

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:38:20 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Testifying for Maui Humane Society	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB874 has the strong support of Maui Humane Society.

This consumer protection measure will ensure that pet owners have the flexibility to find affordable options for taking care of their pets. It means that veterinary clinics will have to provide written prescriptions, just like human doctors do, and allow their clients to look for the best price they can find to provide needed care for their pet. It also allows all licensed pharmacies in the state to fulfill prescriptions for pets.

Expense was the top challenge cited by pet owners in a 2024 survey commissioned by the Hawaiian Humane Society and performed by Ward Research. When given detailed options to choose from, the top challenge was specifically finding affordable veterinary care.

This measure is a positive step toward enabling competitive pricing for veterinary prescriptions, crucial for keeping Hawaii's pets and families together.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D., 758 Queens Street, Lāna`i City, HI. 96763

Board Member, Maui Humane Society

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:29:07 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Hussenbux	Testifying for Animal Interfaith Alliance in Britain	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support SB874 SD1.

This consumer protection measure will ensure that guardians of companion animals have the flexibility to find affordable options for taking care of their animals. It means that veterinary clinics will have to provide written prescriptions and allow their clients to look for the best price to provide needed care for them. It also allows all licensed pharmacies in the state to fill prescriptions for animals.

Expense was the main problem cited by guardians in a 2024 survey commissioned by the Hawaiian Humane Society and performed by Ward Research.

Affordable veterinary care helps everyone and will surely mean that companion animals not properly treated or even abandoned because of lack of funds will not become the responsibility of over-burdened animal rescues.

We beg to endorse SB874 SD1.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: Feb. 24, 2026

To: Chair Sen. Jarrett Keohokalole
Vice Chair Sen. Carol Fukunaga
and Members of the Committee on
Commerce and Consumer Protection

Submitted By: Stephanie Kendrick, Vice President of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 874, SD1: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Thursday, Feb. 26, 2026, 9:45 a.m., Room 229 & Videoconference

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, mahalo for considering the Hawaiian Humane Society's support for Senate Bill 874, SD1, which requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship; allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians; and authorizes the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

In a 2024 Ward Research survey commissioned by the Hawaiian Humane Society, 45 percent of O'ahu pet owners said that cost was the top challenge related to having a pet in their lives. When given specific concerns to choose from, 33 percent said they had struggled to afford veterinary care. Despite these challenges, 75 percent of pet owners said that their animals saw a veterinarian at least once a year. This shows an incredible level of commitment among local pet owners. This measure supports that commitment by giving pet owners the freedom to shop for competitive pricing on pet medications.

The provisions of this measure are also consistent with the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) 2025 Model Practice Act (MVPA)* which recommends public policy best practices to lawmakers nationwide.

We urge the committee to pass SB874, SD1, to alleviate financial pressures on our pet-loving families while ensuring that animals get the care they need. Mahalo for your consideration.

* <https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2025-07/Model-Veterinary-Practice-Act-2025.pdf>



HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 61309, Honolulu, Hawaii 96839-1309

February 24, 2026

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

RE: SB 874, SD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection:

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA), we would like to offer support for SB 874, SD1 as written in its establishment of a state law requiring veterinarians to provide written prescriptions at a client's request.

While Hawaii Revised Statutes 471-10 already requires licensed veterinarians in Hawaii to provide written prescriptions at a client's request following the American Veterinary Medical Association's published standards of Veterinary Medical Ethics, SB 874, SD1 would more specifically govern this practice.

We greatly appreciate the inclusion of several amendments into SB 874, SD1 that ensure veterinarians are not unfairly burdened with this law. These include specifying that written or digital communication is sufficient to inform clients of their rights to a written prescription, deleting the unusual requirement for a written prescription to include cautionary statements, and releasing veterinarians providing written prescriptions from any liability for issues arising from obtaining medication from external sources.

I am available to answer any questions if needed. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Yoshicedo".

Jill Yoshicedo, DVM
Executive Vice-President
Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association
contact@hawaiiivetmed.org

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 6:13:53 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Increases choice. Also, it might lower total cost of treating a sick or injured animal potentially getting more animals treated.

Testimony in Support of SB874, SD1
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026, 9:45 am

Honorable Chair and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

I am writing as a private citizen in strong support of SB874, SD1.

The lack of access to affordable veterinary care is already one of the biggest barriers to responsible pet ownership in Hawai'i. When families cannot afford treatment, pets suffer, and too often they end up surrendered to shelters or going without the care they need. Giving pet guardians the ability to seek competitive pricing on prescriptions is a practical step toward keeping animals healthy and with the people who love them.

Having two senior dogs – and recently been adopted by a 20-year-old cat – this feels like common sense to me. Requiring veterinarians to provide written prescriptions upon request is a simple, reasonable consumer protection. This is something we expect from our own doctors, and pet guardians deserve the same flexibility to seek the most affordable options for their animals. When people can afford to fill a prescription, they do. When they cannot, they walk away, and the animal goes without care.

I also want to acknowledge that many responsible veterinarians – my own incredible vet included – already provide written prescriptions as a matter of good practice and client care, and I do not believe the intent of this measure is to create an undue burden. It simply ensures that all practitioners meet that same standard. Requiring a written prescription does not prevent a client from filling it at the same clinic. It gives them the flexibility to find what works best for their family and their pet. And pet guardians who feel supported in making affordable choices are more likely to continue seeking veterinary care, which ultimately benefits the profession as a whole.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB874, SD1.

Respectfully submitted,
Brandy Shimabukuro

Testimony in Support of SB874 SD1, Relating to Veterinary Medicine.

SB874 requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship; allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians; and authorizes the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

Signed Judith Aikawa, MD

37 Apali Way

Kula, HI 96790

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:29:56 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

i support your bill

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:23:05 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
carole richelieu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support. Affordability is a major issue.
Hawaii Kai voter

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:23:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB874 SD1. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I reside at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:00:09 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is testimony in strong support of SB874. Having been the owner of many pets over the years, I would have welcomed the option to choose a pharmacy of my own choice instead of having medications filled by the vet's office. Just as we have the option of comparing prices for our own prescriptions we should have the same option for filling prescriptions for our pets. They are members our family and should have the same options the human members have.

Lynne Matusow

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:10:41 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I respectfully support SB874 because it advances consumer choice, voluntary exchange, and fair market competition while preserving appropriate standards of veterinary care.

Pet owners bear the responsibility and cost of caring for their animals and should retain the right to choose where prescribed medications are filled. SB874 affirms this principle by ensuring that veterinary medical judgment is not functionally tied to a captive retail transaction. Separating diagnosis from dispensing mirrors long-standing practices in human healthcare and reduces conflicts of interest without compromising patient safety.

The bill also promotes price transparency and competition by lowering artificial barriers that can limit access to affordable medications, particularly for families and rural residents. Importantly, SB874 preserves the veterinarian-client-patient relationship, requires appropriate examinations, and maintains professional accountability, ensuring that animal health and safety remain paramount.

In this way, SB874 corrects a market distortion created by licensing and dispensing rules rather than imposing new price controls or mandates. It strengthens trust between veterinarians and clients and allows market forces, not regulatory bottlenecks, to discipline pricing and access.

To further improve the bill while preserving its core intent, I respectfully offer the following recommendations:

First, the Legislature may wish to allow veterinarians to charge a modest, clearly disclosed administrative fee for preparing written prescriptions. This would respect freedom of contract while still preventing anti-competitive bundling of medical services and retail sales.

Second, enforcement could be calibrated to avoid unnecessary expansion of licensing board power. Rather than treating all noncompliance as automatic professional misconduct, the bill could adopt graduated penalties or prioritize consumer-driven remedies before license discipline is imposed.

Third, clarifying that pharmacies may dispense only medications approved and appropriate for veterinary use would prevent regulatory ambiguity and ensure the bill remains narrowly tailored.

Finally, a sunset or legislative review clause would allow lawmakers to evaluate the bill's real-world impact on costs, access, and animal health outcomes, ensuring accountability and guarding against regulatory drift.

With these refinements, SB874 would further align Hawai'i law with consumer rights, competition, and limited government principles, while maintaining high standards of veterinary care.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony in support of SB874.

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:37:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because : It requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship; allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians; and authorizes the Hawai‘i Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license. I

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:55:37 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Stefanic-Phillip	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of Bill SB874.

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:37:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Senator Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Fukunaga and Members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Please support SB 874 SD 1 which I understand would greatly help pet owners with veterinary costs. This would then help them to keep their pets instead of surrendering them due to unaffordable veterinary costs.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:26:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB 874.

This measure requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription, upon the request of a client, for any animal patient of a client with whom the veterinarian has established an existing veterinarian-client-patient relationship; allows pharmacies licensed in the State to dispense medications prescribed by veterinarians; and authorizes the Hawai'i Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

These are crucial regulations that must be passed.

Thank you in advance for your support of SB 874.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

voter and lifelong resident

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:49:17 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB874, which will require veterinarians to provide a written prescription to their clients who request one. This will improve the ability of those who need to shop around for best prices on prescriptions for their pets. This is especially important for those who are on fixed incomes and those who do rescue work.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

LATE

SB-874-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:51:18 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/26/2026 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miri Yi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony in Strong Support of SB874 SD1

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB874 SD1, which requires veterinarians to provide a written prescription upon a client's request and clarifies that licensed pharmacies may dispense these medications.

SB874 SD1 protects consumer choice, access and ensures that when a pet owner requests a written prescription, they can take it to the pharmacy of their choosing. That improves practical access for many families, including those who need a specific pharmacy location, hours, delivery options, or help coordinating refills.

Helps affordability through price transparency and competition. Pet medications can be quite expensive. Allowing owners to fill prescriptions at the pharmacy of their choice supports comparison shopping and may reduce cost barriers that can delay treatment.

By explicitly authorizing the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, the bill provides the necessary regulatory teeth to ensure compliance across the state.

SB874 SD1 simply guarantees a consumer's right to choose where they fulfill their pet's medical purchases. I respectfully urge the committee to pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Miri Yi