

## **Testimony of the Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Friday, March 21, 2025  
9:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 229 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
G.M. 563, SUBMITTING FOR CONSIDERATION AND CONFIRMATION  
TO THE BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE  
GUBERNATORIAL NOMINEE, GABRIELLE ASAY  
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. Gabrielle Asay to the Board.

Dr. Asay was appointed to an interim term on the Board in November 2024. She has attended both Board meetings held since her interim appointment.

Dr. Asay is a 2015 graduate of Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine and obtained her Hawaii veterinary license the same year. Dr. Asay has practiced at Hawaii veterinary clinics, volunteered at a Cambodia rabies clinic, and currently practices as a relief veterinarian for Oahu Veterinary Clinic, and as a Territory Manger for product sales for Merck Animal Health, as well as volunteering at Street Dog Coalition. She is also the founder of Paniolo Livestock Services, a non-profit which focuses on disease prevention and education of animal caretakers.

Dr. Asay 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. Asay's appointment.

Dr. Heather Kihara

**LATE**

April 10, 2025

Senator Keohokalole & Hawaii State Senate;

I recommend Dr. Gabrielle Asay for a position on the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine. I have had the privilege of knowing Dr. Asay for over 10 years, both on a personal and professional level. She not only has the experience of being a private practitioner at a small & exotic animal hospital for 7 years but also represents industry & livestock medicine and serves with me on the board of the Hawaii Veterinary Medicine Association.

Throughout her career, Dr. Asay has demonstrated a consistent passion for improving veterinary standards and outcomes. She is an innovative thinker, a strategic planner, and a collaborative team player—qualities that are critical for contributing meaningfully at the board level. Moreover, her integrity and ethical judgment makes her a trusted and respected voice in our professional community. I have been impressed by her commitment to upholding the highest standards of veterinary medicine, ethics, and public service.

What sets Dr. Asay apart is her clear-sighted approach to accountability, fairness, and transparency. She brings a balanced perspective—firm in the enforcement of standards, yet empathetic and thoughtful in addressing challenges faced by practitioners. Her ability to evaluate situations objectively while maintaining the integrity of the profession makes her especially well-suited for this regulatory role. Dr. Asay has demonstrated a strong understanding of the complex responsibilities that come with regulatory oversight in our profession. She has a deep appreciation for the broader legal, ethical, and public health dimensions of veterinary care to match her clinical expertise.

In addition, as an industry representative, Dr. Asay has a unique insight to challenges among the vet community across the islands, constantly demonstrates effective communication and is a well-known figure within our community. Her collaborative nature, and sound judgment would make her a valuable asset to any organization. I have no doubt her she will be an asset to the decision-making body of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine and will uphold the standards to protect the public and promote veterinary excellence.

Please feel free to contact me directly if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,



**Dr. Heather Kihara**

President Elect

Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association