

**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671, SD1,
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

February 25, 2016

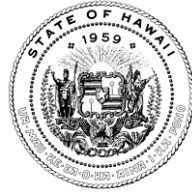
Chair Tokuda and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2671, SD1, which would regulate veterinary technicians.

As you are aware, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 66 of the 2014 Regular Session, we conducted a sunrise analysis of the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology as proposed by Senate Bill 2502, Senate Draft 1 (“the 2014 bill”). Our [Report No. 14-15, *Sunrise Analysis: Regulation of Veterinary Technicians*](#), was released in December 2014. In it, we evaluated whether the 2014 bill was consistent with the policies set forth in Hawai‘i’s regulatory licensing law, Chapter 26H, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. We also assessed the probable effects of enacting the bill—specifically, the effects on consumers and the appropriateness of alternative forms of regulation; and we made recommendations. We concluded that the regulation of veterinary technicians is not warranted.

Despite the fact that SB 2671, SD1, would allow only authorized individuals to refer to themselves as “veterinary technician” or “registered veterinary technician” (title protection), we stand by our conclusion from Report No. 14-15 that the regulation of veterinary technicians is not warranted. When applying Chapter 26H, HRS, the absence of abuse continues to weigh heavily against regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2671, SD1.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

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

**TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
WAYS AND MEANS**

**TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2016**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2016
9:30 A.M.**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2671 S.D.1
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

**TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to submit written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1, Relating to Veterinary Technicians. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). The Department offers comments on the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1 creates a new chapter for the registration of veterinary technicians within the Department. The bill establishes title protection for veterinary technicians and registered veterinary technicians, sets forth the criteria for registration, and makes clear that nothing in the new chapter precludes a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary personnel with supervision. RICO notes that the provisions of Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), would apply for purposes of discipline and enforcement, as provided for in HRS §436B-3.

RICO understands the primary concern of industry to be ensuring that individuals who use the designation "registered veterinary technician" are registered with the Board and that all others may continue to work under the supervision of licensed veterinarians as currently permitted by HRS Chapter 471. This type of regulation is commonly referred to as "title protection."

Based on discussions concerning this bill and its House companion, House Bill No. 1955, H.D. 1, we believe the approach used in this measure is a reasonable way to address the concerns of stakeholders to ensure that individuals who use the designation "registered veterinary technicians" are registered with the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written comments on Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: azurajena@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
Date: Tuesday, February 23, 2016 6:27:52 PM

SB2671

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jena	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kakou The Senate Committee on Ways and Means I fully support and highly encourage the passing of the bill HB1995 relating to veterinary technicians. I had to become a license veterinary technician through the state of Nevada. I would be proud to have a license in my home state Hawaii. I look forward to this possibility. The quality of care along with the professionalism, knowledge and sense of accomplishment is what drew me to pursue employment with my license. I admire the doctors who have supported this change in their staff, giving animals the opportunity to have the very best care. Having the schooling and license has set me apart from others who may work in the veterinary technician field. It has given me the opportunity to show my learned skills right away with out many years of costly inefficient in clinic training. Having the efficiency along with the knowledge expedited not only proper pay but has given clinics a higher standard to achieve. I was a member of the first graduating class of the Windward community college veterinary technician program. I achieved my AS degree in veterinary science in 2013. I have worked hard in school and took a national exam to gain access to the benefits of having credentials in my profession. It has been my life goal to care for people and their animals, sharing with them the education I have learned and continued learning through my continued education. I would not be able to give them the tools needed to be responsible caring animal owners, had I not taken the course work to fully understand this profession. I am an active member and part of the committee for the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association (HVTA). The opportunity to live and grow on Oahu and Hawaii island, has given me the perspective and inspiration to be humble and appreciative of where I call home. Having the credentials of being a registered technician in Hawaii should be a minimum standard for the state of Hawaii. I have a deep appreciation for the beautiful creatures that surround us and are apart of everyday life. I enjoy being apart of all the growing fur families. "Mai ka hikina a ka lâ i Kumukahi a ka welona a ka lâ i Lehua".(From the sunrise at Kumukahi to the fading sunlight at Lehua). From birth to death. Malama Pono me ke Aloha Jena-LVT

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**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Thursday, February 25, 2016
9:30 a.m.

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE JILL N. TOKUDA, 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"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to present written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671, S.D. 1, Relating to Veterinary Technicians, which is the companion bill to House Bill No. 1955, H.D. 1. Both bills are substantively identical except for technical, non-substantive changes in both versions.

The Department and stakeholders met following the February 8, 2016 hearing of House Bill No. 1955 and worked on a structure for registration/title protection that the parties might find mutually agreeable which is reflected in this draft of the bill. The Board has not had an opportunity to formally review this version of the bill. However, the Board continues to support the concept to register veterinary technicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671, S.D. 1.



February 23, 2016

To: The Senate Committee on Ways and Means

I am writing in support of SB2671 SD1, for veterinary technicians in the State. Currently, I am the Director of Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology Program. I am originally from Hawaii, but throughout my veterinary career, I have worked with veterinary technicians throughout the mainland and in Canada. In veterinary school, at Purdue University, veterinary students often worked along with veterinary technician students in the clinical setting. The importance of the veterinary technician in the veterinary industry is undeniable. Veterinary medicine is a team effort, and the technician is an integral part of the team.

The Veterinary Technology Program's mission is "to increase the quality of veterinary care in Hawaii by providing students with essential skills and knowledge that will enable them to obtain rewarding, living-wage jobs in the animal care field." The WCC's program is a successful and popular career choice. It provides an opportunity for interested students to become a veterinary technician while staying local. It is somewhat unfathomable to me that there is a successful Veterinary Technician Program in a State that does not 'recognize' the Program's graduates. Our graduates currently have to seek credentialing from other States such as Colorado, Washington, etc....

I urge you to support and pass SB2671 SD1. It is a Bill that is beneficial to the State and all its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Jenny Kelly, DVM, MVSc, DACVS
Program Director and Assistant Professor
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PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE

Testimony in Support of SB 2671 SD1

The Pacific Pet Alliance is a non-profit organization that promotes responsible pet acquisition and ownership through education and advocacy. We are recognized as Hawai'i's state federation for the American Kennel Club. We also work closely with the Cat Fanciers' Association's Legislative Group, and we collaborate with several other companion animal advocacy organizations.

The Pacific Pet Alliance supports SB 2671 SD1. Veterinary technologists play increasingly important professional roles, analogous to the increasing utilization of non-physician human medicine providers such as advanced practice nurses, physician assistants, and certified nurse midwives. Qualified veterinary technicians deserve analogous formal recognition under law.

While we have concerns that the bill's provision that disallows reciprocity recognition for veterinary technological experience gained in other states will tend to perpetuate our state's insularity and isolation rather than promoting a more inclusive, cooperative nationwide collaboration, we nonetheless do not consider this a disqualifying concern. We support SB 1671 SD1.

We welcome the opportunity to discuss this bill and to provide whatever information and resources at our disposal.

Respectfully submitted,

PACIFIC PET ALLIANCE

Kenneth Allen Cribbs

Co-Director

808-342-1461

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
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SB2671

Submitted on: 2/23/2016

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association	Support	No

Comments: Honorable Chair Senator Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz and members of the Committee on Ways and Means, The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is strongly in SUPPORT of SB2671 SD1. We are so very pleased to have the support of The Board of Veterinary Examiners, RICO, the HVTA and your fellow legislators. We have achieved consensus. SB2671 will give due recognition of the importance of the veterinary team in serving the public. It is about training our own right here in Hawaii, giving jobs to our children. A chance to earn a living in a rewarding career and to proudly be a part of a respectable profession. Please join in our support for this effort.

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February 23, 2016

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association (HVTA) in support of SB2671 relating to Veterinary Technicians.

The HVTA is a recently formed 501(c)(6) non-profit organization with the following goals:

- Promoting veterinary technicians by educating the public about veterinary technology.
- Supporting the working relationship between veterinary technicians and other members of the veterinary healthcare team.
- Working with the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA) on legislative initiatives, to recognize the role of veterinary technicians in Hawaii.

I have had conversations with many people who assume that employees working in veterinary clinics already have some sort of education and credentials and once they learn that most have been trained on the job, are happy to hear that we are moving forward with registration and requiring that a person using the title veterinary technician pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). The community is looking for a standard for the people who are caring for their pets.

The reality is that there are many highly experienced individuals currently working in veterinary clinics across the state. One of the key areas that HVTA pushed for in the bill was for the Alternative Path, which will allow those with 5+ years of full time experience in the role of veterinary technician to sit for the VTNE. As part of our goal of support, HVTA plans to assist those wanting to sit for this exam with guided study sessions. Currently, the national pass rate for the VTNE is about 72% and most of these scores are from graduates of veterinary technology programs. The pass rate for Alternative Path (on the job trained) test takers is about 15%. HVTA hopes to help the eligible candidates to a successful VTNE outcome.

The last goal is to work with the HVMA to recognize veterinary technicians in Hawaii. If this bill is approved in 2016, I will look forward to setting new goals that include support while this bill is implemented, and leadership with preparation for changes that this will bring to the veterinary field.

Thank you for your support of this bill and of veterinary technicians,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Geiling", written over a horizontal line.

Sam Geiling, RVT
President, Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association
craddock.hvta@gmail.com
(808) 271-7883

February 24, 2016

Dear The Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Cymbree DeCosta and I am a current second year student in the Windward Community College Veterinary Technology Program. Throughout my time here I have learned an immense amount of information that will help improve my proficiency as I look to start my career as a veterinary technician. One of the main things I have learned is that education is essential. Education in relationship to experience has been an ongoing debate in this profession. My thought is, it is important to have experience but it is not everything you need. Being educated is vital and cannot be replaced by only experience. In many states education is required to become registered, and until the profession has nation wide support, it will not advance proficiently.

This may seem a bit bias coming from me, a current student who has no previous related veterinary job experience. The truth is that I had tried to get a job related to veterinary medicine but I had no luck. When living in Washington, a state you have to be licensed or registered to work, it was impossible to get a job related to veterinary medicine. When this program opened up in Hawaii I knew that this was going to be a great thing for the state. Before I started the program I can honestly say that I thought that being a veterinary technician was the same as being a nurse, but for animals. After completing what I have done so far in school, I learned that veterinary technicians do a lot more than many people realize. Just like nurses in hospitals, you most likely wouldn't be confident with someone who wasn't educated to draw blood from you, you would want them to be certified in some aspect; and the same goes for the animal field perspective. The medical field continually changes with new diseases and techniques, so being educated and up to date is the smartest move all healthcare professions need to take.

Currently in my last semester, I can tell you that this program is hard and that we as a class learned so much information that is beneficial to making us effective technicians upon graduation. Throughout the 2-year program we had to complete two internships at local veterinary clinics, one during the summer (3rd semester) and one during the spring (5th semester). I am impressed that I can say that between the two, I could tell a difference in my ability to be an effective intern. In my first internship, I was a bit more timid by questioning myself, similar to those individuals who were hired with no previous experience. However, now its been a couple weeks at my new internship and I am able to effectively put my skills to work. I am able to restrain, read lab cultures, draw blood, place catheters, monitor anesthesia, administer medication, and talk to clients much more effectively and with a lot more confidence. I was able to do some of these tasks during the first internship but without the amount of knowledge I have now. Throughout the second year we have tied textbook education and hands on practice together to become more effective technicians. Being able to posses both applicable and educational traits means that, even as an intern, I am able to be a key team player and help the clinic be successful.

Practice makes perfect in every aspect of life. Experience is important to have, but not having the correct experience could essentially do more harm than good. The career opportunities for veterinary technicians are limitless and range from agriculture, zoological medicine, clinical aspects, laboratory research, and so much more. This is why it is so important for veterinary technicians to be registered. As I prepare to start my career I look forward to being a credentialed veterinary technician. I also look forward to your support, along with the rest of the state of Hawaii, in recognizing the proficiency of a veterinary technician, by making it a requirement to become educated and registered.

Sincerely,
Cymbree DeCosta

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Cc: mucwong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
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SB2671

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a practicing veterinarian (of 12 yr) I would like to voice my support for SB2671 as the right step to bring quality veterinary technicians into our profession. This bill will establish the framework for the regulation of veterinary technicians through out the state. Thank you, Michael Wong, DVM

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February 23, 2016

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

My name is Ryan J. Koo and I am currently a history instructor at Windward Community College (WCC). I am writing this letter in support of the Veterinarian Technician Program, not only as a faculty member of the college, but more importantly as a client and consumer. As an owner of numerous animals and a frequent client of the VCA (Veterinarian Center of America), I wanted to share some of my personal experiences regarding the many vet techs I have encountered in recent years, as well as offer my strongest support for the Vet Tech program at WCC.

While it is true that the veterinarian is clearly the heart of any veterinarian clinic, I believe that the skeleton and face of the institution is represented by the vet tech. As the front line of contact, these are the individuals that initially interact with the client, recording basic information like weight, temperature, and symptoms of the patient. Most people don't think about what the role of the technician is after the initial consult, but I have come to learn that his or her responsibility is *enormous*. As the nurse is to the doctor, so is the vet tech to the veterinarian, as the technicians are responsible for many actions behind the closed doors of the inner clinic. From putting animals under general anesthesia to performing dental cleanings, from assisting in surgery to placing IV catheters and monitoring IV fluids, the scope of the technicians abilities are quite staggering. To put it another way, the technician is not only a nurse, but also a respiratory therapist, radiology technician, dentist, physical therapist, and counselor, all in one. These folks do not just play with kittens and puppies as some might think. Their profession demands expertise in a diverse set of tasks that require incredible training and education for proficiency.

On a personal note, our family has experienced the loss of a number of our beloved pets (family members?). Although the Veterinarian is obviously the most important individual in most cases, they were rarely the people we remembered after the passing of our loved ones. The vet techs we encountered not only displayed all of the expertise I described above, but also acted as a counselor of sorts, often providing the emotional support and guidance that we needed to hear after the crushing loss of our pets.

Without the Vet Tech program at WCC, the only one of its kind in the state, our communities would be in desperate need of these invaluable professionals. Not only is it a boon for the clients and consumers of the veterinarian world, it also provides our local communities with employment, career opportunities, and an education that produces competent graduates that can be hired throughout the United States, not just Hawaii. It is for all of these reasons and more that I offer my strongest support for this incredible program and the Senate Bill. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact

Ryan J. Koo

Instructor, Department of Humanities
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM
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SB2671

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Testimony for WAM on Feb 25, 2016 09:30AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
zachary albudri	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Hi Chairwoman Tokuda, The goal as a veterinarian is to ensure that my patients receive the best care possible. Having licensed, credentialed technicians allows me to provide my patients and their owners with exceptional care. By allowing out technicians to become licensed and credentialed we ensure their career-longevity as turnover decreases while retention is maximized. Please allow this process to continue as it has my full support. Thank you so much for your time in this matter. Mahalo and warm regards, Zachary Albudri, DVM Emergency and Critical Care Oahu Veterinary and Specialty Center, Pearl City

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