

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

MARCH 18, 2022
9:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2798 SD1
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chairperson Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2798 SD1 relating to the Veterinary Medicine. Senate Bill 2798, SD1 amends Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes to authorize the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians. SB 2798, SD1 also details how licensed veterinarians may practice veterinarian telemedicine and for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for Hawaii licensure examination.

The Department offers the following comment. The amendments made in SD1:

“(1) ... courtesy permits shall not exceed sixty total days in any twelve-month period, provided that a courtesy permittee's request for more than two courtesy permits within a two-year period shall constitute prima facie evidence that the courtesy permittee is engaged in the active practice of veterinary medicine in the State and a license issued under section 471-9, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, shall be required”
is useful to limit the repeated use of courtesy permits to circumvent state licensing.



Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 10:04:53 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
isaac maeda	Dept. of Ag.	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Available for questions

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 3:45:02 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We write in support of SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine to be heard by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on March 18.

This measure, which has Hawai'ian Humane's strong support, authorizes the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine and allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawai'i for decades until a decision by the Hawai'i Veterinary Medical Board a little over year ago. Over those decades they have provided vital services including assistance with animal rescues and disaster response; high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter; relief for private-practice and shelter veterinarians; and access to specialties unavailable in the state. This bill restores that lifeline.

The bill allows veterinarians with foreign credentials to apply for state licensure, opening up a new pipeline of qualified professionals at a time when there is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters.

The bill establishes rules around veterinary telemedicine, which gained importance during the pandemic, to ensure that this tool is used in ways that protect animals and consumers.

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain co-operates with our friends in Hawai'i and begs to support the motion.

Board of Directors

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa LaBrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond,
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss,
NYC TNR Director

**National Programs
Director**

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

March 16, 2022

Re: SB2798 SD1 (Relating to Veterinary Medicine)

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Neighborhood Cats, a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, wishes to express our **strong support** for SB2798 SD1.

Our organization focuses on solving cat overpopulation, a particularly acute issue on Maui where we are based and throughout the State of Hawaii. We rely on the services of veterinarians for spay/neuter and wellness services. Considering the current nation-wide shortage of veterinarians, the provisions of SB2798 SD1 are critical to the success of our ongoing mission, including allowing temporary permits for out-of-state practitioners and licensure of graduates of international veterinary medical schools.

We also support the use of veterinary telemedicine as a way to make services more efficient and accessible for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for considering our views,



Bryan Kortis



February 7, 2022

To: Chair Sen. Mike Gabbard
Vice Chair Sen. Clarence Nishihara
And Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Environment

Submitted By: Kaua`i Humane Society

RE: Testimony in support to SB2798: Relating to Veterinary Medicine

The Kaua`i Humane Society supports Senate Bill 2798 and appreciates the acknowledgment that access to veterinary care is a high priority to Hawai`i's pet owners and Hawai`i's animal welfare organizations. The demand for veterinary services continues to grow, but a shortage of veterinarians impedes pet owners and animal welfare organizations from providing the best care to those in need, especially on the island of Kaua`i.

Kaua`i has limited veterinary care within the private and animal welfare sector, often resulting in pet owners feeling helpless. Kaua`i Humane Society also needs assistance in order to meet the veterinary demands of its own shelter population. Senate Bill 2798 will support the animals of Kaua`i and the Kaua`i Humane Society during times of natural disasters, rescues (such as hoarding and cruelty cases), and everyday care.

The passing of Senate Bill 2798 will improve the care Kaua`i's pets and homeless animals receive by permitting licensed veterinarians to qualify for temporary permits, increasing the opportunity to hire veterinarians, and opening the door to quality telemedicine. Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Nicole Schafer Crane
Executive Director
Kaua`i Humane Society



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

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

Date: March 16, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Mark J. Hashem
Vice Chair Rep. Amy A. Perruso
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Community Engagement Director
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2798, SD1: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Friday, March 18, 2022, 9 a.m., Room 325 or Videoconference

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso, and Committee Members.

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 2798, SD1, which authorizes the board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine, and allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination.

This bill seeks to restore a pathway for out-of-state veterinarians, licensed in good standing, to assist our local veterinary community, and the pet owners and animals of Hawai'i. In late 2020, the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine closed the existing pathway that allowed visiting veterinarians to practice in the state. It agreed to work with stakeholders to create a new system, one that meets the needs of our community while giving the board greater control over visiting veterinarians and clarifying that professionals who wish to work in the state regularly must apply for a Hawai'i license. This bill is the result of that collaborative effort.

SB 2798, SD1, will allow animals to get immediate care in the case of natural disasters or rescues, it will allow out-of-state veterinarians, licensed in good standing, to assist Hawai'i-licensed professionals and it will allow local veterinarians some much needed respite. Its provisions protect animals, serve the interests of consumers and support access to high-quality veterinary care. This measure is needed urgently and we ask you to amend the bill to take effect upon approval.

We implore the committee to pass SB 2798, SD1. Mahalo for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

March 16, 2022

Committee on Agriculture
Representative Mark J. Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2798 SD1, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Agriculture,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA), I would like to express our strong support of SB 2798 SD1 and its strengthening of Hawaii's veterinary practice laws.

SB 2798 SD1 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 471 on Veterinary Medicine to better define the practice and parameters of veterinary medicine and veterinary telehealth to protect consumers and their pets from inadequate, improper, or unlicensed veterinary care. In addition, it addresses the current shortage of veterinary specialists and practitioners in Hawaii by allowing the Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant temporary permits to out-of-state veterinarians and provides for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for licensure examination in Hawaii.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about consumer demand for telehealth in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinary telemedicine has allowed consumers more access to veterinary services for their pets, particularly in areas where access to veterinary care is limited. However, HVMA is aware that the use of veterinary telemedicine may also be abused without an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Without actual physical examination of a pet, veterinary services rendered through telemedicine alone can be inadequate and below the standard of veterinary care. The addition of veterinary telehealth definitions and parameters will help to clarify the practice of veterinary telehealth and assist the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine in ensuring consumers in Hawaii receive proper and licensed veterinary telemedicine services.

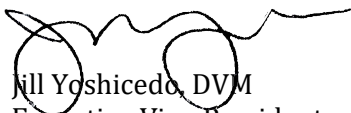
Additionally, the pandemic highlighted the shortage of veterinarians available to provide specialty and routine veterinary care for Hawaii's people and their pets. At times, veterinary emergency hospitals were unable to operate 24/7 and surgeon schedules were completely booked for months due to the inability to fill these staffing shortages by temporary permit. In one specific case, there was a veterinary surgeon within the state that could have assisted during this period, but due to her international veterinary school degree, was unable to sit for Hawaii's state licensing exam due to a technicality in the administrative rules. These amendments are critically important to prevent such veterinary care shortages in the future, and to ensure that all qualified veterinarians are allowed to sit for the Hawaii state licensing exam.

The HVMA requests that SB 2798 SD1 effective date to be amended to become effectively immediately. We understand that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs will need time to implement the temporary license permitting process and are open to language that would allow time for this implementation. However, it is critical that the remainder of the proposed bill become effective immediately, as these changes have immediate positive implications on veterinary care available in the state, including providing regulatory definitions on veterinary telemedicine currently practiced in Hawaii, allowing for assistance from out-of-state veterinarians during emergency response events, and allowing qualified graduates of foreign colleges of veterinary medicine to sit for the Hawaii state licensing exam.

Hawaii's veterinary professionals continue to be stretched thin in striving to meet the high demand for general and specialty veterinary care across the islands. The changes proposed by SB 2798 SD1 will help us avoid veterinarian burnout and further loss of veterinary services available to the people and animals of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill and our amendment request. Please SUPPORT SB 2798 SD1 and its fortification of Hawaii's veterinary practice law. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo", with a long, wavy horizontal line extending to the right.

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine

Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference

On the following measure: S.B. 2798, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chair Hashem 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 purposes of this bill are to: (1) authorize the Board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians; (2) permit licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine; and (3) allow for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for licensure examination.

The Board supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments respectfully requesting amendments to: (1) align terminology used in the bill with the definitions in the Board's statute and administrative rules; and (2) align the bill's proposed requirements with the existing capability of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's (Division) licensing software.

- Page 2, lines 11 and 12:

(2) Practice under the level of direct or indirect supervision determined by the sponsor [~~either directly or indirectly~~];

The terms "direct" and "indirect", when referring to the necessary level of supervision, are currently defined in the Board's statutes and rules.

- Page 8, lines 11 to 13:

(f) A veterinarian may provide veterinary telesupervision for tasks that do not require [~~immediate~~] direct supervision as specified by rules adopted by the board.

The Board recommends replacing the term "immediate" with "direct" to denote the level of supervision established 471-D(f) as "direct" supervision is currently defined in statute while "immediate" is not.

- Page 12, lines 13 to 17:

"Veterinary teletriage" means using electronic [consultation] communication with a client, including through a poison control agency, to provide a timely assessment and decision as to whether to immediately refer a patient to a veterinarian for emergency or urgent care."

The Board recommends changing "consultation" to "communication" in the definition of "veterinary teletriage" as the term "consultation" is used in a manner contrary to its defined meaning as reflected on page 9, lines 10 to 15.

- Adding a new fees; disposition section as follows:

§ Fees; disposition. (a) Upon issuance of a new license and at each license renewal period, each veterinarian shall pay, in addition to a license fee or renewal fee, a surcharge of \$100, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o). At the end of each quarter, the moneys contained in the separate account established pursuant to this section shall be transferred to the compliance resolution fund until such time that the total transferred amounts equal the amount appropriate in section 1 of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2022. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds in excess of the amount appropriated in section ____ of Act , Session Laws of Hawaii, 2022, shall be deposited into the compliance resolution fund.

(b) Application fees paid pursuant to this chapter shall not be refundable. Pursuant to section 26-9(l), the director shall establish examination, reexamination, license, renewal, restoration, enforcement, and other fees relating to the administration of his chapter by rule.

(c) Fees assessed pursuant to this chapter shall be used to defray the costs incurred by the department in implementing this chapter.

In consultation with the Division, it is the Board's understanding that the creation of these two new methods of licensure and establishing the requirements for licensure in the existing system can take upwards of 600 hours. These hours

would be added onto the already extensive daily workload of the Division's developer, program analyst, and others outside of the Division. In consideration of this, it is requested that this bill be amended to include a fees and disposition section, which would allow the Division to assess a new license fee and at each renewal period, a surcharge, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the Compliance Resolution Fund. This will allow the Board and Division to charge those applying for the new license types envisioned by this measure an assessment fee to create these licenses, thereby mitigating a cost which was not in the Division's budget.

- Page 17, section 7 be amended as follows:

This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, take effect on July 1, 2024.

This will allow the Division adequate time to create the permits in the Division's licensing software, update its applications, and make the appropriate web updates.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:30:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupaluk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Give a local student a scholarship to go all the way through college and build a clinic cohort at the college. No more out of state hires. Absolutely no support for this bill. Start communicating this idea to the Boys and Girls Clubs across the state. There are plenty of local kids who would dream of doing this but their parents don't have the money. I would know. I took out a student loan to pay for some kid to stay in college in 2019 and 2020 because their parents just couldn't make ends meet. If I can do it, and my own family is impoverished, the State of Hawai'i can do it.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:32:29 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support SB2798.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, Maui

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:55:06 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a longtime pet owner, aka owned by pets. I am in full support of this bill. We have a shortage of veterinarians in Hawaii. Our local vets need relief and help, especially in specialty areas. Avian vets are in short supply. They are the only ones who fully understand what is happening with birds. I had a cockatiel with fatty liver disease some years ago who was helped by my vet, who also attended a mainland conference where this was a topic and learned new treatments for my bird at a lecture.

Natural disasters add to the problem. We need to bring in vets during these times of crisis. Extra help is also needed during large scale animal rescues, which occur with too much regularity.

I am also in strong support of the telemedicine provisions of this bill. During COVID, especially in 2020 and early 2021, telemedicine was used in my medical care. There are times we do not need a physical meeting and telemedicine save time, travel, and the chance of contracting disease, especially COVID.

I urge you to move this bill forward. However, we, and the live animals/pets in our care, should not have to wait more than two years, until July 1, 2024, for it to be effective. Please change the effective date to effective upon approval. If you don't there will be more deaths, more untreated animals, etc.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 11:57:36 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support SB2798 SD1

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 12:58:46 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2798 and encourage you to do the same.

This Bill will allow qualified, out-of-state veterinarians to practice in Hawaii. They will help us by providing critical services including: assistance with animal rescues and disaster response; high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter; relief for private-practice and shelter veterinarians; and access to specialties unavailable in the state.

In addition to allowing vets from Canada or out-of-state to provide emergency services, this Bill also establishes rules around veterinary telemedicine. This is an important resource for our beloved animals.

Please support this Bill.

Sincerely,
Nandita Sharma, Ph.D. and companion to Wabi, a cat.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:01:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. It will help animals in Hawaii.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 1:02:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margie Gillman-Wolfe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill as the animals and the people who care about them need help yesterday!
Mass Spay Neuter is needed NOW. Please be Pono. Aloha

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 2:32:11 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I join the Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board, and animal welfare professionals in strongly supporting this bill which allows foreign licensed veterinarians temporarily or in emergencies to assist our local veterinarians and deletes hurdles for local licensure, as well as permits telemedicine where appropriate.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:27:35 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Foster	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Investing in spay/neuter is a proven way to address overpopulation as shown by states on the mainland that now have to import pet animals to meet the demand for adoption. Hawai'i, on the other hand, has more homeless pet animals than families looking to adopt.
- This bill allows compassionate Hawai'i taxpayers an easy way to support the spay/neuter of pet animals and Free-Roaming cats at no significant cost to the state.
- This measure would support groups who are actively working to humanely reduce the population of Free-Roaming cats, which benefits both cats and wildlife.
- Nonprofits who rescue and rehome animals often struggle to fund pre-adoption spay/neuter to make sure the pets they adopt out are not contributing to pet overpopulation.
- Many low-income and houseless pet owners struggle to access affordable spay/neuter for their animal companions.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 3:21:33 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for SB2798 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Please support the passage of this bill which would facilitate veterinary care that in a variety of circumstances might otherwise be lacking for pets and other resident animals. It is my understanding that the provisions in this bill allow for appropriate supervision of qualified invited practitioners and that the bill is supported by many local veterinarians as well as the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board. It will also be welcomed by many in the community concerned with the welfare of animals, and consequently their owners.

Thank you.

Aloha

Alice Saul
Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 4:27:27 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill which will help provide needed care for animals in Hawaii.

Elizabeth Kent

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:31:07 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Rep Hashem, and members of the AgCommittee

Please pass SB2798

SB2798 is needed as soon as possible for us to continue to serve our community

as expected by a public traumatized by current events. Pets and animals play an essential role in keeping our community healthy. It does not feel good to turn away any asking for help.

It is a pleasure working with you again. I trust you will support our work.

Respectfully yours,

Eric Ako DVM

Past Chair, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Past President, and Executive Vice President, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

Board Member, Hawaiian Humane Society

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:53:49 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB2798 SD1. Thank you.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 5:57:03 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Thurston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2798. Hawaii Island has a major shortage of veterinarians, and as a result we are falling behind on spaying/neutering our animals. In Kona the vet clinics have at least a 2-month waiting list and several are not accepting any new clients. Allowing out-of-state qualified veterinarians to perform high quality, high volume spay/neuter clinics will help to satisfy the demand.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:08:25 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pat Flynn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 6:59:55 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill.

Mahalo

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:17:24 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of the desperate need for this bill.

For some time now, Hawaii pet owners have been experiencing an alarming crisis with the lack of veterinarians, especially specialists. Shockingly, in Kahala alone, two long-time vets have closed their businesses permanently within the last 4-5 years, I suspect because of significantly increased rent and operational costs. I used to be able to get an appointment the very day I call, or in the next day or two. The usual wait time now is an entire month, no matter who you call. And, there is only two emergency hospitals that I know of, one of which is usually booked solid, you can't get an appointment. I have had to wait 3-4 hours just to be seen, and the charges are significantly more. I constantly worry if my pets were to become gravely ill or seriously injured.

This bill, especially with telemedicine, would be an enormous relief, not only to pet owners, but to the overwhelmed veterinarians, as well. I do not agree, however, that all pets should have an initial in-person visit for a minor condition, or just for an initial consultation, which could then thereafter determine whether a pet needs to be seen.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 7:48:31 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Rep. Hashem, Vice Chair, Rep. Perruso, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to articulate my support for this important initiative. As a (rescue) pet owner and animal lover, I firmly support this effort to bring Hawaii's veterinary services and procedures into the 21st century. Clearly, the authors and professionals supporting this bill understand Hawaii's needs, the value of cooperation with other professionals across the country, internationally, and the enhanced health benefits associated with telemedicine.

It is clear that our local professionals with both the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board are promoting best practices in crafting and supporting this important piece of legislation. These professionals are creating valuable partnerships with other states and countries to open up a new source of qualified veterinarians at a time when there is a nationwide shortage and open positions across our state.

Having volunteered with the Hawaiian Humane Society during their massive Waianae rescue effort, 2016/17, I fully appreciate the importance and value of providing timely, vital medical services to rescued animals. This bill will allow us to ramp-up our care-givers and provide rapid assistance during animal rescue efforts, pandemics, or natural disasters.

I believe this important piece of legislation will promote greater protection and care for our animals and provide greater access to care for pet owners while supporting our hardworking local veterinarians. I urge you to favorably consider this forward-looking legislation. M. A. Forshey, Ewa Beach

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2022 9:49:48 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill.

We don't have enough veterinarians to serve our own animals and if we had a disaster or another puppy mill seizure as we had before, we'd have so many suffering dogs/puppies!

Mahalo

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:23:04 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helene Navaro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support this very important Bill SB2798 SD1.

With a nationwide shortage of veterinarians, this bill will help tremendously with this shortage.

This Bill allows qualified licensed Veterinarians to come to Hawaii to work and help out the animals. It definitely helps with mass spay neuter clinic. Also it would allow Specialized Veterinarians to come to Hawaii for specific needs of the animals whether dogs or cats. Furthermore, there are just not enough Farm animals Veterinarians on our islands.

I thank you for reading my testimony and humbly ask for your support of this very important bill for the animals of Hawaii.

Mahalo Nui Loa!

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:08:26 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Hashem, Vice Chairperson Perruso and Committee Members.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support SB 2798 SD 1 as it would help in the care of animals, provide access to care for pet owners and support local veterinarians.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 4:50:25 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madge Nicolas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yes!!! We need vets. We can trap all the cats but where are the vets???

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:10:16 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. The vet shortage is critical with shortage of services on Oahu and even more dire on the Neighbor Islands. Please keep Hawaii's animals safe and healthy and provide them with the healthcare service to do this.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 6:47:10 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill addresses a crisis-level shortage of veterinarians in Hawaii by:

Restoring the right of qualified out-of-state veterinarians to practice here.

Creating a right for veterinarians with foreign credentials to apply for Hawaii licenses.

Establishing rules for veterinary telemedicine.

The legislation was developed by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Hawaiian Humane Society and other local stakeholders, and is supported by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board. It deserves your support.

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:14:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liz Lees	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are experiencing a significant shortage of vet services on the Big Island and one of the ways to help fill this need is to allow off island vets to practice with the supervision of locally licensed vets.

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine. **Please stop excluding qualified folks from working in Hawai'i. Residents -- 2-legged and 4-legged -- need good medical care. Please walk into the interconnected 21st century. It's already 2022.**

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,

Kirtland Petersen
Honolulu, HI

SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,
Natalie Spencer
Honolulu, HI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

SB2798 SD1 is a vitally important bill for Hawaii's animals, pet owners and veterinarians and I urge you to give it your full support.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii until recently. A number of stakeholders, from the veterinary community to animal welfare groups, worked together to draft this bill and restore that important lifeline.

There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology and forensic veterinary medicine.

Please pass SB2798 SD1 and allow veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of our local veterinarians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martha Randolph

Honolulu, HI

Please Pass Senate Bill 2798

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

I support Senate Bill 2798. This will allow much needed support for Hawaii's local veterinarians caring for Hawaii's animals.

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Shirley Salcedo
Waipahu, HI

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Rep. Mark J. Hashem, Chair

Rep. Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, March 18, 2022

TIME: 9:00a.m.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso and members of the committee,

I strongly support SB2798 SD1. I am a registered and active voter in Honolulu as well as a cat feeder - neuter and spay provider.

SB2798 SD1 is a vitally important bill for Hawaii's animals, pet owners and veterinarians and I urge you to give it your full support.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii until recently. A number of stakeholders, from the veterinary community to animal welfare groups, worked together to draft this bill and restore that important lifeline.

There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology and forensic veterinary medicine.

Please pass SB2798 SD1 and allow veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of our local veterinarians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Nancy Wallace

Honolulu, HI

S B 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine. I'm with you all the way

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,
joanna milo
Waianae, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

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I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,
Taylor Prostor
Honolulu, HI

Please Pass Senate Bill 2798

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass SB2798 to help local veterinarians and pet owners.

As an administrator for a non-profit animal rescue, it has become highly challenging to obtain surgical appointments for our rescues as the resources are so limited and the few that are available are overbooked far in advance due to lack of available veterinarians.

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
DJ Sakata
Mililani, HI

Please pass SB2798 SD1.

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,
Stacey Arnold
Honolulu, HI

Friday, March 18, 2022
9:00a.m.
Conference Room 325
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798. **This will help us pursue large spay/neuter efforts and allow to cover vets when they are absent for illness and travel.**

Sincerely,
Nikki Russell
Kihei, HI

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass SB2798 to help local veterinarians and pet owners.

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Hamid Jahanmir
Honolulu, HI

SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,
Sheri Iha
Kailua, HI

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass SB2798 to help local veterinarians and pet owners.

We have a critical Shortage of veterinarians on Oahu and especially on the neighbor islands. Passing this bill will help having veterinarian professionals to keep our animals healthy and safe

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Melanie Kim
Honolulu, HI

Please Pass Senate Bill 2798

Representative Mark Hashem, Chair
Representative Amy Perruso, Vice Chair
Committee on Agriculture

Friday, March 18, 9:00 A.M.
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Perruso and members of the Committee on Agriculture,

Please pass SB2798 to help local veterinarians and pet owners.

We currently have a very severe shortage of vets in Hawaii. The ability to previously have large spay and neuter clinics in Hawaii using vets from elsewhere was very beneficial to our islands in helping to curb the animal population. We have been set back drastically by covid and need as much help as possible to catch up on spay and neuter opportunities however we can. Please allow this much needed service to return to our islands.

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.
Kelli Medeiros
Wailuku, HI

SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00a.m.

Conference Room 325

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Hashem, Representative Perruso, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Sincerely,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

Hauula, HI

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 8:18:11 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myra Hammonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill for VETERINARY help.

Mahalo for your time. I really appreciate your time.

Sincerely,

Myra Gale Hammonds

Dear Representatives,

It is with great personal and professional interest that I am writing in Support of SB2798. It is widely accepted that there is a major current shortage of veterinarians in Hawaii resulting in pets unable to receive timely needed medical care. This can result in unnecessary suffering.

Profesionally I am interested in the provision to allow PAVE (Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence) (international) graduates to take the State board exam and practice in Hawaii. Hawaii would thereby become the 43rd US state to do this. I am a PAVE graduate 10/12 of St. Matthew's University, Cayman Islands, and have been licensed in Texas since 4/13. In October 2020 I applied for a Hawaii license (including provision of my PAVE score) and on 11/12/20 was approved to sit for the state exam. Due to Covid I did not take the exam until June 2021. I received notice that I successfully passed on 6/18/21. I paid the \$180 fee and received my Notice of Licensure on 7/19/21, License Number VE-1016-0.

Based on this information I searched for a residence in Maui and entered escrow, started the process of closing down my own personal veterinary clinic (established 2/14) as well as gave notice to the county shelter I worked at part-time that I would be leaving by end of 2021. I also began searching for a potential location to open up a low-cost wellness clinic on Maui, particularly for those underserved due to finances (such as ALICE program participants). Then on October 27, 2021 I received a letter from the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (dated 10/18/21) informing me that the license issued to me 3 months earlier had not been ratified because PAVE was not accepted in Hawaii. Therefore I am unable to work in Hawaii, though I remain ready and willing.

While I can understand that it takes time to develop necessary software for a tracking program to administer to proposed temporary specialist program, two years is a long time to wait while the need is critical now. Additionally, I remain eager to set up my own low-cost clinic and am probably not alone in hoping for the state to adopt the PAVE credentials. I would urge the committee to allow PAVE graduates the opportunity to practice in Hawaii upon approval of this bill and specialists to provide critical services sooner than two years.

Thank you for your consideration.

Jan Langer, DVM

SB-2798-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 9:17:43 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/18/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Head	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support our veterinary community by supporting this bill. Our community needs help with staffing our veterinary clinics and hospitals. This temporary help has been vital and continues to be vital to the cli no ox's of Hawaii in being able to provide care of our islands' animals.