

Testimony of the Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection
Thursday, April 10, 2025
9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
G.M. 757, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION
TO THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, KIMBERLEY THOMSON-KERR
FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE 06-30-2028**

Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee:

My name is Kerrie Shahan, and I am the Executive Officer of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports the confirmation of Dr. Kimberley Thomson-Kerr to the Board.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr was appointed to the Board as an interim member in November 2024. She has attended both Board meetings held since her interim appointment.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr is a 1995 graduate of the Atlantic Veterinary College, University of Prince Edward Island and obtained her Hawaii veterinary license in 2008. Prior to moving to Hawaii, Thomson-Kerr practiced in Newfoundland, Canada and in Oregon. She has been a veterinarian at the Maui Humane Society since 2019.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr commitment, interest in serving on the Board, and desire to contribute to the community make her a valuable member of the Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Dr. Thomson-Kerr's appointment.

April 8, 2025

To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair, Committee Members
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Karen Worthington, Private Citizen

Re: **GM 757:** Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine, Gubernatorial Nominee, KIMBERLEY THOMSON-KERR, for a term to expire 06-30-2028.

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference, April 10, 2025, 9:30am

Position: **SUPPORT**

Dear Senator Keohokalole, Senator Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of GM 757, considering the nomination of Dr. Kimberley Thomson-Kerr to serve on the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine. I am Karen Worthington, a private citizen, Maui Humane Society (MHS) volunteer, and advocate for skilled, compassionate leadership in our state's professional boards.

I have known Dr. Thomson-Kerr personally as a friend and in her roles as a community member, leader, and volunteer for 17 years. As someone who has volunteered as a MHS kitten foster home for about 7 years, I have directly benefitted from Kim's veterinary expertise during that time. I was thrilled when she joined MHS as a veterinarian, and have personally witnessed the tremendous benefits her presence has brought to the animals and the organization.

I fully support Dr. Thomson-Kerr's nomination and firmly believe she brings extraordinary qualifications, experience, and vision to this important role. **I urge you to confirm her nomination as a member of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine.**

Dr. Thomson-Kerr's thirty years of veterinary experience demonstrates both depth and breadth of knowledge that will be invaluable to the Board. Her career encompasses private practice ownership, work in corporate settings, non-profit service, and extensive surgical expertise. This varied background provides her with unique insights into the full spectrum of veterinary practice in our state.

What particularly impresses me about Dr. Thomson-Kerr is her commitment to both excellence and accessibility in veterinary care. Through her work with MHS since 2019, she has dedicated herself to providing advanced medical and surgical care to underserved animal populations. Her fourteen-year involvement with MHS demonstrates a sustained commitment to ensuring that quality veterinary care reaches all animals in our community.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr's vision for her service on the Board aligns perfectly with the needs of both the profession and the public. She articulates clear goals to:

- Enhance regulatory frameworks to support the evolving landscape of veterinary medicine
- Foster stronger communication between veterinarians, regulatory bodies, and the public
- Promote continuing education and best practices adoption
- Modernize Board processes to ensure policies remain both progressive and pragmatic

Her analytical thinking, collaborative leadership style, and deep commitment to ethical practice make her exceptionally well-positioned to uphold the high standards we expect from our veterinary professionals while also acknowledging the practical challenges faced by practitioners and pet owners.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr's extensive surgical skills – including soft tissue, orthopedic, and emergency procedures – combined with her diagnostic expertise in radiology and ultrasonography ensure that she brings comprehensive technical knowledge to Board deliberations. Equally important, her experience managing support staff and operating her own practice gives her valuable perspective on the business aspects of veterinary medicine.

Throughout her career, Dr. Thomson-Kerr has demonstrated a profound appreciation for the human-animal bond and the trust placed in veterinary professionals. Her philosophy of providing the highest possible care while recognizing that creative approaches may sometimes be needed to meet patients' needs reflects exactly the kind of balanced, thoughtful leadership our Board of Veterinary Medicine requires.

I urge you to confirm Dr. Kimberley Thomson-Kerr to the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine. Her confirmation will bring an experienced, ethical, and forward-thinking voice to this important regulatory body, benefiting both the veterinary profession and the animals and people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Karen Worthington". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Karen Worthington

April 8, 2025

LATE

Dear Senator Keohokalole,

My name is Miyo Miyasaki-Kim. I was born and raised in Hawaii and have been a practicing veterinarian for 46 years here. I spent my early career in private practice on Oahu and have been with the Maui Humane Society for the last 29 years

I am writing to you to convey my support for Dr. Kim Thomson-Kerr's selection to the Board of Veterinary Examiners. I have known Dr Thomson-Kerr for over 14 years and hold her in the highest regard. She initially worked as a relief veterinarian for me at the Humane Society and more recently came on board as a full time staff veterinarian for the shelter.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr is one of the most intelligent and skilled doctors I know. Her primary role is to perform our most challenging orthopedic and soft tissue surgeries. While we do a lot of spay neuter surgeries at the shelter, many pets also need lifesaving surgeries for such conditions as cancer, congenital defects and traumatic injuries. We rely on Dr. Thomson-Kerr to handle these. Due to her extensive knowledge, she is also consulted on to help with our most difficult medical cases as well.

She is not only a very capable and dependable veterinarian, she also has the highest standards of professionalism and honesty. While she practices at a very high level, she is very practical and understands the need to be realistic about what can and cannot be done under varying circumstances. This is particularly true in a shelter setting.

I believe her knowledge of veterinary medicine , experience in private practice and in a shelter setting, gives her the ideal qualifications to serve on the Board of Veterinary Examiners. She will bring knowledge and common sense to the table. I would be proud to have her represent my profession on the Board.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions.

Mahalo nui loa,

Miyo Miyasaki-Kim D.V.M.