

**DAVID Y. IGE**  
Governor

**JOSH GREEN**  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER**  
**CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON**  
**CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE**

**MARCH 30, 2022**  
**2:00 P.M.**  
**VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**SENATE BILL NO. 2798 SD1 HD1**  
**RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chairperson Johanson and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Senate Bill 2798 SD1 HD1 relating to the Veterinary Medicine. The measure amends Chapter 471, Hawaii Revised Statutes to authorize the Hawaii board of veterinary medicine to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians. The measure also details how licensed veterinarians may practice veterinary telemedicine and provides for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for Hawaii licensure examination.

The Department supports the change to an earlier implementation date from the date proposed by the previous version.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.





## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826  
808.356.2200 • [HawaiianHumane.org](http://HawaiianHumane.org)

Date: March 28, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson  
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Community Engagement Director  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support, with an amendment, of SB 2798, SD1, HD1:  
Relating to Veterinary Medicine  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022, 2 p.m., Room 329 or Videoconference

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Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Committee Members,

On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our enthusiastic support for Senate Bill 2798, SD1, HD1, which authorizes the board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine, and allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination.

This bill seeks to restore a pathway for out-of-state veterinarians, licensed in good standing, to assist our local veterinary community, and the pet owners and animals of Hawai'i. In late 2020, the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine closed the existing pathway that allowed visiting veterinarians to practice in the state. It agreed to work with stakeholders to create a new system, one that meets the needs of our community while giving the board greater control over visiting veterinarians and clarifying that professionals who wish to work in the state regularly must apply for a Hawai'i license. This bill is the result of that collaborative effort.

SB 2798, SD1, HD1, will allow animals to get immediate care in the case of natural disasters or rescues, it will allow out-of-state veterinarians, licensed in good standing, to assist Hawai'i-licensed professionals and it will allow local veterinarians some much needed respite. Its provisions protect animals, serve the interests of consumers and support access to high-quality veterinary care.

This measure is needed urgently. We understand that DCCA has some concerns about getting the new permits integrated into its computer system, but there should be no barrier to implementation of the rest of the bill.

We request the following amendment:

Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

We implore the committee to pass SB 2798, SD1, HD1, with this amendment. Mahalo for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.

**Board of Directors**

Emma Cobb

Anitra Frazier

Lisa LaBrecque, DVM

Nancy Peterson

Susan Richmond,  
Executive Director

Meredith Weiss,  
NYC TNR Director

**National Programs  
Director**

Bryan Kortis, Esq.

March 28, 2022

Re: SB2798 SD1 HD1 (Relating to Veterinary Medicine)

To the Honorable Members of the House Committee on Agriculture:

Neighborhood Cats, a nonprofit registered in Hawaii, wishes to express our **strong support** for SB2798 SD1 HD1.

Our organization focuses on solving cat overpopulation, a particularly acute issue on Maui where we are based and throughout the State of Hawaii. We rely on the services of veterinarians for spay/neuter and wellness services. Considering the current nation-wide shortage of veterinarians, the provisions of SB2798 SD1 HD1 are critical to the success of our ongoing mission, including allowing temporary permits for out-of-state practitioners and licensure of graduates of international veterinary medical schools.

We also support the use of veterinary telemedicine as a way to make services more efficient and accessible for all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for considering our views,



Bryan Kortis



March 28, 2022

To: Chair Rep. Aaron Johanson  
Vice Chair Rep. Lisa Kitagawa  
And Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Submitted By: Kaua'i Humane Society

RE: Testimony in support to SB2798: Relating to Veterinary Medicine

The Kaua'i Humane Society supports Senate Bill 2798 and appreciates the acknowledgment that access to veterinary care is a high priority to Hawai'i's pet owners and Hawai'i's animal welfare organizations. The demand for veterinary services continues to grow, but a shortage of veterinarians impedes pet owners and animal welfare organizations from providing the best care to those in need, especially on the island of Kaua'i.

Kaua'i has limited veterinary care within the private and animal welfare sector, often resulting in pet owners feeling helpless. Kaua'i Humane Society also needs assistance in order to meet the veterinary demands of its own shelter population. Senate Bill 2798 will support the animals of Kaua'i and the Kaua'i Humane Society during times of natural disasters, rescues (such as hoarding and cruelty cases), and everyday care.

The passing of Senate Bill 2798 will improve the care Kaua 'i's pets and homeless animals receive by permitting licensed veterinarians to qualify for temporary permits, increasing the opportunity to hire veterinarians, and opening the door to quality telemedicine. Thank you for considering our testimony on this important issue.

Respectfully,

Nicole Schafer Crane  
Executive Director

**Testimony of the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine**

**Before the  
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00pm.  
Conference Room 329 and Videoconference**

**On the following measure:  
S.B. 2798, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Johanson 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 purposes of this bill are to: (1) authorize the Board to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians; (2) permit licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine; and (3) allow for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for licensure examination.

The Board supports the intent of this bill respectfully requesting the following amendments.

- Page 6, lines 13 and 14:

**§471-C Sponsors; responsibilities.** For the purposes of [~~sections 471-1 and 471-B~~] of this chapter and the board's rules, a sponsor shall be responsible for:

The Board recommends including reference to its entire statutory chapter and administrative rules as sponsors are also responsible for veterinarians who come to Hawaii as part of an emergency response as referenced in the new statutory material included on page 16, lines 7 to 16, section 471-2(8).

- Page 9, lines 13 to 18:

**§471-E Permit surcharge.** (a) There shall be imposed on every courtesy permit and relief permit issued by the board pursuant to sections 471-A and 471-B a \$100 surcharge that shall be deposited into the compliance resolution fund established under section [~~269-9 (e)~~] 26-9(o) to defray the costs incurred by the department in administering those permits.

(b) Application fees paid pursuant to this chapter shall not be refundable. Pursuant to section 26-9(l), the director shall establish examination, reexamination, license, renewal, restoration, enforcement, and other fees relating to the administration of his chapter by rule."

These amendments to this section are being requested to: (1) provide the correct statutory citation (i.e., HRS section 26-9(o), and not section 269-9(o)); and (2) allows the Director of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to, among other things, establish fees.

- Page 13, lines 5 to 9:

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

The Board recommends that "licensed" be inserted before "veterinarian" to indicate that the veterinarian is credentialed by the State of Hawaii and to ensure that the veterinarian providing the veterinary telesupervision maintains a veterinarian-client-patient relationship.

- Page 18, section 7 be amended as follows:

This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

This will allow the Professional and Vocational Licensing Division adequate time to create the permits in the its licensing software, update its applications, and make the appropriate web updates necessary for the courtesy and relief permits while allowing the rest of the changes to be implemented immediately.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

March 28, 2022

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DVM, DACVB  
*Pleasanton, CA*

Erin Spencer, M.Ed.,  
CVT, VTS (ECC)  
*Derry, NH*

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chairman and  
Members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce Committee  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: **VETERINARY SUPPORT** for HB 1598, allowing temporary permitting of  
veterinarians visiting Hawaii, and allowing veterinary telemedicine in the state

Dear Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Honorable Committee Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association  
(HSVMA) to convey our strong organizational support of House Bill 1598.

HSVMA is a national association of approximately 9,000 veterinary professionals  
focused on the health and welfare of all animals, including companion animals.

This legislation would allow out-of-state veterinarians to be granted courtesy and  
relief permits to practice temporarily in Hawaii. The bill would also allow for the  
practice of veterinary telemedicine in the state. Both of these provisions would  
expand the scope of veterinary services, providing Hawaii families broader and more  
flexible access to critical medical care for their pets.

Hawaii veterinary care relies heavily on visiting veterinary specialists, as we have  
almost no full-time specialists in the state. Unfortunately, patients in need of  
advanced medical care have suffered without access to this specialty care. It is  
inexcusable that the quality of care available in Hawaii has been so severely  
restricted after years of building relationships with a wide range of specialists.

We strongly urge you to demonstrate your humane leadership by supporting  
passage of HB 1598.

Respectfully,



Ranaella Steinberg, DVM  
HSVMA Hawaii State Representative



**HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION  
PO BOX 61309, HONOLULU HAWAII 96839-1309**

March 29, 2022

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

RE: SB 2798 SD1 HD1, Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA), I would like to express our strong support of SB 2798 SD1 HD1 and its strengthening of Hawaii's veterinary practice laws.

SB 2798 SD1 HD1 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 471 on Veterinary Medicine to better define the practice and parameters of veterinary medicine and veterinary telehealth to protect consumers and their pets from inadequate, improper, or unlicensed veterinary care. In addition, it addresses the current shortage of veterinary specialists and practitioners in Hawaii by allowing the Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant temporary permits to out-of-state veterinarians and provides for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for licensure examination in Hawaii.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought about consumer demand for telehealth in the field of veterinary medicine. Veterinary telemedicine has allowed consumers more access to veterinary services for their pets, particularly in areas where access to veterinary care is limited. However, HVMA is aware that the use of veterinary telemedicine may also be abused without an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship. Without actual physical examination of a pet, veterinary services rendered through telemedicine alone can be inadequate and below the standard of veterinary care. The addition of veterinary telehealth definitions and parameters will help to clarify the practice of veterinary telehealth and assist the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine in ensuring consumers in Hawaii receive proper and licensed veterinary telemedicine services.

Additionally, the pandemic highlighted the shortage of veterinarians available to provide specialty and routine veterinary care for Hawaii's people and their pets. At times, veterinary emergency hospitals were unable to operate 24/7 and surgeon schedules were completely booked for months due to the inability to fill these staffing shortages by temporary permit. In one specific case, there was a veterinary surgeon within the state that could have assisted during this period, but due to her international veterinary school degree, was unable to sit for Hawaii's state licensing exam due to a technicality in the administrative rules. These amendments are critically important to prevent such veterinary care shortages in the future, and to ensure that all qualified veterinarians are allowed to sit for the Hawaii state licensing exam.

The HVMA requests that the SB2789 SD1 HD1 effective date be amended to become effective immediately. We understand that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs will need time to implement the temporary license permitting process and are open to language that would allow time for this implementation. However, it is critical that the remainder of the proposed bill become effective immediately, as these changes have immediate positive implications on veterinary care available in the state, including providing regulatory definitions on veterinary telemedicine currently practiced in Hawaii, allowing for assistance from out-of-state veterinarians during emergency response events, and allowing qualified graduates of foreign colleges of veterinary medicine to sit for the Hawaii state licensing exam.

Hawaii's veterinary professionals continue to be stretched thin in striving to meet the high demand for general and specialty veterinary care across the islands. The changes proposed by SB 2798 SD1 HD1 will help us avoid veterinarian burnout and further loss of veterinary services available to the people and animals of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this important bill and the urgency of its implementation. Please SUPPORT SB2798 SD1 HD1 and its fortification of Hawaii's veterinary practice law. Please contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jill Yoshicedo', with a stylized, flowing script.

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM  
Executive Vice-President  
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:33:35 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am a longtime pet owner, aka owned by pets. I am in full support of this bill. We have a shortage of veterinarians in Hawaii. Our local vets need relief and help, especially in specialty areas. Avian vets are in short supply. They are the only ones who fully understand what is happening with birds. I had a cockatiel with fatty liver disease some years ago who was helped by my vet, who also attended a mainland conference where this was a topic and learned new treatments for my bird at a lecture.

Natural disasters add to the problem. We need to bring in vets during these times of crisis. Extra help is also needed during large scale animal rescues, which occur with too much regularity.

I am also in strong support of the telemedicine provisions of this bill. During COVID, especially in 2020 and early 2021, telemedicine was used in my medical care. There are times we do not need a physical meeting and telemedicine save time, travel, and the chance of contracting disease, especially COVID.

I urge you to move this bill forward. Please change the effective date to effective upon approval. If you don't there will be more deaths, more untreated animals, etc.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:48:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Ho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

Hi, I'm Jennifer Wood, an advocate for animals rights living in Nuuanu, and I support Bill SB2798 to allow vets from outside of Hawaii temporary permission to help in our Aloha state. This is an important issue for me as my dog Stilton had 5 cancer procedures over 3 years ago by an accomplished canine oncologist who was visiting our state. Because of her expertise, our family pet is still with us and healthy as can be. These people save lives.

Thank you,

Jennifer

808-221-7229

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:03:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Eubank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 2798.

Mahalo,

Susan Eubank

Diamond Head

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 4:56:22 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole R. Richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I join the Hawaiian Humane Society, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board, and animal welfare professionals in strongly supporting this bill with the amendment to Section 7 as proposed by HHS which allows foreign licensed veterinarians temporarily or in emergencies to assist our local veterinarians and deletes hurdles for local licensure, as well as permit telemedicine where appropriate.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:08:17 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2798 and encourage you to do the same.

As a companion of two cats, I know from personal experience that there are not enough veterinarians on the island of Oahu to meet animals' needs. By granting temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, licensed veterinarians will be able to practice veterinarian telemedicine. It also allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination. This will be an important advance.

Importantly, this bill also establishes rules around veterinary telemedicine to protect animals and their caregivers.

Please support SB2798.

Thank you,

Nandita Sharma, Ph.D.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:09:59 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the Hawaiian Humane Society in trying to move this bill forward.



**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:39:10 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joanna p milo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i agree..please allow and pass

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:57:56 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please consider passing this bill. Hawaii has a shortage of veterinary care that is especially dire on the neighbor islands. Passing This bill Will be steps towards addressing the shortage.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 6:03:23 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Gollero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I reside in Palolo and am in support of this much needed bill. Hawaii pet owners desperately need more available vets, especially specialists. Most times I have to wait a month for an appointment, and have no choice but to go to the emergency hospital, wait for hours to be seen, and am charged significantly more. This bill will be a huge relief, not only to pet owners, but to the vets who are overwhelmed by the demand for services.

**Please add the following amendment so that most of the provisions in the bill will become law as soon as it is signed by Gov. David Ige:**

Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

Mahalo,

Bonnie Gollero

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 7:15:44 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Graham-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2798 SD1 HD1. Please pass this. Thank you.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:06:25 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Saul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for SB2798 SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Please support the passage of this bill which would facilitate veterinary care that in a variety of circumstances might otherwise be lacking for pets and other resident animals. It is my understanding that the provisions in this bill allow for appropriate supervision of qualified invited practitioners and that the bill is supported by many local veterinarians as well as the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board. It will also be welcomed by many in the community concerned with the welfare of animals, and consequently their owners.

Thank you.

Aloha

Alice Saul  
Hawaii Kai, Honolulu

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:30:06 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael D Parker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill.

This will help our very limited veterinarians here in Hawaii.

Mahalo

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 9:39:11 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOANNE PARKER	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need your support please.

Any animal in need will suffer should our state have another weather disaster or another puppy mill is discovered. We don't even have enough vets on staff!

Please support this very important bill.

Mahalo

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 10:54:51 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary James	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please make the changes requested by the Hawaiian Humane Society:

Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2023.



**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 1:20:26 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

We write in support of SB2798 SD1, HD1 *Relating to Veterinary Medicine* which will be heard by the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce on March 30 2022.

This measure, which has Hawaiian Humane's strong support, authorizes the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to grant temporary courtesy and relief permits for out-of-state veterinarians, permits licensed veterinarians to practice veterinarian telemedicine and allows for international veterinary school graduates to qualify for the licensure examination.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practise in Hawaii for decades until a decision by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board a little over year ago. Over those decades they have provided vital services including assistance with animal rescues and disaster response; high-quality, high-volume spay/neuter; relief for private-practice and shelter veterinarians; and access to specialties unavailable in the state. This bill restores that lifeline.

The bill allows veterinarians with foreign credentials to apply for state licensure, opening up a new pipeline of qualified professionals at a time when there is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters.

The bill establishes rules around veterinary telemedicine, which gained importance during the pandemic, to ensure that this tool is used in ways that protect animals and consumers.

Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain co-operates with our friends in Hawai'i and begs to support the motion.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 7:19:57 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bill Dixon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill addresses a crisis-level shortage of veterinarians in Hawaii by:

- Restoring the right of qualified out-of-state veterinarians to practice here.
- Creating a right for veterinarians with foreign credentials to apply for Hawaii licenses.
- Establishing rules for veterinary telemedicine.

The bill has been amended so that most of its provisions will become law on signing by the governor (two provisions -- Section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, -- will take effect on July 1, 2023).

The legislation was developed by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association, Hawaiian Humane Society and other local stakeholders, and is supported by the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board. It deserves your support.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 7:45:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Chiwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Johanson, Vice Chairperson Kitagawa and Committee Members.

I am Jennifer Chiwa, have lived on Oahu my whole life and currently reside in Makiki.

Please support SB 2798 SD 1 HD 1 relating to veterinary medicine. It's my understanding that there is a great need for this bill which will help in the care of animals, assist in providing access to care for pet owners and support local veterinarians. Also, please consider amending this bill so that it will take effect as soon as Governor Ige signs it.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:04:48 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Ako DVM	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Representative Johanson and Committee members,

Please pass SB2798 for us to be able to continue serving  
our community.

There is a nationwide shortage of qualified veterinarians.

The challenges of attracting veterinarians to our State here in the middle of the  
Pacific are unique. Local veterinarians are being "maxed out" in service and need relief.

Please pass this bill which will clarify the language of the laws governing the issue.

At 67, I am working 6 days a week on Oahu and Lanai. I love what I do, but....

Respectfully yours,

Eric Ako DVM

Past Chair, Board of Veterinary Medicine

Past President and Executive Vice President, Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association

Founder, Windward Community College Veterinary Technology Program

Board member, Hawaiian Humane Society

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 8:50:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane E Arnold	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass SB2798. Thank you.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:19:47 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. It will help animals in Hawaii.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:21:08 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie McLaughlin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this important bill. It will help animals in Hawaii.

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 9:50:05 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill. Allowing veterinarians from other states to work here in emergency situation is a benefit for Hawaii. I hope you will support this bill and its enactment as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Kent



**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 11:54:43 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Forshey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2798, SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

House Committee on Consumer Protection &amp; Commerce

To be heard by CPC on **Wednesday, 03-30-22 2:00PM**

Rep. Aaron L. Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

Chair Rep. Johanson, Vice Chair, Rep. Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to articulate my support for this important initiative. As a (rescue) pet owner and animal lover, I firmly support this effort to bring Hawaii's veterinary services and procedures into the 21st century. Clearly, the authors and legislators supporting this bill understand Hawaii's needs, the value of cooperation with other professionals across the country, internationally, and the enhanced health benefits associated with telemedicine.

Clearly, our local professionals with both the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association and the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Board are promoting best practices in crafting and supporting this important piece of legislation. These professionals seek to create valuable partnerships with other states and countries to open up a new source of qualified veterinarians at a time when there is a nationwide shortage and open positions across our state.

Having volunteered with the Hawaiian Humane Society during their massive Waianae rescue effort, 2016/17, I fully appreciate the importance and value of providing timely vital medical services to rescued animals. This bill will allow us to ramp-up our care-givers and provide rapid assistance during animal rescue efforts, pandemics, or natural disasters. The past two years have reinforced our need to be proactive and creative in providing medical and other services across our state and country. This effort represents the type of change that must occur.

This important piece of legislation has improved through the legislative process. I believe it will promote greater protection and care for our animals and provide enhanced access for pet owners while supporting our hardworking local veterinarians. I urge you to favorably consider this forward-looking legislation. M. A. Forshey, Ewa Beach



**I support!**

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Mahalo,

Alberta Joy Freidus-Flagg  
Honolulu, HI 96826

Please Pass Senate Bill 2798  
Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, March 30, 2:00 pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

Please pass SB2798 to help local veterinarians and pet owners.

Local veterinary clinics are overwhelmed. Even regular appointments are challenging to get, and it can take months to see a specialist. Our veterinarians are doing their best, but there simply aren't enough of them and this bill would allow them more flexibility in terms of getting help for their clients.

This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers, and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Sheri Iha  
Kailua, HI 96734

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, March 30, 2:00 pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

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This bill is a reasonable approach that will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to help local veterinarians and their clients. Its provisions protect animals and consumers, and it has my strong support.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lori Endo  
Honolulu, HI 96816

Strong SUPPORT for SB2798 SD1 HD1

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

**Please add the amendment as requested by the Hawaiian Humane Society. This program doesn't seem to allow underlining but the HHS testimony has the underlining. Please make the changes requested by HHS:**

**Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2023**

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Mahalo,

Mary James  
Kailua, HI 96734

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the committee,

SB2798 SD1 HD1 is a vitally important bill for Hawaii's animals, pet owners and veterinarians and I urge you to give it your full support.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii until recently. A number of stakeholders, from the veterinary community to animal welfare groups, worked together to draft this bill and restore that important lifeline.

There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology, and forensic veterinary medicine.

Please pass SB2798 SD1 HD1 and allow veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of our local veterinarians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalie Spencer

Honolulu, HI 96825

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

**I strongly support this bill SB 2798 SD1 HD1. We are currently experiencing such a vet shortage and this bill would allow out of state licensed veterinarians to work in Hawaii temporarily with permits and this bill also allows veterinarians from foreign credentials to apply for state licensure. It would be a great help for spay neuter clinics and also a great help in private veterinary practice. The need for additional qualified veterinarians is real and the animals as well as farm animals suffer tremendously. Your support in this bill is so appreciated. Mahalo!**

Helene Navaro  
Hilo, HI 96720



Support for SB2798 SD1 HD1

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the committee,

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There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology, and forensic veterinary medicine.

Please pass SB2798 SD1 HD1 and allow veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of our local veterinarians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Serena Stefanic-Phillip

Hauula, HI 96717

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the committee,

SB2798 SD1 HD1 is a vitally important bill for Hawaii's animals, pet owners and veterinarians and I urge you to give it your full support. **Please support this bill as we can use all the help we can get in field of veterinary medicine.**

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii until recently. A number of stakeholders, from the veterinary community to animal welfare groups, worked together to draft this bill and restore that important lifeline.

There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology, and forensic veterinary medicine.

Please pass SB2798 SD1 HD1 and allow veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of our local veterinarians.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Martha Randolph  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

**In 2006, HB 1836 was supported with over 5,000 Hawai'i (Big Island) signatures. 16 years ago, our island(s) have a Veterinarian shortage, and now its worse. With an increase of population of both human and animals, with request of needed service are either turned away because Veterinarians are not taking new costumer's, or appointments are over three week wait times. We Hui Pono Holoholona, help with the cost for feline spay and neuter, because most are not able to afford the exorbitant cost. Spay and Neuter saves lives, and decreases unwanted litter births that leads to animal abuse, and abandonment. The point is we need intervention to allow out of state veterinarian's in good standing to visit our island to perform Spay and Neuter Clinics. Veterinarian Dr. Eric Jayne an extraordinary skilled and specifically provided excellent Spay and Neuter clinics was recently killed in a vehicle accident. We need this bill to pass. Sixteen years ago, our island people with over 5,000 signatures wanted HB 1836 very similar to this bill to Pass. So please this is important that it does, as it will serve our community, and benefit in decreasing our animal overpopulation humanely and intelligently.**

I urge the committee to pass SB2798.

Mahalo,

Frannie Pueo  
Mountain View, HI 96771

Please Pass Senate Bill 2798

Representative Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair  
Representative Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair  
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, March 30, 2:00 pm  
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Aloha Chair Johanson, Vice Chair Kitagawa and members of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

**My son, Luke, and I support SB2798, SD1, HD1. With the shortage of local veterinarians, allowing a pathway for temporary licenses to allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to assist in situations such as emergency treatment, disaster relief, and high-volume spay/neuter is important for the care of Hawai'i animals and protection of Hawai'i's consumers.**

**Luke (elementary school student) says, "There is a shortage of veterinarians and that is putting stress on local veterinarians. There are a lot of open veterinarian positions in the state of Hawaii. This bill will help animals get emergency treatment by letting veterinarians come in quickly. I care about this issue because I have a cat."**

**We urge you to support this bill and we also urge you to adopt the following amendment: Section 7. This Act shall take effect upon approval; provided that section 1, 471-A courtesy permits and 471-B relief permits, shall take effect on July 1, 2023.**

Mahalo,  
Elna & Luke Nagasako  
Makiki  
Honolulu, HI 96822

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

I want to share my strong support for SB 2798 SD1 HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

Hawaii's geographic isolation leaves it vulnerable when natural or manmade emergencies require expert boots on the ground quickly. This critical bill will allow qualified out-of-state veterinarians to be invited to the state immediately to assist our local veterinarians in the case of natural disasters or animal rescues. This is a win for our local animals.

Mainland veterinarians also have played an important role in spay/neuter in Hawaii. In years past they have participated in high-volume traveling clinics throughout the state that help sterilize Free-Roaming cats and the pets of owners who otherwise lack access to affordable veterinary care. This bill would allow those activities to resume.

**Please approve this bill, plus add on Section 7 so it becomes law when the Governor signs. Animals here need this, Mahalo!**

Lee Cuccia  
Kailua, HI 96734

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 329  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa, and committee members,

**I strongly support SB2798 SD1 HD1 for qualified out of state veterinarians to provide services. This service can provide support to a gap in veterinary coverage, helping animals but also helping pet owners, as well as strays. Helping strays, helps the community at large.**

Mahalo for your consideration.

Very truly yours,  
Cynthia F Tucker, Psy.,D.  
Kailua, HI 96734

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Chair

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 30, 2022

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Dear Representative Johanson, Representative Kitagawa and members of the committee,

SB2798 SD1 HD1 is a vitally important bill for Hawaii's animals, pet owners and veterinarians and I urge you to give it your full support.

Qualified out-of-state veterinarians had been allowed to practice in Hawaii until recently. A number of stakeholders, from the veterinary community to animal welfare groups, worked together to draft this bill and restore that important lifeline.

There is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters, putting stress on local veterinarians.

Both private clinics and animal welfare nonprofits rely on qualified out-of-state veterinarians for relief support and the provision of expertise that is rare or completely unavailable in the state, such as dermatology, oncology, and forensic veterinary medicine.

**Please pass this important bill. Out of state/country Veterinarians should be allowed to practice with limited restrictions to augment Hawaii's Veterinarians.**

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Josie Josypenko

Kaneohe, HI 96744

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 2:23:52 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

**LATE**

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis E. Jamison	Cat People of Oahu	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's veterinary needs cannot currently be adequately met strictly by in-state practitioners. Given the extent of our pet overpopulation problem, it is critical to bring in qualified veterinarians from other states to provide services to support and supplement the practices of our amazing local veterinarians. One of the greatest areas of need is to bring in skilled high-volume spay and neuter veterinarians to address the root of the pet overpopulation problem. Additionally, the ability for veterinarians to practice telemedicine will help alleviate the current wait time for appointments, by allowing individuals with non-urgent issues to consult with a licensed veterinarian without the burden of an in-clinic visit. Accordingly, we strongly support SB2798 SD1 HD1 relating to veterinary medicine.



**LATE**

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/30/2022 8:36:03 AM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frances Pueo	Hui Pono Holoholona	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Frances Pueo of Hui Pono Holoholona spay/neuter animal organization support SB2798 SD1 HD.

History: In 2006 HB 1836 was supported with over 5,000 signatures requesting very similar as this Bill SB2797, in allowing out-of-state Veterinarians in good standing receive temporary relief permits to assist necessary animal care where needed.

On the Big Island: Hawai'i community is under a veterinarian shortage. Many of our Veterinarians are in their mid 60's close to retirement with no young replacements. Many will not take on new clients. That is a clear sign that we have more animals in need, and a veterinarian shortage.

With the cost of living in paradise, and with student loans coming due, what bright young veterinarian would be attracted to commit residence here?

During the 2014-15 Volcano eruption Hui Pono Holoholona as with many other animal organizations raced against lava flows to rescue all animals. We had little or no help from the Humane Society, they were not able to provide the necessary emergency service.

During the 2018 Volcano eruption, it was horrible without veterinarian assistance to service the number of animals in desperate need.

Multiple problems: 1. Finding a veterinarian already overwhelmed with their own practice to agree to take on new patients. 2. The type of emergency care needed immediate attention. 3. The animals rescued were in need of ongoing care towards wellness. 4. Responsibility for payment for veterinarian care and medication during emergencies such as these type of crisis were absorbed by Rescue organizations and donations.

To sponsor no cost, low cost Spay and Neuter clinics, we need this bill to pass. These type of clinics are highly effective in decreasing animal overpopulation humanely by preventing unwanted litter births. Unwanted litter births are subjected to animal cruelty and abandonment.

Respectively

Frannie Pueo (808) 769-1128

Hui Pono Holoholona

**LATE**

**SB-2798-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/29/2022 3:47:32 PM

Testimony for CPC on 3/30/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing to urge you to pass SB 2798.

I strongly support this bill. SB 2798 allows veterinarians licensed in good standing in other states or Canada to work in Hawaii at the invitation of local veterinarians in emergency situations or if they qualify for either of two new types of temporary permit. The bill therefore allows veterinarians with foreign credentials to apply for state licensure, opening up a new pipeline of qualified professionals at a time when there is a nationwide shortage of veterinarians and there are open positions across our state in both private clinics and animal shelters.

We are in desperate need of more licensed professionals in this field.

Please pass SB2798.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

Oahu, lifelong resident