

GM508: Nathaniel Lam

(1) Why do you wish to be a member of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine?

I feel a sense of duty to serve on the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine in order to contribute to the already excellent efforts in maintaining a high standard of safe/effective practices, accountability for its members, and further development of private and public programs that improve the relationship between veterinarians, the State of Hawaii, and the community we humbly serve.

(2) What do you perceive are the roles and responsibilities of a member of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine?

A board member is responsible for upholding the standard of practice for veterinarians in the State of Hawaii according to the revised statutes currently in place, in accordance to the office of the Governor. Along with the other members of the board, and the DCCA, we are responsible for providing unbiased leadership in determining the best course of action when situations arise which require the review or revision of these statutes. A board member is responsible for attending meetings, being aware of the issues that may require the board's attention, maintaining professional conduct when interacting with members of the community regarding issues that may be discussed by the board, and advocating for the greater good of our professional community and consumers.

(3) Given your understanding of the roles and responsibilities of a Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine member, why do you believe that you are qualified for the position? Please include a brief statement of your skills, expertise and knowledge that would aid you as a member of the Board.

Recently, I had the honor of being appointed to serve as an interim member on the Board of Veterinary Medicine, which expires in June, 2022. I would like to express my interest to continue serving as a board member. I have been involved in organized veterinary medicine since 2005, as a leader and president of our graduating class at Michigan State University, a representative for private and public organizations, and a member of the Michigan State Animal Response Team. Following my residency training in surgery, I became a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons and moved to Honolulu where I also spent much of my youth. I saw a great need in Hawaii for veterinary specialists and could not help but feel compelled to return to be a part of the solution in caring for the islands' animals and their owners.

For the last 9 years I have been practicing at VCA Oahu Veterinary Specialty Center as the sole surgeon, performing specialty services ranging from routine orthopedic operations and cancer surgery to interventional radiology techniques, emergency surgery, and counseling clients for through end-of life management. Through these experiences my heart continues to grow for the patients and people in our community. Outside the operating room, I have dedicated my life to improving the lives and welfare of animals and humans through serving as a consultant and veterinary surgeon for state/federal departments, engaging in veterinary conservation work, and most recently also serving on the board of the Hawaii Humane Society and an advisory board member of North Shore Stables, an equine retirement center and therapeutic riding non-profit in Oahu. In 2022 I will be co-founding Hawaii's first long-term sea turtle rehabilitation therapy center. These diverse positions have given me both breadth and depth of experience regarding the interaction between veterinarians and the private/public sector in an objective way.

(4) What do you hope to accomplish during your term of service?

My goals, as a potential ongoing interim member of the Board of Veterinary Medicine, are three-fold.

1. Expanding the Depth and Breadth of Animal / Veterinarian Care

Currently our islands are in a state of crisis due to the availability of licensed veterinarians, veterinary specialists, and support staff. Accessibility of care is constantly threatened by the cost of treatment, and the availability of treatment in a timely fashion. Burnout in our profession is at an all-time high according to 2021 AVMA Surveys. My primary goal is to improve the ability of our State to recruit qualified permanent and relief veterinary staff to meet the needs of our community, while maintaining a high standard of practice and adequate oversight. Specifically, the number and type of veterinary specialists, emergency veterinarians, licensed veterinary technicians, mixed and large/food animal practitioners must increase. My secondary goal is to work with political, industry, and community leaders to establish a self-sustaining means for all animals to be able to receive needed humane medical attention and care. No animal or family should be left behind, and no veterinarian should be overwhelmed to the point of wanting to leave profession, or suicide.

2. Being Prepared

At this time, Hawaii is one of the few remaining states that does not have a state emergency action plan or team with regards to its animals. Animals are an extremely important part of our culture and community, from the Honolulu Zoo, Sealife Park and Aquarium, to farms, ranches, research and quarantine facilities, animal shelters, domestically owned animals, and wild animals both native and invasive. Hawaii is at significant risk of catastrophic disasters due to its location, risks from natural and manmade disasters as well as zoonotic disease outbreaks. Preparedness for these emergencies MUST include a plan for Hawaii's animals, and this will have a direct impact on human survival as well. My goal is to work towards establishing a Hawaii State Animal Response Team, as a public-private partnership that works directly with the Office of Emergency Management, the Hawaii Humane Society, and federal agencies to support the current protocols in place for our state.

3. Doing What We Already Do, Better.

As part of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, one of the Board's missions is to maintain a high standard of practice and ethics within our profession. While the Board currently serves as mostly a "reactive" force to concerns amongst consumers and professionals, future focus dedicated to proactive changes and programs to prevent harm to our community is important. My goal is to work together with the Board and non-government organizations such as the HVMA to support both consumers and professionals by providing resources and encourage mandatory education with a specific focus on responsible pet ownership, client-doctor communication, mental health, and conflict resolution.

I hope that through my participation on the Board, that we can work together to create legislative initiatives and engage our professional and public communities together in improving animal welfare, supporting veterinarians, and instilling confidence in our community.

(5) Name three qualities that best describe you and how these qualities will benefit the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine.

I am fair, and non-judgemental, able to see all sides of an argument yet unwavering in my own boundaries and beliefs. I am well connected in the community and able to provide insight to many facets of our profession. Lastly, I am passionate about the advancement of our profession and our ability to serve the community and the State.

(6) Name a previous experience you've had that will be beneficial as a Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine member.

I have served on the board of several other organizations, although this is the first government appointed position I have sought. I understand the importance of protocol and running effective meetings, and while I am new in learning the process of writing, and introducing legislation, I can extrapolate from other experiences to help me become an effective board member.

(7) Can you foresee any possible conflicts of interest that could arise during your service on the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine? How would you overcome conflicts of interests?

I am currently employed by a corporate entity as a veterinarian in the state of Hawaii, and I am an active board member of the Hawaii Humane Society. While both of these groups may have an agenda or bias with regards to topics discussed by the board, I have been explicit in separating my participation or involvement with these entities and the BVM.

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Friday, February 18, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 508, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE HAWAII BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE,
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, NATHANIEL LAM,
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2023**

Chair Baker and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerrie Shahan, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports the appointment of Nathaniel Lam, D.V.M., to the Board as a licensee member.

Dr. Lam has been licensed as a veterinarian in Hawaii since September 17, 2013. His license is current, valid, and in good standing. He has been the Chief of Surgery at VCA Oahu Veterinary Specialty Clinic since 2010.

Dr. Lam has published numerous articles and is a frequent instructor providing continuing education. He is the former owner and a former Director of Development at The Arch Project Climbing Center, a co-founder and former President of The Arch Project, and the owner of Ikaika Outriggers, LLC.

Dr. Lam was first appointed to the Board on an interim basis on October 13, 2021 and has attended 3 of 4 meetings. He is one of five licensed members on the Board with at least five years of experience and is currently actively engaged in the practice of veterinary medicine. He is one of four members who are residents of the city and county of Honolulu.

Dr. Lam's interest in serving on the Board, professional experience, and desire to contribute to the community will continue to make him an asset to the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaiian Humane Society
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waiialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: Feb. 16, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Rosalyn H. Baker
Vice Chair Sen. Stanley Chang
and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Submitted By: Anna Neubauer, President & CEO
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2242

RE: Testimony in strong support of GM 508:
Nominating Nathaniel Lam to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine
Friday, Feb. 18, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for Governor's Message 508, considering the nomination of Dr. Nathaniel Lam, DVM, to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr. Lam's appointment to the board will certainly benefit the people and animals of Hawai'i. His commitment to community engagement spans diverse fields, sharing his expertise with a wide range of organizations. Dr. Lam serves on the board of the Hawaiian Humane Society and supports other animal welfare groups. He consults with the Honolulu Police Department and the Transportation Security Administration, and he volunteers with organizations involved in conservation and disaster response.

Dr. Lam's expertise as a veterinary surgeon and his commitment to community service, will make him an asset to the board. We urge the committee to confirm the nomination of Dr. Lam to serve on the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

From: Lindsay Young <lindsay@pacificrimconservation.org>

Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 9:53 AM

To: baker4 - David <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>

Subject: Letter of support for Dr. Nathaniel Lam's nomination to serve on the Board of Veterinary Medicine

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing a letter of strong support for Dr. Nathaniel Lam's nomination to serve on the Board of Veterinary Medicine for the state of Hawaii. As the Executive Director of Pacific Rim Conservation, Hawaii's only non-profit dedicated exclusively to native bird conservation, we have partnered with Dr. Lam for the last five years to provide veterinary care for our endemic Hawaiian bird species. He has done everything from CT scans to field treatment for our native birds to contribute to the long term health of our native bird population. He has dedicated countless hours, usually free of charge, to ensure that our native birds involved in conservation actions remain healthy. His breadth of experience, dedication and knowledge make him an excellent candidate for this position and I encourage you to consider it strongly.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Lindsay

Lindsay Young, Ph.D.

Executive Director

[Pacific Rim Conservation](#)

Honolulu, HI, 96822

808.741.9479

lindsay@pacificrimconservation.org

GM-508

Submitted on: 2/15/2022 9:07:52 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/18/2022 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Melissa Teves Pavlicek	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Melissa Pavlicek and I am writing in support of Dr. Nathaniel Lam's appointment to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine. I have the pleasure of serving on the Hawaiian Humane Society's Board of Directors with Dr. Lam and have personally observed his commitment to community service, as well as his deep love for animals. He is the kind of dedicated and compassionate leader that is needed at the Board of Veterinary Medicine. Please confirm his nomination.

LATE

-----Original Message-----

From: Ginny Tiu <ginnytiu808@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 7:30 PM
To: baker4 - David <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Letter of strong support for Dr Nathaniel Lam

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Aloha Senator Baker,

Thank you very much for the opportunity to share my letter of strong support for Dr. Nathaniel Lam, as a candidate to the Board of Veterinary Medicine.

Dr Lam would be an invaluable asset to this Board, and in that role, be able to serve the people and animals in our community even more than he already is doing. I'm sure you've received many letters from people in our community who can attest to his professionalism, dedication, immense knowledge and ability, and genuine care for both animals and people. I have personally experienced this throughout the years.

Dr Lam serves on our Board of the Hawaiian Humane Society, and we consider ourselves very blessed to have him, because he contributes in so many ways.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity and for your kind consideration.

Aloha,
Ginny Tiu

LATE

From: Vicky Cayetano <vicky@unitedlaundry.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 17, 2022 9:25 PM
To: baker4 - David <baker4@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Dr. Nathaniel Lam - Board of Veterinary Medicine

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The Honorable Senator Rosalyn Baker

Dear Senator Baker,

We are writing in support of Dr. Nathaniel Lam's appointment to the Board of Veterinary Medicine. We have known Dr. Lam for approximately six years. He has impressed us not only with his depth and breadth of knowledge as a veterinarian, but he is also a kind and compassionate individual who cares deeply for his community.

Whenever we invite him for Thanksgiving or Christmas Day, he always declines as he is busy giving bentos out to the homeless. His heart and his life are dedicated both to the service of our four-legged members and our two-legged citizens. The Board of Veterinary Medicine would be well served to have the participation of Dr. Nathaniel Lam as a member.

Very respectfully,

Ben and Vicky Cayetano
808-446-4211

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