

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Wednesday, February 23, 2022  
9:30 a.m.  
Via Videoconference**

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

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 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 appreciates the intent of this bill and offers the following comments respectfully requesting amendments to: (1) clarify the intent of the temporary nature of courtesy and relief permits; (2) align this bill's proposed new requirements with the capabilities of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Professional and Vocational Licensing Division's (PVL) licensing software; and (3) streamline the section on telemedicine to harmonize with existing statutes.

The Board realizes the necessity of requesting the assistance of out-of-state veterinarians by licensed veterinarians of this State. The Board believes that such assistance should be short-term, and that out-of-state veterinarians are not permanent employees. Consequently, the Board believes that temporary permitting of such veterinarians should be limited in both duration and frequency, and that repeated requests for a permit indicates a desire to practice in Hawaii on a regular and recurrent basis, for which permanent licensure should be obtained.

For the Committee's information, PVL's licensing software is designed to create a beginning and ending date for a license (permit) and does not have the capability to track specific days throughout a year. Additionally, the licensing software used by PVL does not have the capability to track two license (permit) types simultaneously. Thus,

the Board recommends that the type of supervision for the courtesy permit be listed, and the following definitional changes be made:

- Throughout the bill the phrase “board-licensed veterinarian” is used to denote Hawaii-licensed veterinarians rather than out-of-state veterinarians. The Board recommends that “Hawaii-licensed” in all these instances be used as out-of-state veterinarians are also “board” licensed and the term “Hawaii-licensed” will eliminate potential confusion.
- The Board recommends eliminating “possessions” from the definition, since United States possessions do not have permanent populations and to simplify the definition, the Board recommends eliminating “animal rescue or cruelty case that needs urgent attention” as the authority to respond to these situations are law enforcement issues and not disaster issues. The Board believes animal rescue and cruelty cases can be moved to section 471-2(8), which is more accurate. The Board recommends that throughout the bill the term “telemedicine” be changed to “veterinary telemedicine” for consistency and to distinguish it from the practice of telemedicine with human patients. The Board recommends deleting the definition of “veterinary consulting” as it duplicates the definition of “consultation”. The Board recommends replacing “immediate” with “direct” to denote the level of supervision in 471-D(f) as “immediate” is not a defined term in the statute. The Board recommends replacing “patient” with “animal” in the definition of “veterinary teleadvice” as a patient would require the establishment of a VCPR. 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 in the statute.

The Board request that the bill take effect on July 1, 2024 to allow adequate time to create the courtesy and relief permits in PVL’s licensing software. In consultation with the PVL, it is the Board’s understanding that the creation of these two new methods of licensure and establishing the requirements for licensure in the can take upwards of 600 hours to build into the system alone. This is not considering the extensive work by PVL’s developer, program analyst, and others outside of the division to maintain their

daily work. In consideration of this, it is requested that this bill be amended to include a fees and disposition section, which would allow PVL to assess a new license and at each renewal period, a surcharge, which shall be maintained in a separate account with the compliance resolution fund. This will allow the Board and PVL to assess applicants of these new license types an assessment fee to create these licenses, which PVL did not budget for.

Lastly, for the Committee's convenience and consideration is an attached Proposed S.D. 1, which incorporates the above referenced amendments.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding four new sections to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§471-A Courtesy permit. (a) The board may issue a  
5 courtesy permit to a veterinarian from another jurisdiction. A  
6 courtesy permit issued pursuant to this section shall be valid  
7 for a period of thirty days and may be renewed once in any  
8 twelve-month period; provided that any courtesy permit issued  
9 and renewed pursuant to this section shall not exceed sixty  
10 total days in any twelve-month period. More than two requests  
11 for courtesy permits within a two-year period shall be prima  
12 facie evidence that the courtesy permittee is engaged in the  
13 active practice of veterinary medicine in the State and a  
14 license issued under section 471-9 shall be required.

15 (b) Applicants for a courtesy permit shall:

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- 1        (1) Hold a current, unencumbered, and active license in  
2        another jurisdiction;
- 3        (2) Incidental to the person's practice in another  
4        jurisdiction, desire to practice veterinary medicine  
5        in the State on a temporary, not permanent or  
6        recurring, basis; and
- 7        (3) Have a sponsor.
- 8        (c) A courtesy permittee shall:
- 9        (1) Consent to the personal and subject matter  
10       jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the board;
- 11       (2) Practice under the level of supervision determined by  
12       the sponsor, either direct or indirect;
- 13       (3) Not practice independently of the sponsor within the  
14       limits of the State;
- 15       (4) Comply with this chapter and rules adopted by the  
16       board;
- 17       (5) Cease to offer or render veterinary services in the  
18       State as an individual and on behalf of the sponsor  
19       if:
- 20       (A) The courtesy permittee's license in the other  
21       jurisdiction is no longer current and active; or

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1           (B) The courtesy permittee's practice has been  
2                     limited or conditioned in any jurisdiction,  
3                     including the courtesy permittee's principal  
4                     place of business;

5           (6) Notify the board within fifteen days if:

6                     (A) Any disciplinary action or board proceeding  
7                     relating to the courtesy permittee's license is  
8                     commenced in any jurisdiction; or

9                     (B) The courtesy permittee is convicted of any  
10                    criminal offense in any jurisdiction or foreign  
11                    country; and

12           (7) Pay all costs associated with any jurisdiction's  
13                     investigation, enforcement, and collection efforts  
14                     pertaining to the courtesy permit issued pursuant to  
15                     this section, as may be ordered by the board.

16           (d) In no case shall an individual be issued a courtesy  
17                     permit and a relief permit in the same twelve-month period.

18           **§471-B Relief permit.** (a) The board may issue a relief  
19                     permit to a veterinarian from another jurisdiction to conduct  
20                     the practice of a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian who is absent  
21                     from their practice. A relief permit issued pursuant to this  
22                     section shall be valid for a period of thirty days and may be

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1 renewed once in any twelve-month period; provided that any  
2 relief permit issued and renewed pursuant to this section shall  
3 not exceed sixty total days in any twelve-month period. A  
4 relief permit may be renewed in a subsequent twelve-month  
5 period. More than two requests for relief permits within a two-  
6 year period shall be prima facie evidence that the relief  
7 permittee is engaged in the active practice of veterinary  
8 medicine in the State and a license issued under section 471-9  
9 shall be required.

10 (b) Applicants for a relief permit shall:

11 (1) Hold a current, unencumbered, and active license in  
12 another jurisdiction;

13 (2) Incidental to the person's practice in another  
14 jurisdiction, desire to practice veterinary medicine  
15 in the State on a temporary, not permanent or  
16 recurring, basis; and

17 (3) Have a sponsor; provided that the sponsor need not be  
18 physically present on the same island.

19 (c) A relief permittee shall:

20 (1) Consent to the personal and subject matter  
21 jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the board;

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- 1       (2) Not practice independently of the sponsor within the  
2       limits of the State;
- 3       (3) Comply with this chapter and rules adopted by the  
4       board;
- 5       (4) Cease to offer or render veterinary services in the  
6       State as an individual and on behalf of the sponsor  
7       if:
- 8       (A) The relief permittee's license from the other  
9       jurisdiction is no longer current and active; or
- 10       (B) The relief permittee's practice has been limited  
11       or conditioned in any jurisdiction, including the  
12       relief permittee's principal place of business;
- 13       (5) Notify the board within ten days if:
- 14       (A) Any disciplinary action or board proceeding  
15       relating to the relief permittee's license is  
16       commenced in any jurisdiction; or
- 17       (B) The permittee is convicted of any criminal  
18       offense in any jurisdiction or foreign country;  
19       and
- 20       (6) Pay all costs associated with any jurisdiction's  
21       investigation, enforcement, and collection efforts



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1           pertaining to the relief permit issued pursuant to  
2           this section, as may be ordered by the board.

3           (d) In no case shall an individual be issued a relief  
4 permit and a courtesy permit in the same twelve-month period.

5           **§471-C Sponsors.** A sponsor under this chapter shall be  
6 responsible for:

7           (1) Determining the level of supervision required for the  
8           sponsored veterinarian;

9           (2) The veterinary care given to the patient by the  
10 sponsored veterinarian;

11           (3) Ensuring that the board has been notified in writing;  
12 and

13           (4) That the sponsored veterinarian has obtained the  
14 appropriate courtesy permit or relief permit from the  
15 board.

16           **§471-D Veterinary Telemedicine.** (a) A veterinarian shall  
17 practice veterinary telemedicine within the context of the  
18 veterinarian-client-patient relationship between medically  
19 necessary examinations of a patient or medically appropriate and  
20 timely visits to the premises where the patient is kept.

21           (b) Only a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian shall provide  
22 veterinary telemedicine to a patient located in the State.

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1        (c) When practicing veterinary telemedicine, a  
2 veterinarian shall:

3        (1) Conduct all necessary patient evaluations consistent  
4 with currently acceptable standards of care;

5        (2) Take appropriate precautions to safeguard the  
6 confidentiality of a client's or patient's records;

7        (3) Ensure that the client is aware of the veterinarian's  
8 identity, location, license number, and licensure  
9 status; and

10       (4) Maintain appropriate medical records with sufficient  
11 information for continued care that is readily  
12 available upon request by the client.

13       (d) Prescribing medications via veterinary telemedicine  
14 shall require a veterinarian-client-patient relationship and shall  
15 be at the professional discretion of the veterinarian.

16 The indication, appropriateness, and safety considerations for  
17 each prescription issued in association with veterinary  
18 telemedicine services shall be evaluated by the veterinarian in  
19 accordance with all jurisdictional, federal laws, and standards of  
20 care.

21       (e) A veterinarian may provide veterinary teleadvice or  
22 veterinary teletriage without the prior establishment of a

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1 veterinarian-client-patient relationship. An expert with a  
2 poison control agency who is not a veterinarian may provide  
3 veterinary teletriage.

4 (f) A veterinarian may provide veterinary telesupervision  
5 for tasks that do not require direct supervision as specified by  
6 rules adopted by the board.

7 (g) Veterinary telemedicine shall constitute the practice  
8 of veterinary medicine in the State when the veterinarian or the  
9 patient are in the State. The board shall have jurisdiction  
10 over a veterinarian practicing veterinary telemedicine within  
11 the State regardless of where the veterinarian's physical  
12 offices are located."

13 SECTION 2. Section 471-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended as follows:

15 1. By adding twelve new definitions to be appropriately  
16 inserted to read as follows:

17 "Client" means the patient's owner, owner's agent, or  
18 other person presenting the patient for care.

19 "Consultation" means when a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian  
20 seeks and receives advice in person, telephonically,  
21 electronically, or by any other method of communication from a

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1 veterinarian or other person whose expertise, in the opinion of  
2 the Hawaii-licensed veterinarian, would benefit a patient.

3 "Emergency response" means the response to a natural or  
4 human-caused disaster.

5 "Indirect supervision" means the [board]Hawaii-licensed  
6 veterinarian is not on the premises, but:

7 (1) Has given either written or oral instructions for  
8 treatment of the patient;

9 (2) Is readily available by telephone or other forms of  
10 immediate communication; and

11 (3) Has assumed responsibility for the veterinary care  
12 given to the patient by a person working under their  
13 sponsorship.

14 "Jurisdiction" means another state, the District of  
15 Columbia, or any territory [of the United States, or any  
16 province of Canada.

17 "Patient" means any animal or group of animals receiving  
18 veterinary care from a veterinarian.

19 "Sponsor" means a veterinarian holding a current license in  
20 the State who requests the presence and medical assistance of a  
21 veterinarian licensed in another jurisdiction.

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1 "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means a

2 relationship that exists when:

3 (1) The veterinarian and client agree for the veterinarian  
4 to assume responsibility for making medical judgments  
5 regarding the health of the patient;

6 (2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the  
7 patient to initiate a general or preliminary diagnosis  
8 of the medical condition of the patient, which means  
9 that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with  
10 the keeping and care of the patient and has recently  
11 physically examined the animal or made timely and  
12 medically appropriate visits to the premises where the  
13 patient is kept;

14 (3) The veterinarian is readily available or provides for  
15 follow-up care and treatment in case of adverse  
16 reactions or failure of the therapy regimen; and

17 (4) The veterinarian maintains records that document  
18 patient visits, consultations, diagnosis and  
19 treatment, and other relevant information required  
20 under this chapter.

21 "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" includes the  
22 provision of on call or cross-coverage services by a

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1 veterinarian who has been designated by a veterinarian with an  
2 existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship and has access  
3 to relevant patient records.

4 "Veterinary teleadvice" means the provision of health  
5 information, opinion, guidance, or recommendations that are not  
6 specific to a particular animal.

7 "Veterinary telemedicine" means the practice of veterinary  
8 medicine subsequent to an established veterinarian-client-  
9 patient relationship where patient care, treatment, and services  
10 are provided through the use of electronic communication,  
11 including telephone and audio-visual technology, consistent with  
12 the veterinarian's professional judgement.

13 "Veterinary telesupervision" means the remote supervision of a  
14 veterinary assistant, veterinary technician, or other employee  
15 of a licensed veterinarian who administers medication or who  
16 renders auxiliary or supporting assistance under the responsible  
17 supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

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

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1           2. By amending the definition of "practice of veterinary  
2 medicine" to read as follows:

3           "Practice of veterinary medicine" means the assessment,  
4 diagnosis [~~or~~], treatment, or prescribing for the prevention,  
5 cure, or relief of, or the giving of advice concerning, a  
6 disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other [~~physical~~] condition  
7 of an animal, or a change of a physical characteristic of an  
8 animal for cosmetic or utility purposes. [~~It~~] "Practice of  
9 veterinary medicine" includes medical, surgical, and dental care  
10 of animals."

11           SECTION 3. Section 471-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended to read as follows:

13           "**§471-2 License required.** No person shall practice  
14 veterinary medicine, either gratuitously or for pay, or shall  
15 offer to so practice, or shall announce or advertise, publicly  
16 or privately, as prepared or qualified to so practice, or shall  
17 append the letters "Dr." or affix any other letters to the  
18 person's name with the intent thereby to imply that the person  
19 is a practitioner of veterinary medicine, without having a valid  
20 unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii board of veterinary  
21 medicine; provided that nothing in this chapter prevents or  
22 prohibits the following:

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- 1 (1) Any person from gratuitously treating animals in case  
2 of emergency;
- 3 (2) The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's  
4 full-time, regular employees from caring for and  
5 treating any animals belonging to the owner;
- 6 (3) Any student enrolled in any veterinary school or  
7 college or any employee of a veterinarian from working  
8 under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;
- 9 (4) Any person from practicing veterinary medicine in the  
10 employ of the United States government while engaged  
11 in the performance of the person's official duties;
- 12 (5) Any person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in  
13 any ~~[state, or any certified scientist or professional~~  
14 ~~in animal care,]~~ jurisdiction, from practicing in this  
15 State when in [~~actual~~] consultation with [~~or under the~~  
16 ~~sponsorship of]~~ licensed veterinarians of this State;  
17 provided that the [~~person licensed from another state,~~  
18 ~~or the certified scientist or professional in animal~~  
19 ~~care, shall not open an office, or appoint a place to~~  
20 ~~meet patients, or receive calls within the limits of~~  
21 ~~the State;~~] licensed veterinarian receiving



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1           consultation shall maintain the veterinarian-client-  
2           patient relationship;

3           (6) Any farmer from giving to another farmer the  
4           assistance customarily given in the ordinary practice  
5           of animal husbandry; [~~or~~]

6           (7) Any applicant who meets the licensing requirements of  
7           practicing veterinary medicine under a veterinarian  
8           by temporary permit; provided the applicant applies  
9           for and takes the examination scheduled by the  
10          board. The temporary permit shall not be renewed [~~or~~];

11          (8) A veterinarian licensed in another jurisdiction from  
12          practicing in the State under a sponsor and indirect  
13          supervision of a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian as part  
14          of an emergency response or enforcement action  
15          pursuant to HRS section 711; provided that the sponsor  
16          shall file notification with the board regarding the  
17          arrival of the out-of-state veterinarian; provided  
18          further that the sponsored veterinarian shall serve in  
19          an emergency capacity for no longer than twenty-one  
20          consecutive days; or

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1        (9) Any person who has obtained a courtesy permit or  
2        relief permit pursuant to sections 471-A and 471-B  
3        from practicing in the State."

4        SECTION 4. Section 471-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

6        "(a) No person shall be licensed to practice veterinary  
7 medicine unless the person has passed an examination of the  
8 qualifications and fitness to engage in the practice of  
9 veterinary medicine given by the Hawaii board of veterinary  
10 medicine. Before any applicant shall be eligible for  
11 examination under this chapter the applicant, at least sixty  
12 days before the date set for examination, shall file an  
13 application in the form as shall be prescribed by the board, pay  
14 to the department of commerce and consumer affairs application  
15 and examination fees, and furnish proof satisfactory to the  
16 board that the applicant:

17        (1) Is eighteen or more years of age; and

18        (2) Is a graduate of [⊕]:

19        (A) A veterinary college meeting all the standards  
20        established by the American Veterinary Medical  
21        Association Council on Education, or, in lieu  
22        thereof, has actively practiced for ten out of

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1           twelve years immediately preceding the date of  
2           application in a state having standards for  
3           licensing comparable to those in this State~~[.]~~;  
4           or

5           (B) A foreign college of veterinary medicine who has  
6           successfully completed the requirements  
7           established by the American Veterinary Medical  
8           Association Educational Commission for Foreign  
9           Veterinary Graduates or the American Association  
10           of Veterinary State Boards Program for the  
11           Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence."

12           SECTION 5. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13           amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
14           and to read as follows:

15           § Fees; disposition. (a) Upon issuance of a new license  
16           and at each license renewal period, each veterinarian shall pay,  
17           in addition to a license fee or renewal fee, a surcharge of  
18           \$100, which shall be maintained in a separate account within the  
19           compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-  
20           9(o). At the end of each quarter, the moneys contained in the  
21           separate account established pursuant to this section shall be  
22           transferred to the compliance resolution fund until such time

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1 that the total transferred amounts equal the amount appropriated  
2 in section 1 of Act \_\_\_\_\_, Session Laws of Hawaii  
3 2021. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds  
4 in excess of the amount appropriated in section 1 of Act \_\_\_\_\_,  
5 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021, shall be deposited into the  
6 compliance resolution fund.

7 (b) Application fees paid pursuant to this chapter shall  
8 not be refundable. Pursuant to section 26-9(1), the director  
9 shall establish examination, reexamination, license, renewal,  
10 restoration, enforcement, and other fees relating to the  
11 administration of this chapter by rule.

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

15 SECTION 6. In codifying the new sections added by section  
16 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
17 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
18 the new sections in this Act.

19 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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**1** SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

**2** INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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PROPOSED S.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Veterinarians; Temporary Permits; Courtesy Permits;  
Relief Permits; Out-of-state Veterinarians Telemedicine;  
Licensure

**Description:**

Authorizes the board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians. Permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine. Allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination.

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

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

JOSH GREEN  
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

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TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

FEBRUARY 23, 2022  
9:30 A.M.  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

SENATE BILL NO. 2798  
RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE

Chairperson Baker and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2798 relating to the Veterinary Medicine. Senate Bill 2798 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 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. To prevent conflict with federal regulations, the language regarding health certificates on Page 8, Section 471-D (h) :

"A United States Department of Agriculture Animal and 18 Plant Health Inspection Service Certificate of Veterinary 19 Inspection or health certificate shall require a physical 20 examination and shall not be executed by telemedicine."

Should be replaced with language proposed in previous testimony from the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association:

"Nothing in this statute is intended to override federal or state requirements and



standards for issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or health certificates.”

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



February 5, 2022

Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2798, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Agriculture and Environment,

On behalf of Veterinary Emergency + Referral Center, I am writing to express our strong support of SB 2798. The overarching intent of SB 2798 is to ensure continuous access to qualified veterinary care, with appropriate oversight from the Board of Veterinary Medicine, for all animals in Hawaii and is consistent with the mission of our organization.

Veterinary Emergency + Referral Center (VERC) is one of Hawaii's few 24-hour emergency and specialty referral veterinary facilities, offering an array of advanced diagnostic and treatment services to provide the current standard of care for small domestic animals. As a medical director at VERC, one of my responsibilities is to ensure uninterrupted availability of experienced emergency veterinarians in our hospital 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, as well as consistent coverage of our specialist services during business hours. There are a limited number of Hawaii-licensed veterinarians with the appropriate training, certification and experience to practice in facilities like ours, so we rely on out-of-state veterinarians to maintain coverage and provide a consistent level of expertise and care.

On the island of Oahu we have just 2 practicing veterinary critical care specialists, 4 small animal internists, 1 cardiologist, 1 radiologist, 1 dentist, 1 neurologist, 3 ophthalmologists and 3 surgeons. We are still lacking specialists in many disciplines, and highly trained and experienced emergency veterinarians are in short supply. This leaves Hawaii consumers and their pets constantly at risk of experiencing lapses in available emergency and specialty veterinary care if even one of these individuals needs to be away from work for any reason, whether it is for vacation, continuing education, illness, injury, maternity or personal leave. It also places an enormous burden on our veterinarians who often find it impossible to take the time they need away from work, leading to career dissatisfaction, burnout, attrition, and even greater risk of lapses in available care within our community. I have experienced this first-hand as one of the small animal internists and the wife of Hawaii's only radiologist. We have to plan vacations or other time off 6 months to a year in advance and sometimes still are unable to go. My husband read x-rays from the delivery room when our first child was born, and he wasn't able to take even a single day off following the birth of our second because there was no one to cover his workload.

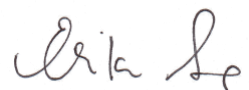
In the 10 years I have served in the role of medical director at VERC, it has often been difficult to recruit veterinarians for our vacant positions. It has been even more challenging during the COVID-19 pandemic and, unfortunately, we have experienced some lapses in ability to provide care over the past year that negatively impacted the community when we lost our surgeon, were unable to license another highly qualified, board-certified surgeon due to current licensing law, and were unable to obtain temporary permits for emergency doctors in time to keep our emergency service staffed. This year Hawaii also lost our only board-certified oncologist and there were times when owners of pets with a cancer diagnosis could not get an appointment with an oncologist due to difficulty obtaining temporary permits for out-of-state oncologists. We need to rely on board-certified specialists and experienced emergency veterinarians from outside the state to ensure Hawaii's pets have access to current standards of care on a consistent basis when we cannot fill a vacant position or one of our team members needs to be away from work.

Currently the process of obtaining a temporary permit or Hawaii license for veterinarians is cumbersome and not worthwhile to complete for veterinarians who intend to work here only for a couple of weeks to provide relief, and the in-person examination requirement is an additional deterrent. SB 2798 will allow us to more easily hire experienced veterinarians licensed in other states on a temporary basis, with appropriate oversight from the Board of Veterinary Medicine, to ensure Hawaii consumers have access to emergency and specialty veterinary care and avoid the critical lapses in care that occurred in 2021. It will also ensure general practice veterinarians can hire relief veterinarians to help keep their practices open and clients served during any necessary absences, allow our shelters to bring in veterinarians to support their efforts where necessary, and out-of-state veterinarians to come to our aid in the event an emergency.

The VERC organization also supports acceptance of PAVE for foreign veterinary graduates seeking licensure in Hawaii. The Program for the Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence (PAVE) is a pathway for veterinarians who are graduates of international, non-accredited veterinary programs to practice in the United States and Canada. PAVE is a rigorous program that evaluates and certifies the education equivalence of these graduates. PAVE is currently recognized by 45 states and territories in the United States, all provinces and territories in Canada, as well as the counties of Australia and New Zealand. Many foreign veterinary graduates are attracted to Hawaii's diversity and culture. Allowing those who have completed PAVE certification to become licensed veterinarians in Hawaii will ensure we are able to consider all qualified veterinarians wanting to offer their talents and expertise to our community.

Finally, VERC supports the portions of SB2798 referring to telemedicine and its regulation. We encourage amending the language of the bill as suggested by the HVMA to include the requirement of a physical examination in establishing a veterinarian-client-patient relationship as this is a crucial element to providing appropriate veterinary care and will protect Hawaii consumers.

Respectfully,



**Erika Sox Burns, DVM, Diplomate ACVIM (SAIM) | Associate Medical Director**  
Veterinary Emergency and Referral Center by Ethos Veterinary Health  
345 N Nimitz Hwy. Unit C, Honolulu, HI 96817  
P: 808-735-7735 | F: 808-735-7736

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 1:47:25 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	No

Comments:

We write in support of SB 2798 Relating to Veterinary Medicine which will be heard by the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection on Feb. 23.

This measure, which has Hawaiian Humane’s strong support, authorizes the Hawaii 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.

We understand that qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii for decades until a decision by the Hawaii 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 your 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.



**Hawaiian Humane Society**  
People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: Feb. 21, 2022

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

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Public Policy Advocate  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of SB 2798: Relating to Veterinary Medicine  
Wednesday, Feb. 23, 2022, 9:30 a.m., Via Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 2798, 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 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 our local veterinarians some much needed respite. Its provisions protect animals, serve the interests of consumers and support access to high-quality veterinary care.

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

**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.

February 21, 2022

Re: SB2798 (Relating to Veterinary Medicine)

To the Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

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

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 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

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:12:44 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Sylvia Dolena	Testifying for Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

In order to get the pet species overpopulation under control, we need more Veterinarians to support spay/neuter clinics and pet species health care. The overpopulation issue is out of control and an emergency situation.



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

February 21, 2022

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2798, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

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

SB 2798 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 be amended to include the following four changes:

1. To ensure consistency with federal (FDA) VCPR definition, the following telemedicine language definitions should be stated as:

Page 6

19 §471-D Telemedicine. (a) A veterinarian shall practice  
20 veterinary telemedicine within the context of the veterinarian-  
21 client-patient relationship between medically necessary

Page 7

1 examinations of a patient or medically appropriate and timely medical visits to the premises where the  
2 patient is kept.  
3 patient.

Page 10

17 of the medical condition of the patient, which means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with  
18 the keeping and care of the patient and has recently physically examined the animal or made timely and  
19 medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is kept;

2. To ensure that state law will not conflict with federal guidance, the following language regarding health certificates should be stated as:

Page 8

17 (h) Nothing in this statute is intended to override federal or state requirements and standards  
18 for issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or health certificates."  
19 A United States Department of Agriculture Animal and  
20 Plant Health Inspection Service Certificate of Veterinary  
21 Inspection or health certificate shall require a physical  
22 examination and shall not be executed by telemedicine."

3. To qualify human-caused disasters (such as oil spills, industrial accidents, or nuclear events) for emergency response, please include the following language:

Page 9

12 "Emergency response" means the response to a natural or human-caused  
13 disaster, animal rescue, or cruelty case that needs urgent  
14 attention.


4. For accuracy in identifying the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education which has decisional independence from the AVMA on veterinary school standards, please include the full agency name as follows:

Page 16

14 (A) A veterinary college meeting all the standards  
15 established by the American Veterinary Medical  
16 Association Council on Education, or, in lieu thereof, has actively

Lastly, due to the urgency of the situation with limited veterinary care available in the state, we request that the bill would become effective immediately upon passage. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill and our amendment requests. Please SUPPORT SB 2798 and its fortification of Hawaii's veterinary practice law. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:31:51 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Frances Pueo	Testifying for Hui Pono Holoholona	Support	No

Comments:

I, Frannie Pueo support SB 2798 and shame on the Veterinarian Medical Board decision not to continue our Hawaii State to continue with the benefits of allowing out of state Veterinarians in good standings a most vital service for our community animals. This was a past practice for decades and well serving our state before the Veterinarian Medical Board decided to change it.

As an island, we do not have the benefit to pack up our animals and drive over state borders for veterinarian services. We are under a veterinarian crisis and have been for years. Getting an appointment is a wait up to two or more weeks. And some Veterinarians no longer accepting new patients. Other problems are limited veterinarian service for farm or ranch animals, down side is traveling hundreds of miles, wait time could be days even for severely injured animals.

As it is now, a high percentage of our veterinarians are well over middle age 50 years plus, and our community for over 20 years under a shortage of Veterinarian service.

During the most recent 2014-15, and 2018 volcano eruptions, we needed Veterinarians to be flown in as an emergency to service all the rescues received by Hawaii Island Humane Society, by 501 c 3 rescues like Hui Pono Holoholona, Ranchers, Farms and all those that were accepting the thousands of animals needing temporary and long-term fostering. We did not have the veterinarians critically needed during these time to do health checks for all the injured, or stress related caused by the air lifts, trapping, including the respiratory difficulties caused by volcano ash, and importantly as well to do vaccinations, etc.

Major benefits in allowing out of state veterinarians would result in more frequent spay and neuter mash type clinics for dogs and cats. Generally sponsored by 501c3 non-profits, and humane societies for all islands. A vital service in decreasing animal overpopulation humanely, and scientifically proven the most effective and cost savings. The benefit for Mash SN type clinics is hosting in rural areas, targeting the most in need with the same protocol standards found in any veterinarian facility.

Some history: In 2006 I presented over 5,000 signatures from our island in support by introducing A Bill for an Act HB1836, Veterinarian Temporary Permit. It made it through the legislature and would have become law if I had not deferred it. The reason I had to defer it was that the original language within that bill was so altered, and shamefully made it useless,

basically it was sabotaged. Please don't do this to SB2798/HB1598. We need this to pass clean and pure to benefit us all.

Frances P. Pueo President

Hui Pono Holoholona/PAWS

P.O. Box 943

Mt. View, Hi

(808) 769-1128

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/18/2022 9:35:48 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Chair Senator Baker and CPN Committee members,

Please pass this much needed action,SB2798,to ensure the delivery of quality veterinary medical services to the people of Hawaii.

The people demand the best for their pets,their family members,the working dogs including those providing therapy for people,rescue services,bomb and narcotics detection, and so on.

The language of laws and rules must improve to do so.

Respectfully,

Eric Ako DVM

past Chair,Board of Veterinary Medicine

past Pres and Executive vice president,HawaiiVMA

Active practitioner,Oahu and Lanai

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:20:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill, as long as it truly allows for more veterinary care to Hawai'i. There are not enough veterinarians in Hawai'i. Appointments are over a month away. Many Veterinarians are not taking new clients. As an advocate for low cost / no cost spay/neuter, I especially ask that those Veterinarians coming here to provide these surgeries be most welcome, with the least amount of paperwork and restrictions. Why, because dog and cat over population is well documented. The desire by the public for no cost / low cost sterilizations is most wanted, as witnessed at clinics offering those services....many times over 75 cats per day. Thank you for allowing testimony. Mahalo

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:36:12 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this much need bill.

Our state in such short supply of veterinarians to begin with that should a problem occur, too many animals will suffer.

Mahalo

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 4:44:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support a very critical bill.

If a natural disaster or our state happens on another animal ceasure occurrence, we are so short of veterinarians, too many of our animal friends will suffer while waiting for treatment.

Mahalo

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 5:18:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Wayne Niide	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in support of SB2798.

The establishment of a spay and neuter special fund for:

- Spay/neuter of pet cats and dogs and Free-Roaming cats, and
- Allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the special fund.

Are important for the human(e) treatment of our animal species.

Thank you.



**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 7:25:38 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Judy Sweatland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this important bill to help Hawaii's pets. This will allow better veterinarian assistance. Thank you.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 6:01:21 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Shelly Esmeralda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

I support this legislation to increase veterinarians in our state. This will help to relieve the shortage and help non-profits as well. Due to our geographic isolation some communities are suffering from lack of access. This will greatly help communities and is much needed. Please pass this legislation. Mahalo nui loa. Shelly

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 8:32:28 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lianne Malterre	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2798 - granting temporary courtesy and relief permits to out of state veterinarians, and permitting our veterinarians to practice telemedicine. Our current veterinarians can use some support. Mahalo!

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:14:42 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	No

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**

Submitted on: 2/20/2022 9:59:43 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

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.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:21:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Pat Flynn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2798.

Pat Flynn

Kailua Kona, HI

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:52:38 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Lori Luchette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly uspport this bill to help support reducing the number of free roaming cats.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 9:36:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Margie Gillman-Wolfe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Spay Neuter works if it is done! There is a veterinarian shortage! I have volunteered at free S/N clinics with one veterinarian doing over 200 cats in one day. Better cooperation is needed! Free mass clinics and cheaper individual S/N can get it done.



**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 10:53:10 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Elna Nagasako	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Baker, Vice Chair Chang, and committee members:

My son, Luke, and I support SB2798. With the shortage of local veterinarians, allowing a pathway for temporary licenses to allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to assist in situations such as emergency treatment, disaster relief, and high-volume spay/neuter is important for the care of Hawai'i animals and protection of Hawai'i's consumers.

Luke (elementary school student) says, "There is a shortage of veterinarians and that is putting stress on local veterinarians. There are a lot of open veterinarian positions in the state of Hawaii. This bill will help animals get emergency treatment by letting veterinarians come in quickly. I care about this issue because I have a cat."

We urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo,

Elna & Luke Nagasako

Makiki

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 11:20:01 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	No

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**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 3:04:02 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:01:27 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Baker, Vice Chairperson Chang and Committee Members.

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

Please support SB 2798 relating to veterinary medicine. It's my understanding that this bill will help in the care of animals, assist in providing access to care for pet owners and support local veterinarians.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:14:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I very much appreciate that after-hours service is possible because out-of-state veterinarians are able to practice here.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 4:21:23 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Pat Johnson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We are in desperate need of more vets in Hawaii. How many times I myself have had an emergency and been unable to contact a vet! Often it's a time of life or death for an animal. Please, law makers--support this bill with your vote.

Mahalo

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 6:52:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Helen Josypenko	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Helen Josypenko, I am a resident of Kaneohe and a Volunteer at the Hawaiian Humane Society. Over the years I have watched tragic events occur throughout the United States and other countries which have left countless animals in desperate need of veterinarian care. Often, I wonder what would happen if Oahu experienced such an event. Would our citizens have care for their pets and other animals because of our isolation from CONUS. Never did I realize administrative barriers exist which prevents out-of-state veterinarians to practice in Hawaii during emergency situations. No barrier should exist when obtaining qualified care especially during an emergency. I strongly support SB2798 which will authorize the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, permit licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine and allow for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination. With warm aloha, Helen Josypenko

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/21/2022 8:45:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Julie Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We need more veterinary services in the State of Hawaii. SB2798 provides additional veterinary support. I support SB2798.





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

February 21, 2022

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair  
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2798, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

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

SB 2798 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 be amended to include the following four changes:

1. To ensure consistency with federal (FDA) VCPR definition, the following telemedicine language definitions should be stated as:

Page 6

19 §471-D Telemedicine. (a) A veterinarian shall practice  
20 veterinary telemedicine within the context of the veterinarian-  
21 client-patient relationship between medically necessary

Page 7

1 examinations of a patient or medically appropriate and timely medical visits to the premises where the  
2 patient is kept.  
3 patient.

Page 10

17 of the medical condition of the patient, which means that the veterinarian is personally acquainted with  
18 the keeping and care of the patient and has recently physically examined the animal or made timely and  
19 medically appropriate visits to the premises where the patient is kept;

2. To ensure that state law will not conflict with federal guidance, the following language regarding health certificates should be stated as:

Page 8

17 (h) Nothing in this statute is intended to override federal or state requirements and standards  
18 for issuing Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or health certificates."  
19 A United States Department of Agriculture Animal and  
20 Plant Health Inspection Service Certificate of Veterinary  
21 Inspection or health certificate shall require a physical  
22 examination and shall not be executed by telemedicine."

3. To qualify human-caused disasters (such as oil spills, industrial accidents, or nuclear events) for emergency response, please include the following language:

Page 9

12 "Emergency response" means the response to a natural or human-caused  
13 disaster, animal rescue, or cruelty case that needs urgent  
14 attention.


4. For accuracy in identifying the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) Council on Education which has decisional independence from the AVMA on veterinary school standards, please include the full agency name as follows:

Page 16

14 (A) A veterinary college meeting all the standards  
15 established by the American Veterinary Medical  
16 Association Council on Education, or, in lieu thereof, has actively

Lastly, due to the urgency of the situation with limited veterinary care available in the state, we request that the bill would become effective immediately upon passage. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill and our amendment requests. Please SUPPORT SB 2798 and its fortification of Hawaii's veterinary practice law. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:19:11 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

SB2798 Relating to Veterinary Medicine - Testimony in Support of the Bill

To be heard on **Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 9:30 am**

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Senator Rosalyn H. Baker, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

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, 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 important 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 assistance during animal rescue efforts 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.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 7:59:02 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair and Members: Thank you for the opportunity to speak in favor of SB 2798. There is a growing need for veterinarian services in our state and this bill would provide significant improvement to increasing access for this needed care. Mahalo for your consideration.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI 96749

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:40:40 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Michelle Barbieri Lino	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

I am a resident of Waialua and a practicing veterinarian in Hawaii, and am submitting this testimony personally and not on behalf of my employer or work affiliation.

I strongly support this measure and employ you to support it. We must have capacity from veterinarians outside of Hawaii to be able to respond to disasters and address other critical shortages. Without this capacity, animals will suffer, as will the communities that rely on them for food, fiber, companionship and ecosystem health. This bill creates legitimate professional pathways to fill critical gaps while ensuring high quality care and providing for basic welfare of animals in need.

Thank you,

Michelle Barbieri Lino, DVM, MSc

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 8:47:03 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
alicia morrier	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill and see that it will drastically improve our island animals l. This will provide our island volunteers with much needed assistance to maintain the negligence of others.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:16:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Christin Greenland	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Hawaii desperately needs more veterinarians. Thank you.

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 9:30:00 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Aleisha Swartz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill which would ensure animals and their families/owners can access much needed veterinary care to maintain health and wellbeing. The current veterinary shortage and licensing regulations are increasing the risk of a significant negative impact on animal and human health and these changes will reduce that risk.

Mahalo,

Aleisha Swartz, DVM

licensed Hawaii Veterinarian



**LATE**

**SB-2798**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 12:11:45 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/23/2022 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
ginny tiu	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

**aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,**

**I am in strong support of this bill. There is a great need for additional support for our veterinarians. They are overworked, and burnt out. They suffer and our animals and their owners suffer when the animals can't be attended to in a timely manner. We need to support those who are working so hard to care for our animals, not only for their sake, but for the sake of our community.**

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify and for your kind consideration.

Ginny Tiu, Easy Honolulu