

Testimony of the Board of Veterinary Medicine

**Before the
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Thursday, April 2, 2026
2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329, Via Videoconference**

**On the following measure:
S.B. 874, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, RELATING TO VETERINARY MEDICINE**

Chair Matayoshi 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, H.D. 1, 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.

SB-874-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:34:42 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We strongly support SB874. Health care for companion animals has risen dramatically (as did human health care as well) Giving patients an option to choose a more economical dource for pet meds is a GOOD thing. Mahalo.



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: April 1, 2026

To: Chair Rep. Scot Matayoshi
Vice Chair Rep. Tina Grandinetti
and Members of the Committee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce

LATE

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

RE: Testimony in support of SB 874, SD2, HD1:
Relating to Veterinary Medicine
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 2:00 p.m., Room 329 & Videoconference

Mahalo for considering the Hawaiian Humane Society's support for Senate Bill 874, SD2, HD1, 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, HD1, 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

LATE

April 1, 2026

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

RE: SB 874, HD1 Relating to Veterinary Medicine

Dear Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce:

On behalf of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association (HVMA), we would like to offer support for SB 874, HD1 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, HD1 would more specifically govern this practice.

We greatly appreciate the inclusion of several amendments into SB 874, HD1 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 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", is written over a horizontal line.

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

SB-874-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 12:23:43 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

March 30th, 2026

Dear Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Committee Members,

Thank you for your support of SB874 SD2 HD1, which helps ensure that pet owners can obtain written prescriptions and access pharmacies of their choice.

I respectfully offer one clarifying amendment to strengthen how clients are notified of this right under Section 2 of Chapter 471.

The current language provides that notice may be given through direct communication, posted signage, or digital communication. While flexible, this approach **does not ensure that clients are meaningfully informed at the time prescribing decisions are made and lacks any mechanism for consistent or verifiable compliance.**

To address this, I respectfully propose the following revision:

(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; **This notice shall be provided through direct communication at the time a prescription medication is recommended or prescribed and shall be documented in the client's record. Posting signage or general digital communication may supplement, but shall not replace, this requirement.**

This refinement ensures that each client receives the same information at the moment it matters most—when a prescription decision is being made—while also establishing a consistent and verifiable standard of compliance. **Without a requirement for direct and documented notice, the right created in this section risks becoming nominal rather than meaningful.** Most veterinary practices already maintain detailed medical records, and documenting this notice can be done with minimal administrative effort.

This measure addresses a practical consumer issue: many pet owners are unaware that they may request a written prescription and have it filled at a pharmacy of their choice, which can result in significant cost differences. Ensuring that clients are clearly informed of this right improves transparency, promotes affordability, and allows families to make more informed decisions about their pet's care.

By strengthening and clarifying how this notice is provided, the bill can more effectively achieve its purpose of meaningful consumer choice rather than relying on passive or inconsistent forms of communication.

For these reasons, I respectfully support SB874 SD2 HD1 and request consideration of this clarifying amendment to ensure the bill's consumer protection intent is fully realized.

Thank your consideration of this testimony.

Winston Welch, Honolulu

SB-874-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/31/2026 1:25:09 PM

Testimony for CPC on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

In support of. Vet visits are so expensive that it seems like many don't go so therefore pets suffer. Also, euthanasia is sometimes chosen just because of treatment costs. This bill might lower the overall cost enough that more people can take sick pets in for treatment. Thank you.

SB-874-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 5:24:54 AM

Testimony for CPC on 4/2/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Representative Matayoshi, Vice Chair Representative Grandinetti and Members of the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce.

Please support SB 874 SD 2 HD 1 relating to veterinary medicine. This bill would be very beneficial to pet owners by keeping veterinary costs down which in turn would help them to keep their pets instead of surrendering them due to high veterinary costs.

Mahalo.

Jennifer Chiwa

Makiki and life long resident of Oahu