

SB2671

Measure Title: RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.
Report Title: Veterinary Technicians
Description: Establishes a framework for the regulation of veterinary technicians.
Companion: [HB1955](#)
Package: None
Current Referral: CPH/JDL, WAM
Introducer(s): BAKER, KIDANI, Gabbard, Taniguchi



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REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE
ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2016
9:00 A.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE MICHELLE N. KIDANI, VICE CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE MAILE S.L. SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department")
appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2671, Relating to
Veterinary Technicians. My name is Daria Loy-Goto and I am the Complaints and

Enforcement Officer for the Department's Regulated Industries Complaints Office ("RICO"). The Department offers comments on the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2671 creates a new chapter for the registration of veterinary technicians.

From discussions with the bill's proponent, it is the Department's understanding that the primary concern of industry is to ensure that individuals who use the designation "registered veterinary technician" are registered with the Board and that all others may continue to work under the supervision of licensed veterinarians as currently permitted by Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"). This type of regulation is commonly referred to as "title protection" because it is designed to allow only authorized individuals to refer to themselves by certain titles.

If title protection is the underlying intent of Senate Bill No. 2671, the Department believes that there are other, more appropriate models to use for the registration of veterinary technicians, such as the language attached to this testimony. The draft establishes a veterinary technician registration program within the Department, provides for title protection, sets forth the criteria for registration, and makes clear that nothing in the chapter precludes a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary personnel with supervision. RICO notes that the provisions of HRS Chapter 436B would apply for purposes of discipline and enforcement, as provided for in HRS § 436B-3.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2671. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committees may have.

RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

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

SECTION 1. Veterinary technicians are key members of the veterinary health care team, second only to licensed veterinarians, in delivering quality animal care to the community. In public service, veterinary technicians ensure compliance with animal care and control at the University of Hawaii and at the department of agriculture in the animal industry division, in laboratories, and in the rabies quarantine branch. Veterinary technicians assist veterinarians at the Honolulu zoo, in the shelter and rescue community, in laboratories, and other veterinary-related establishments to promote and ensure animal health. In private practice, supervised by licensed veterinarians, veterinary technicians assist in managing the veterinarian's practice and the veterinary health care team. Because of their superior training, they are able to assist the veterinarian in educating the staff and public and provide hands-on quality veterinary medical and surgical services.

While students must travel to the continental United States to seek a doctorate of veterinary medicine, Hawaii has a successful, accredited veterinary technician program at Windward community college that has been accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association since 2013. Entering its fourth year, the program enjoys ongoing popularity and outstanding

success, and its graduates are easily placed in gainful employment.

Currently, the State of Hawaii is the last state to recognize veterinary technicians as bona fide health professionals. Veterinary technicians should be regulated in Hawaii to ensure the continuing delivery of quality veterinary service to the community and to protect animal welfare.

The purpose of this Act is to recognize the important role veterinary technicians play in the level of care of animals in the State by:

(1) Establishing requirements for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology; and

(2) Establishing registration requirements and limitations on use of titles.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

VETERINARY TECHNOLOGY PRACTICE

§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

"Department" means department of commerce and consumer affairs.

"Intubate" means to pass a tube into the trachea for purposes of anesthesia and airway maintenance.

"Monitor" means to evaluate patient health by tracking vital signs via physical examination and multi-parameter

monitors in order to recognize abnormalities while an animal is under anesthesia.

"Practice of veterinary technology" includes but is not limited to the following procedures only under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian:

- (1) Monitoring anesthesia;
- (2) Intubating;
- (3) Performing dental cleaning;
- (4) Creating a relief hold in the skin to facilitate placement of an intravenous catheter; and
- (5) Practice and laboratory management activities.

§ -2 Practice of Veterinary Technology; qualifications; registration required. (a) No person shall represent, announce or advertise oneself, publicly or privately, as a veterinary technician or registered veterinary technician, or shall append the letters "RVT" or "VT" or affix any other words, letters, abbreviations, or insignia to the person's name indicating or implying that the person is a practitioner of veterinary technology, unless such person registers the person's name and business address biennially with the department in a manner prescribed by the department, and meets the qualifications of section __-3.

(b) The department shall maintain and biennially update a list of the names and business addresses of the veterinary technicians who are registered under subsection (a).

(c) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to prohibit a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary personnel to assist in the practice of veterinary medicine; provided that the support or auxiliary personnel shall work under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

(d) A registration granted under this chapter shall mean that the person has met requirements that include minimum practice standards to provide protection to the public and is permitted to use the title and engage in the practice of veterinary technology.

§ -3 Veterinary technician qualifications. No person shall be registered to engage in the practice of veterinary technology unless the person:

- (1) Is at least eighteen years of age;
- (2) Has successfully passed the Veterinary Technician National Examination; and
- (3) Meets at least one of the following conditions:
 - (A) Has successfully completed a course of study at a program for veterinary technology accredited by the American Veterinary Medical Association Committee on Veterinary Technician Education and Activities;
 - (B) Is a licensed, certified, or registered veterinary technician in good standing in another state having standards for registration comparable to those in this State; or

(C) Prior to July 1, 2021, submits a notarized document from an employer who is a licensed veterinarian and who certifies that the person has five years or more of practical experience in the State of Hawaii. No reciprocity shall be given for practical experience gained outside of the State.

Before any applicant shall be eligible for registration under this chapter, the applicant shall file an application in the form as shall be prescribed by the department and pay to the department of commerce and consumer affairs an application fee and all other applicable fees.

SECTION 3. Upon the issuance of a new registration under new § -2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended by this Act, and at each registration renewal period, each veterinary technician shall pay, in addition to the registration 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), Hawaii Revised Statutes. 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 the total of the transferred amounts equals the amount appropriated in section ___ of this Act. Thereafter, no surcharge shall be assessed, and any funds in excess of the amount appropriated in

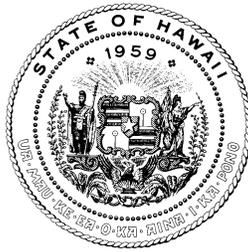
section __ of this Act shall be deposited into the compliance resolution fund.

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the compliance resolution fund established pursuant to section 26-9(o), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the sum of \$95,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary, for fiscal year 2017 - 2018 to implement the registration of veterinary technicians as required by this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018; provided that section 2 shall take effect on July 1, 2016.



**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671,
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

**Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health and
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor**

February 12, 2016

Chairs Baker, Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Senate Bill No. 2671, which would regulate veterinary technicians.

As you are aware, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 66 of the 2014 Regular Session, we conducted a sunrise analysis of the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology as proposed by Senate Bill 2502, Senate Draft 1 (2014). Our [Report No. 14-15, *Sunrise Analysis: Regulation of Veterinary Technicians*](#), was released in December 2014. In it, we evaluated whether SB 2505, SD 1 (2014) (“the 2014 bill”) was consistent with the policies set forth in Hawai‘i’s regulatory licensing law, Chapter 26H, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes. We also assessed the probable effects of enacting the bill—specifically, the effects on consumers and the appropriateness of alternative forms of regulation; and we made recommendations. We concluded that the regulation of veterinary technicians is not warranted.

SB 2671 addresses most of the technical issues we identified in our sunrise report

SB 2671 makes several changes to the 2014 bill that do not relate to issues raised in our sunrise report. However, the bulk of the changes made in SB 2671 do address deficiencies we identified in the 2014 bill. Specifically:

- SB 2671 expands the definition of veterinary technicians' scope of practice. We found the practice definition in the 2014 bill was too broad. We highlighted that although certain activities were specifically identified as being within the practice of veterinary technology, vet techs' scope of practice was not limited to those specified activities. As such, enforcement by the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' (DCCA) Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) would be difficult. The expanded definition in SB 2671 provides increased clarity regarding what activities are considered to be the practice of veterinary technology. However, we note that the new practice definition is still not limited to specified activities; as such, the practice definition remains broad and may be difficult to enforce.
- SB 2671 also amends the makeup of the Board of Veterinary Examiners to include a veterinary technician as a member. The 2014 bill did not provide for a representative of the veterinary technician community to sit on the board charged with regulating the profession, the Board of Veterinary Examiners; SB 2671 specifically addresses that finding.
- SB 2671 also addresses interstate reciprocity. The 2014 bill did not include any provisions for interstate reciprocity. SB 2671 addresses this flaw by providing the regulating board the discretion to determine the sufficiency of comparable interstate credentials.
- Finally, SB 2671 provides alternatives to fulfilling the requirement that veterinary technicians must have a degree in veterinary technology. We found that the educational

requirements in the 2014 bill would restrict entry into the profession. SB 2671 directly addresses this deficiency.

We also note that in spite of our finding that the 2014 bill mischaracterized the level of regulation, SB 2671 continues to call the proposed regulatory scheme a *registration* program rather than a *licensure* program.

Regulation is not warranted, however

Despite the fact that most of the technical issues we identified in the 2014 bill have been addressed in SB 2671, we stand by our conclusion from Report No. 14-15 that the regulation of veterinary technicians is not warranted. When applying Chapter 26H, HRS, the absence of abuse continues to weigh heavily against regulation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2671. I am available to answer any questions you may have.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION, AND HEALTH

AND

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Friday, February 12, 2016
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671, RELATING TO VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ROSALYN H. BAKER, CHAIR,
TO THE HONORABLE GILBERT S.C. KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEES:

My name is John Kaya, D.V.M., and I am the Chairperson of the Board of Veterinary Examiners ("Board"). The Board appreciates the opportunity to present testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671, Relating to Veterinary Technicians, which is the companion bill to House Bill No. 1955. Both bills are substantively identical except for technical, non-substantive changes in both versions.

The Board reviewed and discussed this bill at its February 3, 2016 Board meeting. The discussion involved numerous recommendations for revising the bill. Due to time constraints, the Board was not able to take an official position. However, the Board continues to support the concept to register veterinary technicians.

The Department and stakeholders met following the February 8, 2016 hearing of House Bill No. 1955 and are working on a different approach that involves a structure

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671

Friday, February 12, 2016

Page 2

for registration/title protection that the parties might find mutually agreeable. The Board would be happy to similarly work with the committees to consider this option for this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671.

Eric Ako, DVM

Executive Vice President
Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health
and Committee on Judiciary and Labor
February 12, 2016 9:00 AM
SB 2671

Honorable Senators, Chairs Baker and Keith Agaran, Vice Chairs Kidani and Shimabukuro, and members of the Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and the Committee on Judiciary and Labor.

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association supports SB 2671 for two main reasons. Our successful program at Windward Community College trains students right here in the islands, preparing them for advanced placement in a very rewarding career. Veterinarians need only see "RVT" and know what to expect. Furthermore, our community will be better served by a professional better trained from the get go, and more likely to advance.

Our Windward Community College program has expanded to Maui. Next year, Big Island. Our national exam pass rate is as good as anywhere. Demand has not yet been met, as practitioners actively seek qualified graduates. Pay has improved, and making a living is a reality. After years of study, our graduates deserve their title. The majority of graduates are traveling and paying out of state for the "RVT" title.

The community demands more and better service as veterinary medicine and surgery advance. Community issues demand new approaches, such as high volume high quality spay and neuter for feral cats. That requires an efficient veterinary team. Empower them to contribute to our community.

Thank you to RICOs Chun Hoon and Loy Goto, and especially to Lynn Bhanot, BVE Executive Officer. Together we have addressed the issues from the sunrise review. A RVT will join the BVE. Interstate reciprocity has been addressed Alternate pathway has been provided. Consumers will not experience higher prices, but they are getting better service.

The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association seek to preserve the status quo, with licensed vets still accepting liability. Therefore, we feel focusing on scope of practice issues and exemptions is irrelevant.

All we want is to register veterinary technicians. A few rules to get it. Other than administratively, enforcement will not be necessary.

Respectfully yours,

Eric Ako DVM



February 8, 2016

To the Senate Committee on Consumer Protection and Health:

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association (HVTA) in support of SB2671 relating to Veterinary Technicians.

The HVTA is a recently formed 501(c)(6) non-profit organization with the following goals:

- Promoting veterinary technicians by educating the public about veterinary technology.
- Supporting the working relationship between veterinary technicians and other members of the veterinary healthcare team.
- Working with the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA) on legislative initiatives, to recognize the role of veterinary technicians in Hawaii.

I have had conversations with many people who assume that employees working in veterinary clinics already have some sort of education and credentials and once they learn that most have been trained on the job, are happy to hear that we are moving forward with registration and requiring that a person using the title veterinary technician pass the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). The community is looking for a standard for the people who are caring for their pets.

The reality is that there are many highly experienced individuals currently working in veterinary clinics across the state. One of the key areas that HVTA pushed for in the bill was for the Alternative Path, which will allow those with 5+ years of full time experience in the role of veterinary technician to sit for the VTNE. As part of our goal of support, HVTA plans to assist those wanting to sit for this exam with guided study sessions. Currently, the national pass rate for the VTNE is about 72% and most of these scores are from graduates of veterinary technology programs. The pass rate for Alternative Path (on the job trained) test takers is about 15%. HVTA hopes to help the eligible candidates to a successful VTNE outcome.

The last goal is to work with the HVMA to recognize veterinary technicians in Hawaii. If this bill is approved in 2016, I will look forward to setting new goals that include support while this bill is implemented, and leadership with preparation for changes that this will bring to the veterinary field.

Thank you for your support of this bill and of veterinary technicians,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. Geiling", written over a horizontal line.

Sam Geiling, RVT
President, Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association
craddock.hvta@gmail.com
(808) 271-7883

To the Senate Committee on Commerce, Consumer Protection, and Health,

I attended the Board of Veterinary Examiners (BVE) meeting on February 3, 2016, and we discussed specific changes that the group would like seen to the bill outlining registration for veterinary technicians.

Overall, it seemed that the members of the board are very supportive of this bill and would like to see a credentialing process for the veterinary technicians. Because of the short timeline, the BVE did not have the time it needed to have the group conversation needed to fully support the bill as written.

I hope that with these changes from the BVE, the legislation will support the bill.

Thank you,



Sam Geiling, RVT
President, HVTA
Instructor, Vet Tech Program at Windward Community College

Changes to HB1955 and SB2671:

Page 3 – Lines 15-18:

“Continuing education courses” means courses approved by **the board** the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, the American Association of Veterinary State Boards’ Registry, the **Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association**, or other board-approved organizations.

Page 4 – Lines 9-10: (Remove **“Induce”** definition and add)

“Monitor” means to evaluate patient health by tracking vital signs via physical examination and multi-parameter monitors in order to recognize abnormalities while an animal is under anesthesia.

Page 4 Line 19 through page 5

“Practice of veterinary technology” includes but is not limited to the following procedures only the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian:

- (1) **Monitoring** anesthesia; (REMOVE: **Induce**)
- (2) Intubating for anesthesia;
- (3) Performing dental cleaning **and simple extractions;**
- (4) **Suturing cutaneous and subcutaneous tissues, gingiva, and oral mucous membranes;**
- (5) Creating a relief hold in the skin to facilitate placement on an intravenous catheter;
- (6) Practice and laboratory management activities.

“Simple extraction” means to remove a tooth from above the gum line using a dental elevator and forceps, such as retained deciduous teeth or teeth with periodontal disease grade

Page 5 – Line 18-19

No person shall participate in the practice of veterinary technology **under the direct or indirect supervision of a licensed veterinarian**, either gratuitously or for pay, or shall offer to so practice, or shall announce or advertise, publicly or privately, as prepared or qualified to so practice, or shall append the letters “RVT” or affix any other letters to the person’s name with the intent thereby to imply that the person is a practitioner of veterinary technology, without having a valid unrevoked license obtained from the board; provided that nothing in this chapter prevents or prohibits the following:

Page 7 – Line 8 (add)

“Registrations that have been forfeited may be restored within one year of the expiration date upon payment to the board of all applicable fees and submission to the board of documentation of continuing education compliance. Failure to restore a forfeited registration within one year of the date of its expiration shall result in the automatic termination of the registration. Persons with terminated registrations shall be required to reapply for registration as a new applicant.”



February 1, 2016

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of SB2671, for veterinary technicians in the State. Currently, I am the Director of Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology Program. I am originally from Hawaii, but throughout my veterinary career, I have worked with veterinary technicians throughout the mainland and in Canada. In veterinary school, at Purdue University, veterinary students often worked along with veterinary technician students in the clinical setting. The importance of the veterinary technician in the veterinary industry is undeniable. Veterinary medicine is a team effort, and the technician is an integral part of the team.

The Veterinary Technology Program's mission is "to increase the quality of veterinary care in Hawaii by providing students with essential skills and knowledge that will enable them to obtain rewarding, living-wage jobs in the animal care field." The WCC's program is a successful and popular career choice. It provides an opportunity for interested students to become a veterinary technician while staying local. It is somewhat unfathomable to me that there is a successful Veterinary Technician Program in a State that does not 'recognize' the Program's graduates. Our graduates currently have to seek credentialing from other States such as Colorado, Washington, etc....

I urge you to support and pass HB1955. It is a Bill that is beneficial to the State and all its residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Jenny Kelly, DVM, MVSc, DACVS
Program Director and Assistant Professor
Windward Community College
Veterinary Technology

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Monday, February 08, 2016 8:27:06 PM
Attachments: [Testimony Zielinski CVT.docx](#)

SB2671

Submitted on: 2/8/2016

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amanda Zielinski	Individual	Support	No

Comments: From a certified veterinary technician educated and working in the state of Hawaii.

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM
Date: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:25:55 AM

SB2671

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Quemado	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Ashley Quemado and I have been in the veterinary field for 10 years. Upon graduating from high school and a few months before I was to begin my first semester in college, I landed a job at a private practice. I had no prior experience or knowledge of what I was getting myself into. During college I heard rumors about the possibility of a veterinary tech program opening up on the Windward side of the island. At the time, there were no institutions that had a program for veterinary technicians, and because of the lack of resources to further my education in this career, I almost relocated to the mainland. While in this program and learning on the job at the same time, in practice I learned HOW to do certain technician specific tasks. By perusing my education in higher learning, it allowed me to bridge the gap of WHY we are doing what we do. Pursuing my education has not only been the best thing I did for myself, but the animals I care for everyday. At the end of the day, it's why we as veterinarian technicians have chosen this as our profession.. for the animals. I support this bill because not only does it set the standard for the quality care we as veterinarian technicians provide, it sets the framework of qualifications for individuals in this profession. I believe in higher education and continuing lifelong learning to be able to advance and provide the best quality care that we can.

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SB2671

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diana Talerico	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 9, 2016

To whom it may concern,

My name is Ryan J. Koo and I am currently a history instructor at Windward Community College (WCC). I am writing this letter in support of the Veterinarian Technician Program, not only as a faculty member of the college, but more importantly as a client and consumer. As an owner of numerous animals and a frequent client of the VCA (Veterinarian Center of America), I wanted to share some of my personal experiences regarding the many vet techs I have encountered in recent years, as well as offer my strongest support for the Vet Tech program at WCC.

While it is true that the veterinarian is clearly the heart of any veterinarian clinic, I believe that the skeleton and face of the institution is represented by the vet tech. As the front line of contact, these are the individuals that initially interact with the client, recording basic information like weight, temperature, and symptoms of the patient. Most people don't think about what the role of the technician is after the initial consult, but I have come to learn that his or her responsibility is *enormous*. As the nurse is to the doctor, so is the vet tech to the veterinarian, as the technicians are responsible for many actions behind the closed doors of the inner clinic. From putting animals under general anesthesia to performing dental cleanings, from assisting in surgery to placing IV catheters and monitoring IV fluids, the scope of the technicians abilities are quite staggering. To put it another way, the technician is not only a nurse, but also a respiratory therapist, radiology technician, dentist, physical therapist, and counselor, all in one. These folks do not just play with kittens and puppies as some might think. Their profession demands expertise in a diverse set of tasks that require incredible training and education for proficiency.

On a personal note, our family has experienced the loss of a number of our beloved pets (family members?). Although the Veterinarian is obviously the most important individual in most cases, they were rarely the people we remembered after the passing of our loved ones. The vet techs we encountered not only displayed all of the expertise I described above, but also acted as a counselor of sorts, often providing the emotional support and guidance that we needed to hear after the crushing loss of our pets.

Without the Vet Tech program at WCC, the only one of its kind in the state, our communities would be in desperate need of these invaluable professionals. Not only is it a boon for the clients and consumers of the veterinarian world, it also provides our local communities with employment, career opportunities, and an education that produces competent graduates that can be hired throughout the United States, not just Hawaii. It is for all of these reasons and more that I offer my strongest support for this incredible program and the Senate Bill. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact

Ryan J. Koo

Instructor, Department of Humanities
Windward Community College
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Kane'ohe, HI 96744
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email: rkoo@hawaii.edu

Testimony INFAVOR of RVT SB2671 2/8/2016

I have worked in a couple of Veterinary Facilities on the Big Island since 1986. I came to Hawaii with an AHT as a Washington State graduate from an AVMA accredited program at what is now Pierce college. The college had a number of "Job Openings" listed for our credentialed graduates here in Hawaii. I found out ,once here, there was no requirement for licensing or certification of any kind. I was fortunate to find a position with the my current employer of 21 years. Our facility has grown to 4 Certified technicians that have all acquired their credentials out of state and maintain our required CE with our respective licensing states . I myself obtained another CVT with Oregon in order to take the NVTE an exam aimed at unifying the standard of care provided by Veterinary technicians be they CVT, RVT, LVT. Our Certified Technicians work with 4 Doctors in a practice with over 10,000 clients. We are accountable for critical care and have responsibilities in all aspects of animal care. We are utilized in every area of the operation of the practice.

We are a valuable resource to staff AS WELL as clients. Often Certified Technicians are called upon to supervise other members of our team who may not have the training we have had, this can be quite a responsibility alone. Our knowledge and skill has helped bring Hawaii Veterinary Practices into line with the other 49 states . It seems that in order to provide a level of care that many people now come to expect from their Veterinarian the state should agree to "catch up" with the process of requiring some sort of Certification . Our training brings skill and knowledge specifically to the Veterinary field such as: anesthesia of patients and assisting Drs in Surgery, performing dentals prophylaxis on cats and dogs, Using current technology to provide critical diagnostics in the lab testing for both zoonotic and non zoonotic disease, caring for animals needing emergent critical and routine nursing, assisting pets AND clients with end of life care , and work as a liaison between Dr and client.

With the College here on Oahu already graduating qualified Technicians please give them the credit they

so deserve to enable them to be set apart from an off
the street hire.

Thank you for your consideration

Tina Burt-Toland AHT CVT

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Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM
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SB2671

Submitted on: 2/5/2016

Testimony for CPH/JDL on Feb 12, 2016 09:00AM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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Comments: Having a licensed veterinary responsible for treating a patient is as important as having a licensed veterinarian treating a patient.

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Certification of veterinary technicians should be of great importance to the legislature of Hawaii. Education of medical professionals is paramount in both human and animal medicine. My own experience here as a certified veterinary technician who has been educated by Hawaii's own AVMA accredited veterinary technician program shows this importance. Those who are not educated through an AVMA accredited school lack the background understanding of important basics of clinic daily life. For example, at my current place of employment a doctor nearly misdiagnosed a patient due to the incorrect use of laboratory equipment. The doctor was thoroughly confused by the findings and I offered to redo the testing to verify the results. The machine was improperly calibrated and when I asked the original tester how they had performed the test they had no idea that they had to first calibrate the equipment before use nor the knowledge of how to accomplish the calibration. When I asked several other senior technicians where the proper calibration equipment piece was they had no idea what the tool was that I was requesting. This is not an isolated incident when working with technicians who are not certified.

Misdiagnoses are not the only concern when discussing whether or not to certify technicians for the state of Hawaii. Communication between the client and the doctor is often managed through the veterinary technician. Certified technicians should be able to operate both on a medical professional linguistic level with the doctor and be able to translate this language to the clients. Under educated personnel often lack the expertise to anticipate correct follow-up questions that the doctor may have for the client which wastes valuable time in an emergency situation. The same under educated personnel also lack the ability to effectively communicate important tests, results, and preventative measures. While it is the doctor's responsibility to maintain the prognoses and diagnoses, many points along the communication pathway should be paved by the veterinary technician to allow the doctor to focus on these points. For example, in a basic wellness exam for pets living on the island of Oahu the technician should know the relevant questions to ask to help direct the type of preventative medicine practiced for that visit. Which vaccines will be required and what are their risk factors? This requires intimate knowledge of the local environment coupled with a background in available vaccinations. In order to understand the risk factors that call for each different vaccine then you must first learn about the etiology of the disease. Without this background information, proper coverage may be missed and the animal may be exposed or contract these diseases that are trying to be prevented.

Overall, the standard of care would be greatly increased for the pet population of Hawaii. Proper education and training for all veterinary staff should be mandatory and continual on a professional level. The type of continuing education that is incidentally required by becoming certified. Most tasks can be learned over time and with experience at a veterinary facility. However, when dealing with living beings who cannot advocate for themselves it is the job of the veterinary technician to have the knowledge and background to speak for the animals. This is why we need to certify veterinary technicians and improve the standards of care in the state of Hawaii to meet the needs of this great task.