

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 14 2020

RE: S.B. No. 2985  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2020  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,  
to which was referred S.B. No. 2985 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO VETERINARIANS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Provide immunity from civil liability in the absence of gross negligence to veterinarians who provide emergency care to an animal and who render emergency treatment when there is no veterinarian-client-patient relationship; and
- (2) Require veterinarians to report cases of animal injury, death, or abuse, under certain circumstances, to law enforcement.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine, Hawaii Human Society, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Animal Rights Hawaii, Animal Welfare Institute, Poi Dogs and Popoki, Maui Human Society, Pacific Pet Alliance, and twelve individuals.

Your Committee finds that existing law is silent in regard to protections against civil liabilities for veterinarians who provide emergency care to critically sick or injured animals.

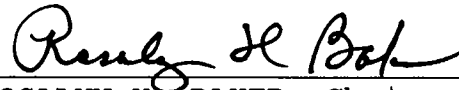


Veterinarians are mandated to provide care under a valid and current veterinary-client-patient relationship, prohibiting them from providing care to an animal in an emergency due to fear of civil liability. Your Committee further finds that existing law does not address reporting requirements when a veterinarian suspects a case of animal abuse or cruelty. Requiring a veterinarian to report any cases of animal abuse or cruelty to an appropriate law enforcement agency will clarify any confliction a veterinarian may have regarding maintaining client confidentiality. This measure will encourage veterinarians to provide care to an injured or sick animal without fear of civil liability and protect veterinarians when they suspect a case of animal abuse or cruelty.

Your Committee has amended this measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2985, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 2985, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Judiciary.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Commerce, Consumer  
Protection, and Health,



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ROSALYN H. BAKER, Chair



