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PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
REGULATED INDUSTRIES COMPLAINTS OFFICE

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2016

MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2016
2:00 P.M.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671 S.D.1
RELATING TO VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE JUSTIN H. WOODSON, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1, 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"). RICO offers comments on the bill.

Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1 creates a new chapter for the registration of veterinary technicians within the Department, beginning July 1, 2018. The bill establishes title protection for veterinary technicians and registered veterinary

Testimony on Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1

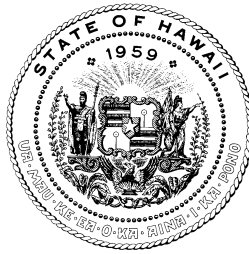
March 14, 2016

Page 2

technicians, sets forth the criteria for registration, and makes clear that nothing in the new chapter precludes a licensed veterinarian from utilizing support or auxiliary personnel with supervision. RICO notes that the provisions of Chapter 436B, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), would apply for purposes of discipline and enforcement, as provided for in §436B-3, HRS.

RICO notes that this Committee heard the companion measure, House Bill No. 1955, and passed out a House Draft 1 that is substantively similar to this bill. The bill was not heard by the House Committee on Finance and did not cross over. RICO believes that the approach used in Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1 is a reasonable way to address the concerns of stakeholders, and, to the extent that Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1 appropriates specific funds and has a valid effective date, prefers this bill over House Bill No. 1955 H.D.1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 2671 S.D.1. I will be happy to answer any questions the members of the Committee may have.



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

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

March 14, 2016

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 2671, SD1, 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, 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.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF VETERINARY EXAMINERS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2016

Monday, March 14, 2016
2:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2671, S.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY
TECHNICIANS.**

TO THE HONORABLE ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

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, S.D. 1, Relating to Veterinary Technicians, which is the companion bill to House Bill No. 1955, H.D. 1. Both bills are substantively identical except for technical, non-substantive changes in both versions.

The Department and stakeholders met following the February 8, 2016 hearing of House Bill No. 1955 and worked on a structure for registration/title protection that the parties might find mutually agreeable which is reflected in this draft of the bill. While the Board has not had an opportunity to formally review this version of the bill, the Board continues to support the concept of registering veterinary technicians.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on Senate Bill
No. 2671, S.D. 1.



To: House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Honorable Representative Angus McKelvey, Chair
Honorable Representative Justin Woodson, Vice Chair

Date: Monday, March 14, 2016
Time: 2:00 PM
Place: Conference Room 325

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

Aloha Honorable Chair McKelvey, Honorable Vice Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

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

February 23, 2016

To the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

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 me.

Ryan J. Koo

Instructor, Department of Humanities
Windward Community College
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Kane'ohe, HI 96744
phone: (808) 236-9134
email: rkoo@hawaii.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:29 PM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: AKOE002@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM

SB2671

Submitted on: 3/10/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments: Honorable Chair Representative McKelvey, Vice Chair Representative Woodson, and members of the Committee on consumer Protection and Commerce, The Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association strongly supports SB2671 SD1. Thank you for hearing this call for veterinary technician registration. Special thanks to Representative Hashem and DCCA Deputy Director Jo Ann Uchida Takeuchi as we have reached essential consensus on SB2671 SD1. A minor amendment is required for Section 2-1 Definitions (4) Creating a relief hold..should read hole. Like registered nurses, veterinary technicians are key team members serving the community in the public and private sectors. Like physicians, veterinarians cannot serve alone. We seek to recognize their contributions after years of study and on the job training. They have been serving without official title. We do hope to raise their standard of living, allowing for a more realistic guarantee of continued service. We intend to improve service to the community with better trained and more committed teams. Some things will not change. Veterinarians will continue to be ultimately responsible. Consumer costs will not rise as teams become more efficient. We are not adding a new class of expensive paraprofessionals—they have been here all along. Our successful veterinary technician program at Windward Community College has reached Maui and will possibly reach Hilo next year. Our graduates shouldn't travel and pay out of state for the 3 letters, RVT, they have earned here. Respectfully yours, Eric Ako DVM

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March 12, 2016

To the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce:

As the president of our organization, 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.

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.

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: Thursday, March 10, 2016 8:14 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: azurajena@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM

SB2671

Submitted on: 3/10/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jena Azura Beisner	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kākou, I fully support and highly encourage the passing of the bill HB1995 relating to veterinary technicians. I had to become a license veterinary technician through the state of Nevada. I would be proud to have a license in my home state Hawaii. I look forward to this possibility. The quality of care along with the professionalism, knowledge and sense of accomplishment is what drew me to pursue employment with my license. I admire the doctors who have supported this change in their staff, giving animals the opportunity to have the very best care. Having the schooling and license has set me apart from others who may work in the veterinary technician field. It has given me the opportunity to show my learned skills right away without many years of costly inefficient in clinic training. Having the efficiency along with the knowledge expedited not only proper pay but has given clinics a higher standard to achieve. I was a member of the first graduating class of the Windward community college veterinary technician program. I achieved my AS degree in veterinary science in 2013. I have worked hard in school and took a national exam to gain access to the benefits of having credentials in my profession. It has been my life goal to care for people and their animals, sharing with them the education I have learned and continued learning through my continued education. I would not be able to give them the tools needed to be responsible caring animal owners, had I not taken the course work to fully understand this profession. I am an active member and part of the committee for the Hawaii Veterinary Technician Association (HVTA). The opportunity to live and grow on Oahu and Hawaii island, has given me the perspective and inspiration to be humble and appreciative of where I call home. Having the credentials of being a registered technician in Hawaii should be a minimum standard for the state of Hawaii. I have a deep appreciation for the beautiful creatures that surround us and are apart of everyday life. I enjoy being apart of all the growing fur families. "Mai ka hikina a ka lâ i Kumukahi a ka welona a ka lâ i Lehua".(From the sunrise at Kumukahi to the fading sunlight at Lehua). From birth to death. Mahalo and Malama Pono me ke aloha Jena Azura Beisner

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 10, 2016 10:05 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: mucwong@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM

SB2671

Submitted on: 3/10/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Wong	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a practicing veterinarian of 14 years, I support having registered veterinary technicians within the State of Hawaii.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2016 9:55 AM
To: CPCtestimony
Cc: cakaneshiro@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2671 on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM*

SB2671

Submitted on: 3/11/2016

Testimony for CPC on Mar 14, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Casey Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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