
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

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

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



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

9 Currently, Hawaii is the last state to recognize veterinary
10 technicians as bona fide health professionals. Accordingly, the
11 legislature concludes that veterinary technicians should be
12 registered by the department of commerce and consumer affairs to
13 ensure the continuing delivery of quality veterinary service to
14 the community and protect animal welfare.

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

- 18 (1) Beginning July 1, 2018, establishing requirements for
19 the regulation of veterinary technicians and the
20 practice of veterinary technology; and



1 (2) Establishing registration requirements and limitations
2 on use of titles for veterinary technicians.

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

6 "CHAPTER

7 VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE

8 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

9 "Department" means the department of commerce and consumer
10 affairs.

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

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

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

20 (1) Monitoring anesthesia;

21 (2) Intubating;



- 1 (3) Performing dental cleaning;
- 2 (4) Creating a relief hole in the skin to facilitate
- 3 placement of an intravenous catheter; and
- 4 (5) Practice and laboratory management activities.

5 § -2 Practice of veterinary technology; qualifications;
 6 registration required. (a) No person shall represent,
 7 announce, or advertise oneself, publicly or privately, as a
 8 veterinary technician or registered veterinary technician, or
 9 shall append the letters "RVT" or "VT" or affix any other words,
 10 letters, abbreviations, or insignia to the person's name
 11 indicating or implying that the person is engaged in the
 12 practice of veterinary technology, unless the person:

13 (1) Registers the person's name and business address
 14 biennially with the department in a manner prescribed
 15 by the department; and

16 (2) Meets the qualifications of section -3.

17 (b) The department shall maintain and biennially update a
 18 list of the names and business addresses of the veterinary
 19 technicians who are registered pursuant to subsection (a).

20 (c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit
 21 a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary



1 personnel to assist in the practice of veterinary medicine;
2 provided that the support or auxiliary personnel shall work
3 under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

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

10 § -3 Veterinary technician qualifications. No applicant
11 shall be registered to engage in the practice of veterinary
12 technology unless the applicant:

- 13 (1) Is at least eighteen years of age;
- 14 (2) Has successfully passed the Veterinary Technician
15 National Examination; and
- 16 (3) Meets at least one of the following conditions:
- 17 (A) Has successfully completed a course of study at a
18 program for veterinary technology accredited by
19 the American Veterinary Medical Association
20 Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and
21 Activities;



- 1 (B) Is a licensed, certified, or registered
- 2 veterinary technician in good standing in another
- 3 state having standards for registration
- 4 comparable to those in this State; or
- 5 (C) Prior to July 1, 2021, submits a notarized
- 6 document from an employer who is a licensed
- 7 veterinarian and who certifies that the applicant
- 8 has five years or more of practical experience in
- 9 Hawaii; provided that no reciprocity shall be
- 10 given for practical experience gained outside of
- 11 the State.

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

17 SECTION 3. Upon the issuance of a new registration under
18 section 2 of this Act and at each registration renewal period,
19 each veterinary technician shall pay, in addition to the
20 registration fee or renewal fee, a surcharge of \$100, which
21 shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance



1 resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii
2 Revised Statutes. At the end of each quarter, the moneys
3 contained in the separate account established pursuant to this
4 section shall be transferred to the compliance resolution fund
5 until such time that the total transferred amounts equal the
6 amount appropriated in section 4 of this Act. Thereafter, no
7 surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds in excess of the
8 amount appropriated in section 4 of this Act shall be deposited
9 into the compliance resolution fund.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the compliance
11 resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii
12 Revised Statutes, the sum of \$95,000 or so much thereof as may
13 be necessary for fiscal year 2016-2017 to implement the
14 registration of veterinary technicians as required by this Act.

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

17 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2016;
18 provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Veterinary Technicians; Veterinary Technology Practice;
Registration; Titles; Appropriation

Description:

Beginning 7/1/2018, establishes requirements for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology. Establishes registration requirements and limitations on use of titles for veterinary technicians. Appropriates funds to implement the registration of veterinary technicians. (SB2671 HD1)

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