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# 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 essential members of the veterinary health care  
3 team, 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 finds 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 maintaining the level of care of  
17 animals in 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) Participating in 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 \$ 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, 2030;  
 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 HD2)

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

