

JAN 19 2024

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

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

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

3           "§471-2 License required. No person shall engage in the  
4 practice of veterinary medicine, either gratuitously or for pay,  
5 or shall offer to so practice, or shall announce or advertise,  
6 publicly or privately, as prepared or qualified to so practice,  
7 or shall append the letters "Dr." or affix any other letters to  
8 the person's name with the intent thereby to imply that the  
9 person is a practitioner of veterinary medicine, without having  
10 a valid unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii board of  
11 veterinary medicine; provided that nothing in this chapter  
12 prevents or prohibits the following:

- 13           (1) Any person from gratuitously treating animals in case  
14           of emergency;
- 15           (2) The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's  
16           full-time, regular employees from caring for and  
17           treating any animals belonging to the owner; provided



1           that the owner and the owner's employees shall not  
2           perform any surgical procedure on a dog or dogs,  
3           including:

4           (A) A cesarean section;

5           (B) Ear cropping;

6           (C) Tail docking;

7           (D) Ventriculocordectomy, also known as  
8           devocalization or debarking;

9           (E) Onchectomy, or dewclaw removal; or

10          (F) Elastration, or castration via banding;

11          (3) Any student enrolled in any veterinary school or  
12          college or any employee of a veterinarian from working  
13          under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;

14          (4) Any person from practicing veterinary medicine in the  
15          employ of the United States government while engaged  
16          in the performance of the person's official duties;

17          (5) Any person licensed to engage in the practice of  
18          veterinary medicine in any jurisdiction, from  
19          practicing in the State when in consultation with  
20          veterinarians of this State; provided that the



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

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

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

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



1           (9) Any person who has obtained a courtesy permit or  
2           relief permit pursuant to sections 471-9.5 and 471-9.6  
3           from practicing in the State."

4           SECTION 2. Section 471-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6           "~~{}~~§471-15~~{}~~ Criminal penalties. (a) Any person  
7 convicted of violating section 471-2 shall have committed a  
8 misdemeanor and be subject to a fine not to exceed \$500 or  
9 imprisoned not more than six months, or both.

10           ~~[Additionally,~~ (b) In addition to the penalties provided  
11 in subsection (a), all tools, implements, appliances, medicine,  
12 and drugs used in the practice of veterinary medicine by any  
13 person convicted of practicing veterinary medicine without a  
14 license shall be declared forfeited to the State by the court  
15 and turned over to the board for any disposition ~~[as]~~ it may  
16 choose ~~[to make]~~."

17           SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
19 begun before its effective date.

20           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



# S.B. NO. 2562

1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY: 



# S.B. NO. 2562

**Report Title:**

Dogs; Surgery; Prohibited

**Description:**

Prohibits animal owners and their employees from performing any surgical procedures on the owner's dog or dogs.

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

