
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding four new sections to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:
4 "§471-A Courtesy permit. (a) The board may issue a
5 courtesy permit to a veterinarian from another jurisdiction. A
6 courtesy permit issued pursuant to this section shall be valid
7 for a period of thirty days and may be renewed once in any
8 twelve-month period; provided that any courtesy permit issued
9 and renewed pursuant to this section shall not exceed sixty
10 total days in any twelve-month period; provided further that a
11 courtesy permittee's request for more than two courtesy permits
12 within a two-year period shall constitute prima facie evidence
13 that the courtesy permittee is engaged in the active practice of
14 veterinary medicine in the State and a license issued under
15 section 471-9 shall be required.
16 (b) Applicants for a courtesy permit shall:



- 1 (1) Hold a current, unencumbered, and active license in
2 another jurisdiction;
- 3 (2) Incidental to the person's practice in another
4 jurisdiction, desire to practice veterinary medicine
5 in the State on a temporary, not permanent or
6 recurring, basis; and
- 7 (3) Have a sponsor.
- 8 (c) A courtesy permittee shall:
- 9 (1) Consent to the personal and subject matter
10 jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the board;
- 11 (2) Practice under the level of supervision determined by
12 the sponsor, either directly or indirectly;
- 13 (3) Not practice independently of the sponsor within the
14 limits of the State;
- 15 (4) Comply with this chapter and rules adopted by the
16 board;
- 17 (5) Cease to offer or render veterinary services in the
18 State as an individual and on behalf of the sponsor
19 if:
- 20 (A) The courtesy permittee's license in the other
21 jurisdiction is no longer current and active; or



1 (B) The courtesy permittee's practice has been
2 limited or conditioned in any jurisdiction,
3 including the courtesy permittee's principal
4 place of business;

5 (6) Notify the board within fifteen days if:

6 (A) Any disciplinary action or board proceeding
7 relating to the courtesy permittee's license is
8 commenced in any jurisdiction; or

9 (B) The courtesy permittee is convicted of any
10 criminal offense in any jurisdiction or foreign
11 country; and

12 (7) Pay all costs associated with any jurisdiction's
13 investigation, enforcement, and collection efforts
14 pertaining to the courtesy permit issued pursuant to
15 this section, as may be ordered by the board.

16 (d) In no case shall an individual be issued a courtesy
17 permit and a relief permit in the same twelve-month period.

18 §471-B Relief permit. (a) The board may issue a relief
19 permit to a veterinarian from another jurisdiction to conduct
20 the practice of a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian who is absent
21 from their practice. A relief permit issued pursuant to this



1 section shall be valid for a period of thirty days and may be
2 renewed once in any twelve-month period; provided that any
3 relief permit issued and renewed pursuant to this section shall
4 not exceed sixty total days in any twelve-month period. A
5 relief permit may be renewed in a subsequent twelve-month
6 period. More than two requests for relief permits within a two-
7 year period shall be prima facie evidence that the relief
8 permittee is engaged in the active practice of veterinary
9 medicine in the State and a license issued under section 471-9
10 shall be required.

11 (b) Applicants for a relief permit shall:

12 (1) Hold a current, unencumbered, and active license in
13 another jurisdiction;

14 (2) Incidental to the person's practice in another
15 jurisdiction, desire to practice veterinary medicine
16 in the State on a temporary, not permanent or
17 recurring, basis; and

18 (3) Have a sponsor; provided that the sponsor shall not be
19 required to be physically present on the same island.

20 (c) A relief permittee shall:



- 1 (1) Consent to the personal and subject matter
- 2 jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the board;
- 3 (2) Not practice independently of the sponsor within the
- 4 limits of the State;
- 5 (3) Comply with this chapter and rules adopted by the
- 6 board;
- 7 (4) Cease to offer or render veterinary services in the
- 8 State as an individual and on behalf of the sponsor
- 9 if:
- 10 (A) The relief permittee's license from the other
- 11 jurisdiction is no longer current and active; or
- 12 (B) The relief permittee's practice has been limited
- 13 or conditioned in any jurisdiction, including the
- 14 relief permittee's principal place of business;
- 15 (5) Notify the board within fifteen days if:
- 16 (A) Any disciplinary action or board proceeding
- 17 relating to the relief permittee's license is
- 18 commenced in any jurisdiction; or
- 19 (B) The permittee is convicted of any criminal
- 20 offense in any jurisdiction or foreign country;
- 21 and



1 (6) Pay all costs associated with any jurisdiction's
2 investigation, enforcement, and collection efforts
3 pertaining to the relief permit issued pursuant to
4 this section, as may be ordered by the board.

5 (d) In no case shall an individual be issued a relief
6 permit and a courtesy permit in the same twelve-month period.

7 §471-C Sponsors. A sponsor under this chapter shall be
8 responsible for:

9 (1) Determining the level of supervision required for the
10 sponsored veterinarian;

11 (2) The veterinary care given to the animal patient by the
12 sponsored veterinarian;

13 (3) Ensuring that the board has been notified in writing;
14 and

15 (4) Confirming that the sponsored veterinarian has
16 obtained the appropriate courtesy permit or relief
17 permit from the board.

18 §471-D Veterinary telemedicine. (a) A veterinarian shall
19 practice veterinary telemedicine within the context of the
20 veterinarian-client-patient relationship between medically
21 necessary examinations of an animal patient or medically-



1 appropriate and timely visits to the premises where the animal
2 patient is kept.

3 (b) Only a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian shall provide
4 telemedicine to a patient located in the State.

5 (c) When practicing veterinary telemedicine, a
6 veterinarian shall:

7 (1) Conduct all necessary animal patient evaluations
8 consistent with currently acceptable standards of
9 care;

10 (2) Take appropriate precautions to safeguard the
11 confidentiality of a client's or animal patient's
12 records;

13 (3) Ensure that the client is aware of the veterinarian's
14 identity, location, license number, and licensure
15 status; and

16 (4) Maintain appropriate medical records with sufficient
17 information for continued care that is readily
18 available upon request by the client.

19 (d) Prescribing medications via veterinary telemedicine
20 shall require a veterinarian-client-patient relationship and
21 shall be at the professional discretion of the veterinarian.



1 The indication, appropriateness, and safety considerations for
2 each prescription issued in association with veterinary
3 telemedicine services shall be evaluated by the veterinarian in
4 accordance with all jurisdictional, federal laws, and standards
5 of care.

6 (e) A veterinarian may provide veterinary teleadvice or
7 veterinary teletriage without the prior establishment of a
8 veterinarian-client-patient relationship. An expert with a
9 poison control agency who is not a veterinarian may provide
10 veterinary teletriage.

11 (f) A veterinarian may provide veterinary telesupervision
12 for tasks that do not require immediate supervision as specified
13 by rules adopted by the board.

14 (g) Veterinary telemedicine shall constitute the practice
15 of veterinary medicine in the State when the veterinarian or the
16 animal patient are in the State. The board shall have
17 jurisdiction over a veterinarian practicing veterinary
18 telemedicine within the State regardless of where the
19 veterinarian's physical offices are located.



1 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter
2 federal or state requirements and standards for the issuance of
3 Certificates of Veterinary Inspection or health certificates."

4 SECTION 2. Section 471-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended as follows:

6 1. By adding twelve new definitions to be appropriately
7 inserted and to read:

8 "Client" means the animal patient's owner, owner's agent,
9 or other person presenting the animal patient for care.

10 "Consultation" means when a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian
11 seeks and receives advice in person, telephonically,
12 electronically, or by any other method of communication from a
13 veterinarian or other person whose expertise, in the opinion of
14 the Hawaii-licensed veterinarian, would benefit an animal
15 patient.

16 "Emergency response" means the response to a natural or
17 human-caused disaster.

18 "Indirect supervision" means the Hawaii-licensed
19 veterinarian is not on the premises, but:

20 (1) Has given either written or oral instructions for
21 treatment of the animal patient;



1 (2) Is readily available by telephone or other forms of
2 immediate communication; and

3 (3) Has assumed responsibility for the veterinary care
4 given to the animal patient by a person working under
5 their sponsorship.

6 "Jurisdiction" means another state, the District of
7 Columbia, or any territory of the United States, or any province
8 of Canada.

9 "Patient" or "animal patient" means any animal or group of
10 animals receiving veterinary care from a veterinarian.

11 "Sponsor" means a veterinarian holding a current license in
12 the State who requests the presence and medical assistance of a
13 veterinarian licensed in another jurisdiction.

14 "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" means a
15 relationship that exists when:

16 (1) The veterinarian and client agree for the veterinarian
17 to assume responsibility for making medical judgments
18 regarding the health of the animal patient;

19 (2) The veterinarian has sufficient knowledge of the
20 animal patient to initiate a general or preliminary
21 diagnosis of the medical condition of the animal



1 patient, which means that the veterinarian is
2 personally acquainted with the keeping and care of the
3 animal patient and has recently physically examined
4 the animal or made timely and medically appropriate
5 visits to the premises where the animal patient is
6 kept;

7 (3) The veterinarian is readily available or provides for
8 follow-up care and treatment in case of adverse
9 reactions or failure of the therapy regimen; and

10 (4) The veterinarian maintains records that document
11 animal patient visits, consultations, diagnosis and
12 treatment, and other relevant information required
13 under this chapter.

14 "Veterinarian-client-patient relationship" includes the
15 provision of on call or cross-coverage services by a
16 veterinarian who has been designated by a veterinarian with an
17 existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship and has access
18 to relevant animal patient records.

19 "Veterinary teleadvice" means the provision of health
20 information, opinion, guidance, or recommendations that are not
21 specific to a particular animal.



1 "Veterinary telemedicine" means the practice of veterinary
2 medicine subsequent to an established veterinarian-
3 client-patient relationship where animal patient care,
4 treatment, and services are provided through the use of
5 electronic communication, including telephone and audio-visual
6 technology, consistent with the veterinarian's professional
7 judgement.

8 "Veterinary telesupervision" means the remote supervision
9 of a veterinary assistant, veterinary technician, or other
10 employee of a licensed veterinarian who administers medication
11 or who renders auxiliary or supporting assistance under the
12 responsible supervision of a licensed veterinarian.

13 "Veterinary teletriage" means using electronic consultation
14 with a client, including through a poison control agency, to
15 provide a timely assessment and decision as to whether to
16 immediately refer a patient to a veterinarian for emergency or
17 urgent care."

18 2. By amending the definition of "practice of veterinary
19 medicine" to read:

20 "Practice of veterinary medicine" means the assessment,
21 diagnosis [øx], treatment, or prescribing for the prevention,



1 cure, or relief of, or the giving of advice concerning, a
2 disease, pain, injury, deformity, or other ~~physical~~ condition
3 of an animal, or a change of a physical characteristic of an
4 animal for cosmetic or utility purposes. ~~[It]~~ "Practice of
5 veterinary medicine" includes medical, surgical, and dental care
6 of animals."

7 SECTION 3. Section 471-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§471-2 License required.** No person shall practice
10 veterinary medicine, either gratuitously or for pay, or shall
11 offer to so practice, or shall announce or advertise, publicly
12 or privately, as prepared or qualified to so practice, or shall
13 append the letters "Dr." or affix any other letters to the
14 person's name with the intent thereby to imply that the person
15 is a practitioner of veterinary medicine, without having a valid
16 unrevoked license obtained from the Hawaii board of veterinary
17 medicine; provided that nothing in this chapter prevents or
18 prohibits the following:

19 (1) Any person from gratuitously treating animals in case
20 of emergency;



- 1 (2) The owner of any animal or animals and the owner's
2 full-time, regular employees from caring for and
3 treating any animals belonging to the owner;
- 4 (3) Any student enrolled in any veterinary school or
5 college or any employee of a veterinarian from working
6 under the direct supervision of a veterinarian;
- 7 (4) Any person from practicing veterinary medicine in the
8 employ of the United States government while engaged
9 in the performance of the person's official duties;
- 10 (5) Any person licensed to practice veterinary medicine in
11 any ~~[state, or any certified scientist or professional~~
12 ~~in animal care,]~~ jurisdiction, from practicing in this
13 State when in ~~[actual]~~ consultation with ~~[or under the~~
14 ~~sponsorship of]~~ licensed veterinarians of this State;
15 provided that the ~~[person licensed from another state,~~
16 ~~or the certified scientist or professional in animal~~
17 ~~care, shall not open an office, or appoint a place to~~
18 ~~meet patients, or receive calls within the limits of~~
19 ~~the State,]~~ licensed veterinarian receiving
20 consultation shall maintain the veterinarian-client-
21 patient relationship;



- 1 (6) Any farmer from giving to another farmer the
- 2 assistance customarily given in the ordinary practice
- 3 of animal husbandry; [~~or~~]
- 4 (7) Any applicant who meets the licensing requirements of
- 5 practicing veterinary medicine under a veterinarian by
- 6 temporary permit; provided the applicant applies for
- 7 and takes the [~~first~~] examination scheduled by the
- 8 board. [A] The temporary permit shall not be
- 9 renewed[-];
- 10 (8) A veterinarian licensed in another jurisdiction from
- 11 practicing in the State under a sponsor and indirect
- 12 supervision of a Hawaii-licensed veterinarian as part
- 13 of an emergency response or enforcement action
- 14 pursuant to chapter 711; provided that the sponsor
- 15 shall file notification with the board regarding the
- 16 arrival of the out-of-state veterinarian; provided
- 17 further that the sponsored veterinarian shall serve in
- 18 an emergency capacity for no longer than twenty-one
- 19 consecutive days; or



1 (9) Any person who has obtained a courtesy permit or
2 relief permit pursuant to sections 471-A and 471-B
3 from practicing in the State."

4 SECTION 4. Section 471-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

6 "(a) No person shall be licensed to practice veterinary
7 medicine unless the person has passed an examination of the
8 qualifications and fitness to engage in the practice of
9 veterinary medicine given by the Hawaii board of veterinary
10 medicine. Before any applicant shall be eligible for
11 examination under this chapter the applicant, at least sixty
12 days before the date set for examination, shall file an
13 application in the form as shall be prescribed by the board, pay
14 to the department of commerce and consumer affairs application
15 and examination fees, and furnish proof satisfactory to the
16 board that the applicant:

17 (1) Is eighteen or more years of age; and

18 (2) Is a graduate of [a]:

19 (A) A veterinary college meeting all the standards
20 established by the American Veterinary Medical
21 Association[7] Council on Education, or, in lieu



1 thereof, has actively practiced for ten out of
2 twelve years immediately preceding the date of
3 application in a state having standards for
4 licensing comparable to those in this State[-];
5 or

6 (B) A foreign college of veterinary medicine who has
7 successfully completed the requirements
8 established by the American Veterinary Medical
9 Association Educational Commission for Foreign
10 Veterinary Graduates or the American Association
11 of Veterinary State Boards Program for the
12 Assessment of Veterinary Education Equivalence."

13 SECTION 5. In codifying the new sections added by section
14 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute
15 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating
16 the new sections in this Act.

17 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.



Report Title:

Veterinarians; Temporary Permits; Courtesy Permits; Relief Permits; Out-of-State Veterinarians Telemedicine; Licensure

Description:

Authorizes the board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians. Permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine. Allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination. Effective 7/1/2024. (SD1)

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