

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:12:58 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ARH is in strong support of SB874. Mahalo.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: March 20, 2026

To: Chair Rep. Cory Chun
Vice Chair Rep. Matthias Kusch
and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 874, SD2: Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Wednesday, March 25, 2026, 9:15 a.m., Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch and Members of the Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, mahalo for considering the Hawaiian Humane Society's support for Senate Bill 874, SD2, 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, SD2, 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>

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 4:21:08 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

We strongly support SB874. This consumer protection measure will ensure that guardians of companion animals have the flexibility to find affordable options for taking care of their 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.



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

March 22, 2026

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Representative Cory M. Chun, Chair
Representative Matthias Kusch, Vice Chair

RE: SB 874, SD2 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems:

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA), we would like to offer support for SB 874, SD2 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, SD2 would more specifically govern this practice.

We greatly appreciate the inclusion of several amendments into SB 874, SD2 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-2

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:15:54 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lei-Anne Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of lower costs. Thank you for your time!

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Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:23:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

i support SB874

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Submitted on: 3/20/2026 5:39:47 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB874 SD2.

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Submitted on: 3/20/2026 7:06:17 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill has my full support. I understand vet care is very expensive. I always ask my vet to write a prescription so I can get it filled elsewhere. They have high overhead and cannot get reasonably priced medicine, and most people don't ask about getting it elsewhere. It would help everyone and the pets they love if this was a mandatory option.

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Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:09:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it allows pet owners and other entities such as rescues to have the ability to purchase medications, more affordably, for their pets/animals. Pet care is costly in Hawaii so findings solutions to the high cost is a win for pet owners in Hawaii

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Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:48:17 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

This consumer protection measure will ensure that pet owners have the flexibility to find affordable options for taking care of their pets.

Hawaii Kai voter

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:35:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support SB 874. Many people have difficulty affording veterinary bills, and this bill would make vet care more affordable.

Thank you.

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 3:09:14 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 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 SD2.

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 can 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. This measure is a positive step toward enabling competitive pricing for veterinary prescriptions.

If owning pets was less of a financial burden, more people would have and keep pets (and not abandon them.)

Easing the financial burderns of pet ownership would not only help pets and families, but it would help alleviate many other problems surrounding abandoned pets.

Please pass SB 874 SD2.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 5:30:41 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am authorized on behalf of Maui Humane Society to voice our strong support for SB874, SD2. This consumer protection measure would require veterinary clinics to provide written prescriptions — just as human doctors do — giving pet owners the freedom to shop for the best price. It also authorizes all licensed pharmacies statewide to fill pet prescriptions.

Cost is a defining barrier to veterinary care. A 2024 survey commissioned by Hawaiian Humane Society and conducted by Ward Research found that affording veterinary care was the top challenge cited by pet owners. SB874 is a positive step in directly addresses this barrier by enabling competitive pricing for veterinary prescriptions.

We urge your support.

Kathy Carroll, Ph.D, Board Member, Maui Humane Society

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:19:09 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 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-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 9:27:18 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Wah	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am STRONGLY in SUPPORT of SB874 SD2.

This gives much needed flexibility for pet owners to get the best price for medications needed by their pets. Please pass this bill on behalf of pet and pet owners. Thank you!

Testimony in support of SB874, SD2

I am writing to voice strong support for SB874, SD2. This consumer protection measure would require veterinary clinics to provide written prescriptions — just as human doctors do — giving pet owners the freedom to shop for the best price. It also authorizes all licensed pharmacies statewide to fill pet prescriptions.

Cost is a defining barrier to veterinary care. A 2024 survey commissioned by Hawaiian Humane Society and conducted by Ward Research found that affording veterinary care was the top challenge cited by pet owners. SB874 is a positive step in directly addresses this barrier by enabling competitive pricing for veterinary prescriptions.

Signed

Judith Aikawa, MD

37 Apali Way

Kula, HI 96790

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 6:24:39 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB874 SD2. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I live at Sunset Beach, Oahu.

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:58:24 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Chun, Vice Chair Representative Kusch and Members of the Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems.

Please support SB 874 SD 2. I understand that this bill 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.

Please vote for SB 874 SD 2.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu

Testimony of the Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
9:15 a.m.
Conference Room 325, Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 874, S.D. 2, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Chun and Members of the Committee:

My name is Chrissy Hoogland, and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Veterinary Medicine (Board). The Board supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to promote consumer choice, affordability, and transparency by ensuring pet owners in the State have the right to obtain and fill prescriptions for their animals at a pharmacy of their choice by removing barriers to competitive pricing, ensure fair access to veterinary medications, and enhance trust between veterinarians and their clients.

The Board supports S.B. 874, S.D. 2, as it codifies language from the American Veterinary Medical Association Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics which licensees are required to comply.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Personal Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 874, SD2
RELATING to VETERINARY MEDICINE

by
Jenee S. Odani

House Committee on Agriculture and Food Systems
Wednesday, March 25, 2026
9:15 am; via Video Conference

Aloha Chair Chun, Vice Chair Kusch, and members of the committee:

My name is Jenee Odani, and I am the veterinarian residing on Oahu who serves on the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association board as the alternate delegate to the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA).

I am grateful for the opportunity to provide personal testimony in **SUPPORT of SB 874**, which requires veterinarians to provide written prescriptions at a client's request.

HRS 471-10 currently requires licensed veterinarians in Hawaii to follow the AVMA's published standards of [Veterinary Medical Ethics](#), which includes honoring a client's request for a prescription; however, SB 874 SD2 specifically addresses veterinary written prescriptions and references issues such requiring a valid veterinary-client-patient-relationship and a release of liability for eternally sourced products.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this matter.

Sincerely,

Jenee S. Odani, DVM, DACVP
rockymau@gmail.com

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

Thank you for your support of SB874 SD2 requiring veterinarians to provide written prescriptions if requested.

I suggest one friendly clarifying change regarding notification. The current version of this bill proposes how to indicate how this notice shall be conveyed to the public under Section 2 of Chapter 471:

(b) A veterinarian shall give notice to a client of the client's right to request a written prescription from the veterinarian and the option to have it filled at a pharmacy of the client's choice; provided that the notice may be given via direct communication, posted signage, or digital communication.

We would like to request that this be simplified to ensure standardized notification, as the current wording relies on staff conveying this each time, which may be forgotten or not clearly communicated for whatever reasons. As such we would propose the following:

(b) A veterinarian shall give notice to a client of the client's right to request a written prescription from the veterinarian and the option to have it filled at a pharmacy of the client's choice; **Notice of this right shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the business premises.**

This ensures that each office will have the same information, conveyed uniformly. Note that this does not prevent a veterinarian from discussing this option with clients, nor does it prevent a veterinarian from conveying the same in digital communication, should they wish.

Now on to the merits of the bill itself:

This bill answers the needs stemming from the frustration and expense of Hawaii pet owners not being able to get or easily get a pet prescription to transfer to a pharmacy of their choice, should they choose to take it elsewhere. It removes ethical concerns over veterinarians not releasing prescriptions to be filled elsewhere, and aligns with recommended industry best practices. It strengthens trust between veterinarians and pet owners because veterinarians can focus on patient care.

For many people who face income insecurity, being forced to fill a pet's prescription at the vet's office or not knowing there is a choice leaves them with sometimes significant cost differences, since they may not know that or cannot get a prescription that taken to a pharmacy of their choice which may dramatically lower costs.

What follows is the rationale for this law, along with potential questions people might have with answers listed below.

Here are some points to consider:

REASONS WHY THIS LAW MAKES SENSE:

1. **Promotes Consumer Choice:** Pet owners gain the freedom to shop for competitive pricing on pet medications. Pet owners are still free to use their veterinarian or a pharmacist of their choice in filling the prescriptions.
2. **Encourages Fair Market Practices:** Prevents monopolistic practices where veterinarians act as sole suppliers of medications. This addresses a common grievance about pet medication choice and costs as seen from similar bills introduced across the nation.
3. **Improves Affordability and Accessibility:** Allows consumers freedom to access potentially less expensive medications available at retail or online pharmacies. This is especially helpful for those in rural areas or those with limited transportation options.
4. **Aligns with Industry Best Practices:** The American Veterinary Medical Association in its Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics has indicated to its members that they should honor client requests to fill a prescription at any pharmacy, in the absence of law requiring it. While this is nice, it is not being followed by many veterinarians.
5. **Supports Financial Equity:** Helps lower-income pet owners afford necessary treatments for their animals. It gives pet owners freedom to lower costs in the same way that they can fill prescriptions for themselves.
6. **Strengthens Veterinary-Client Patient Relationships:** By explicitly requiring a VCPR, the law ensures that prescriptions are based on sound medical judgment. It is also much more ethical for veterinarians when pet owners have a choice in where to purchase medicines, fostering trust and openness.
7. **Prevents Unnecessary Fees:** Prohibits veterinarians from charging extra for issuing a prescription.
8. **Ensures Safety:** By regulating pharmacies to adhere to the same rigorous safety standards for veterinary prescriptions as they do for human prescriptions.
9. **Aligns with States with Similar Laws:** California (California Code of Regulations, Title 16, Section 2032.1), Minnesota (Minnesota Statutes 156.18), Florida (Florida Administrative Code, Rule 64B16-28.108), Connecticut (Connecticut General Statutes Section 20-197e), Oregon (Oregon Revised Statutes 686.410), and Maine (Maine Revised Statutes Title 32, Section 4861-A) showcasing the practicality of these measures.
10. **Promotes Cost Transparency:** Aligns with Federal Trade Commission recommendations that transparency in prescription pricing benefits both consumers and competition.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS PEOPLE MIGHT ASK ABOUT THIS BILL:

Possible Concern 1: "Veterinarians' revenue will be negatively impacted."

Answer: The primary role of veterinarians is to provide medical care, not act as exclusive dispensaries. Revenue can be supplemented by focusing on services rather than markups on medications.

Possible Concern 2: "Veterinary-client relationships might be undermined."

Answer: Trust is built when clients feel empowered to make choices, and veterinarians can focus on diagnosis and care. Transparency fosters stronger, not weaker, relationships.

Possible Concern 3: "This isn't a requirement in the profession."

Answer: Informing clients of their rights is a standard ethical practice already recommended by the American Veterinary Medical Association in its "Principles of Veterinary Medical Ethics."

Possible Concern 4: "Veterinarians may lose control over patient care."

Answer: A valid Veterinary Care Patient Relationship ensures that veterinarians remain central to the decision-making process for animal care.

Possible Concern 5: "Additional administrative burden on veterinarians."

Answer: Providing a prescription is a straightforward process that adds the most minimal effort to a visit. Veterinarians must already document all medicines prescribed.

Possible Concern 6: "Veterinarians already comply with voluntary prescription guidelines."

Answer: While some veterinarians may choose to comply voluntarily, this is far from universal. Requiring notice of availability of written prescriptions ensures consistent consumer access and eliminates any ambiguity about their roles and responsibilities.

Possible Concern 7: "Pharmacies lack expertise in veterinary medications."

Answer: Pharmacies already dispense medications for humans and animals, adhering to rigorous safety standards. Questions on any veterinarian prescription can be answered by the veterinarian prescribing the drug as is currently the case.

Possible Concern 8: "Federal law already protects consumers."

Answer: Federal protections, such as these envisioned in this bill, have not been enacted. State-level action is necessary to address gaps in federal oversight and ensure local consumer protections.

Possible Concern 9: "Clients may overestimate their knowledge and misuse medications."

Answer: Veterinarians remain essential in providing guidance and ensuring proper use of medications, regardless of where they are purchased. Veterinarians should provide proper instructions as to dosage and use of medications regardless of where they are obtained.

Possible Concern 10: "Pharmacies might not have all necessary veterinary medications."

Answer: Pharmacies can be called in advance to see if a certain medicine is stocked and online pharmacies have enormous volumes of prescriptions. Veterinarians retain the ability to stock and dispense medications if preferred by the client. There is no requirement in this bill that requires clients to go elsewhere to fill a prescription if they so choose.

Please feel free to call me with any questions you may have and thank you again for your support of this bill for pet owners and their pets.

Winston Welch, Honolulu

LATE

SB-874-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 8:43:28 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/25/2026 9:15:00 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.