



**TESTIMONY OF JAN K. YAMANE, ACTING STATE AUDITOR,  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671, SD1, HD1  
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

**House Committee on Finance**

April 5, 2016

Chair Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2671, SD1, HD1, 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 (“the 2014 bill”). Our [Report No. 14-15, \*Sunrise Analysis: Regulation of Veterinary Technicians\*](#), was released in December 2014. In it, we evaluated whether 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.

Despite the fact that SB 2671, SD1, HD1 would allow only authorized individuals to refer to themselves as “veterinary technician” or “registered veterinary technician” (title protection), 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, SD1, HD1.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Finance  
April 5, 2016 at 2:31 p.m.

By  
John Morton, Vice President for Community Colleges  
University of Hawai'i System

### SB 2671 SD1 HD1 – RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Nishimoto, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 2671 SD1 HD1. This measure, beginning 7/1/2018, would establish requirements for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology. It also would establish registration requirements and limitations on use of titles for veterinary technicians.

The Veterinary Technology Associate of Science Degree Program at Windward Community College has been performing above expectations as a source of well-prepared graduates who may sit for candidacy for the Veterinary Technician National Exam (VTNE). Since its inception during the 2012-13 academic year the program has achieved its initial accreditation from the American Veterinary Medical Association to become the only accredited Veterinary Technology program in the State joining 230 others nationwide. Additionally the program has achieved a graduation rate (48 graduates) 60% above anticipated numbers, and recorded a 79% passing rate for the VTNE when comparable figures nationally are at 65%. Moreover the program has implemented a distribution plan by offering the first half of the degree program to Maui via distance education for didactic courses with on-site instruction by program faculty for the laboratory work. Plans are in development to extend similar offerings to Hawai'i Island and Kaua'i for the academic years 2017-2019. With the program housed in a new state of the art facility on the Windward Community College campus, and cooperating for program distribution via the auspices of University Center facilities on Maui, Hawai'i and Kaua'i the State will have a secure and growing supply of candidates for Veterinary Technician licensure.

The UH Community Colleges is in concurrence with the intent of the bill and supports its passage.



To: House Committee on Finance  
Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair  
Honorable Representative Scott Nishimoto, Vice Chair

Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016  
Time: 2:31 PM  
Place: Conference Room 308

**Re: IN SUPPORT OF SB 2671 SD1 – RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS**

Aloha Honorable Chair Luke, Honorable Vice Chair Nishimoto, and Members of the Committee on Finance:

As the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Windward Community College (ASUH-WCC), representing the 2,600 students enrolled on our campus, we submit testimony in strong support of SB 2671 SD1, which establishes requirements for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology.

As SB 2671 SD1 states, it is essential for the State of Hawai'i to follow the national trend and recognize veterinary technicians as bona fide health professionals. Windward Community College currently offers the only AS degree in Veterinary Technology in the state, and this program is highly successful in graduating students into gainful employment and increasing enrollment in this current downward trend by drawing students to the campus from outside the Ko'olaupoko district.

The passing of SB 2671 SD1 would be a notable boon to our campus and island community. The job market is slowly being saturated with students who successfully complete Windward Community College's Veterinary Technology program to the point where the installation of a Veterinary Technology program (for Certificate) at the UH Maui College has been established. The passage of SB 2671 SD1 would support the further installation of this successful program on the outer islands, supported by the framework established here at Windward Community College.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony. Once again, the Associated Students of the University of Hawai'i at Windward Community College strongly supports SB 2671 SD1.

Sincerely,  
Kelli Acopan  
President, ASUH-WCC



April 3, 2016

To the House Finance Committee:

As the president of our organization, I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association (HVTA) in **strong support of SB2671** relating to Veterinary Technicians.

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.

By gaining title protection, Registered Veterinary Technicians will be able to better differentiate themselves from veterinary assistants and others on the veterinary health care team and educate the public about the role of the veterinary technician.

This bill will bring Hawaii into alignment with the rest of the nation in requiring that people who use the term "vet tech" are, in fact, credentialed and have passed the national board exam.

With support of the legislators and approval of SB2671, 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", is written over a horizontal line.

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

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 02, 2016 6:52 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** AKOE002@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Apr 5, 2016 14:31PM

**SB2671**

Submitted on: 4/2/2016

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2016 14:31PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Ako DVM	Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association	Support	Yes

Comments: Honorable Chair Representative Luke, Vice Chair Representative Nishimoto, and members of the Committee on Finance, The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association strongly supports SB2671. Veterinary technicians have been valuable members of our profession for 40 years. They serve our community in many ways. They are the nurses in clinical practice, as well as practice managers. Veterinary technicians assist at the Honolulu Zoo, with the State Department of Agriculture, and at the University of Hawaii. Yet, unlike our nurses, veterinary technicians are unrecognized. We are the last state to not register, certify, or license our VTs. We have a successful, accredited VT program at Windward Community College. We are providing the chance for local students to serve the community in a rewarding career, with earnings closer to our cost of living. Prices will not rise. They have been here all along. All veterinary staff will continue to work as they have (maybe better) while we have left responsibility with the licensed veterinarians, and avoided scope of practice language. All the concerned parties have come to agreement. DCCA wrote the final form of this bill. The BVE agrees with our concept. HVMA and HVTA are good to go. Please pass SB2671. Respectfully yours, Eric Ako DVM Executive Vice President, HVMA

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Lois Shore  
Student Windward Community College Veterinary Technician Program  
Lkshore328@aol.com

In support of:

Testimony for Bill SB2671 – RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS.

Beginning 7/1/2018, establishes requirements for the regulation of veterinary technicians and the practice of veterinary technology. Establishes registration requirements and limitations on use of titles for veterinary technicians. Appropriates funds to implement the registration of veterinary technicians.

I want to express my support of this bill. After many years of working as an executive in the travel industry, I am a returning student to college to pursue my goal of becoming a veterinary technician. The program at Windward is a demanding, intellectually challenging and hands-on skill-building program.

Any student completing a curriculum like this – here in Hawaii or anywhere else - will have gained a solid foundation on which to provide professional and critical care for animals. And they will have worked hard to gain the honor of being officially recognized as a Veterinary Technician.

Please pass this bill and give veterinary technicians the same recognition as any other professional health-care worker in Hawaii.

Mahalo.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 11:10 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** mucwong@gmail.com  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Apr 5, 2016 14:31PM\*

**SB2671**

Submitted on: 4/4/2016

Testimony for FIN on Apr 5, 2016 14:31PM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Michael Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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**LATE**

April 4, 2016

To Whom It May Concern: Finance Committee

I am writing in support of SB2671, for veterinary technicians in the State of Hawaii. 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 SB2671. 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