Practice of veterinary technology; qualifications;
5 registration required. (a) No person shall represent,
6 announce, or advertise oneself, publicly or privately, as a
7 veterinary technician or registered veterinary technician, or
8 shall append the letters "RVT" or "VT" or affix any other words,
9 letters, abbreviations, or insignia to the person's name
10 indicating or implying that the person is a practitioner of
11 veterinary technology, unless such person registers the person's
12 name and business address biennially with the department in a
13 manner prescribed by the department, and meets the
14 qualifications of section -3.

15 (b) The department shall maintain and biennially update a
16 list of the names and business addresses of the veterinary
17 technicians who are registered under subsection (a).

18 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit
19 a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary
20 personnel to assist in the practice of veterinary medicine;



1 provided that the support or auxiliary personnel shall work
2 under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

3 (d) A registration granted under this chapter shall mean
4 that the person has met requirements that include minimum
5 practice standards to provide protection to the public and is
6 permitted to use the title and engage in the practice of
7 veterinary technology.

8 § -3 Veterinary technician qualifications. No person
9 shall be registered to engage in the practice of veterinary
10 technology unless the person:

11 (1) Is at least eighteen years of age;

12 (2) Has successfully passed the Veterinary Technician
13 National Examination; and

14 (3) Meets at least one of the following conditions:

15 (A) Has successfully completed a course of study at a
16 program for veterinary technology accredited by
17 the American Veterinary Medical Association
18 Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and
19 Activities;

20 (B) Is a licensed, certified, or registered
21 veterinary technician in good standing in another



1 state having standards for registration
2 comparable to those in this State; or
3 (C) Prior to July 1, 2021, submits a notarized
4 document from an employer who is a licensed
5 veterinarian and who certifies that the person
6 has five years or more of practical experience in
7 the State of Hawaii. No reciprocity shall be
8 given for practical experience gained outside of
9 the State.

10 Before any applicant shall be eligible for registration
11 under this chapter, the applicant shall file an application in
12 the form as shall be prescribed by the department and pay to the
13 department of commerce and consumer affairs an application fee
14 and all other applicable fees."

15 SECTION 3. Upon the issuance of a new registration under
16 section -2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as established by this
17 Act, and at each registration renewal period, each veterinary
18 technician shall pay, in addition to the registration fee or
19 renewal fee, a surcharge of \$100, which shall be maintained in a
20 separate account within the compliance resolution fund
21 established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii Revised



1 Statutes. At the end of each quarter, the moneys contained in
 2 the separate account established pursuant to this section shall
 3 be transferred to the compliance resolution fund until the total
 4 of the transferred amounts equals the amount appropriated in
 5 section 4 of this Act. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be
 6 assessed, and any funds in excess of the amount appropriated in
 7 section 4 of this Act shall be deposited into the compliance
 8 resolution fund.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the compliance
 10 resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii
 11 Revised Statutes, the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may
 12 be necessary, for fiscal year 2016-2017 to implement the
 13 registration of veterinary technicians as required by this Act.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
 15 commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:
Veterinary Technicians

Description:
Establishes a framework for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology. (HB1955 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

