

BOARD OF VETERINARY MEDICINE
Professional and Vocational Licensing Division
Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs
State of Hawaii

MINUTES

Date: October 23, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: PVL Exam Room 330
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Virtual Videoconference Meeting - Zoom Webinar

[https://dcca-hawaii-
gov.zoom.us/j/82903704283?pwd=Hz18Wrg71SuFKmgpJja55FUMVrhVy
H.1](https://dcca-hawaii.gov.zoom.us/j/82903704283?pwd=Hz18Wrg71SuFKmgpJja55FUMVrhVyH.1)

Zoom Recording Link: https://youtu.be/NTtoER1JhUIU?si=f_TwdOMPLF7Wx1q5

Present: Marcella Chock, Chairperson (“Chair”)
Lisa Wood, D.V.M., Vice-Chairperson (“Vice-Chair”)
Craig Nishimoto, D.V.M., Member
Aileen Wada, Public Member
Shari J. Wong, Esq., Deputy Attorney General (“DAG”)
Kerrie Shahan, Executive Officer (“EO Shahan”)
Marc Yoshimura, Secretary

Excused: None.

Guests: VAI

Agenda: The agenda for this meeting was posted on the State electronic calendar as required by Hawaii Revised Statutes (“HRS”) section 92-7(b).

A brief video was played to explain procedures for this virtual meeting and how members of the public can participate and interact with the Board during the meeting.

Call to Order: The Chair proceeded with roll call. All Board members confirmed they were present and those joining via Zoom indicated that there was no one in the room with them. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m.

Approval of the July 12, 2024 Minutes: Chair Chock asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none. Dr. Nishimoto made the motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wood, and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2024 meeting.

Chapter 91, HRS,
Adjudicatory
Matters:

Chair Chock asked if any member of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

At 10:11 a.m., the Board meeting recessed to discuss and deliberate adjudicatory matters pursuant to HRS chapter.

- A. In the Matter of the License to Practice Veterinary Medicine of Malcolm E. Hickman, Jr., D.V.M.; VET-2023-7-L; Board's Final Order

Dr. Wood made a motion, seconded by Ms. Wada, and unanimously carried to accept Dr. Hickman's Board's Final Order.

Following the Board's review, deliberation, and decisions in these matters, pursuant to HRS, chapter 91, Chair Chock announced the Board was reconvening to its open meeting at 10:13 a.m.

Applications:

Chair Chock asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

At 10:14 a.m., Dr. Nishimoto made the motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wood, and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session to consult with the Board's attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Board's powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities in accordance with Hawaii Revised Statute ("HRS") section 92-5(a)(1) and (4).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:18 a.m. the Board returned to public session.

A. Application Review

- i. ALLISON MARSH

Vice Chair Wood made the motion, seconded by Dr. Nishimoto, and unanimously carried to approve Allison Marsh's application for exam.

B. Ratification of Issued Licenses

- i. KERRY COLLINS
ii. ANN SCHNEIDER
iii. TAYLOR SCHMERBAUGH
iv. DREW RYDELL
v. TOBIN KALEBAUGH
vi. SHADI IREIFEJ
vii. CHELSEA O'TOOLE
viii. NINA ENOS
ix. KRISTEN HASEGAWA
x. DOUGLAS MCINNIS
xi. EMILY THULSON

xii. SUE SUH

C. Ratification of Courtesy/Relief Permits

- i. EMILY BEAVERS
- ii. AMY PIPER
- iii. KAYLYN TARVER
- iv. BRITTNEY NGUYEN
- v. KASSIDY LEON
- vi. MIKALA FAHEY
- vii. VALERIE SAVINO
- viii. KARIN ZIEGLER
- ix. EMMA KLINE

D. Restored Licenses

- i. ALYCIA EISENSTEIN
- ii. KELLEY CLABAUGH
- iii. JOANA GOIC
- iv. WHITNEY PRESSLER
- v. STEPHANIE BURCH

Dr. Nishimoto made the motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wood, and unanimously carried to approve the ratifications of the issued licenses items i-xii; courtesy/relief permits i.-ix.; and, restored licenses i.-v., as listed above.

Examinations:

Chair Chock asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

EO Shahan provided the results of the following examinations:

A. Results of the State Veterinary Licensing Examination Administered in June 2024

Exams Administered: 7
Successful: 5
Failed: 2
Pass Percentage: 71.43%

B. Results of the State Veterinary Licensing Examination Administered on July 24

Exams Administered: 7
Successful: 3
Failed: 4
Pass Percentage: 42.86%

Results of the State Veterinary Licensing Examination Administered in August 2024

Exams Administered: 7
Successful: 3
Failed: 4
Pass Percentage: 42.86%

Results of the State Veterinary Licensing Examination
Administered in September 2024

Exams Administered: 7
Successful: 6
Failed: 1
Pass Percentage: 85.71%

Correspondence: Chair Chock asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. Letter from Dillon D Morton, DVM

Chair Chock read the following from Dr. Morton's letter:

"I am writing to respectfully request a reconsideration of the current passing score for the Hawaii Veterinary State Board Exam, which is currently set at 75%. Given the comprehensive and rigorous nature of the exam, I believe that adjusting the passing score to 70% or allowing the exam to be open book with additional time allotted would be beneficial for several reasons."

EO Shahan noted that chapter 16-101-16 **Required examination – passing score**, Hawaii Administrative Rules states:

Each applicant shall take and pass each part of an examination which shall be composed of the following three parts:

- (1) A national board examination (NBE);
- (2) A clinical competency test (CCT); and
- (3) A Hawaii state board examination which consists of those aspects of veterinary medicine common to the State of Hawaii.

A Candidate shall be assessed a fee for each part of the examination required by the candidate. A grade of not less than seventy-five points (75.00) for each part of the examination shall be a passing grade.

EO Shahan also noted that applicants must achieve at least a 75% passing score on both the national exam and state-specific exam. She is not aware if the passing score percentage ever changed.

Chair Chock asked EO Shahan if there would be a sizable difference in the amount of questions if decreasing from 75% to 70%.

EO Shahan indicated there are 40 questions on Hawaii's exam and 75% equates to 30 questions being answered correctly. If decreasing to 70%, the applicant would a difference of 2 correct questions at 28 questions being answered correctly.

Dr. Nishimoto stated that the applicants are provided the topics and names of references ahead of time, prior to taking the exam.

EO Shahan explained that the examination reference material (resources) listed on the candidate bulletin are the sources the subject matter experts used to create each question on the exam. The candidate bulletin breaks down the exam indicating the number of questions for each topic. Many of the resources provided on the candidate bulletin are website links..

Vice-Chair Wood asked if the reason for Dr. Morton's request is due to him having applied and how many times he failed the test.

EO Shahan answered yes, that Dr. Morton failed the test one time.

Chair Chock reference Dr. Morton's letter which indicates that "veterinarians frequently consult references and collaborate with colleagues to provide the best possible care for their patients" as a reason for his open book request. Though, she does state that the exam is meant to test the knowledge of basic competency.

The Board agreed.

Dr. Nishimoto stated if open book is to be allowed for the exam that the passing rate should be higher.

With discussion from the Board, EO Shahan stated the exam is designed to test minimum competency on topics unique to Hawaii, which may not be typically dealt with in another state. Examples of these would need to be considered to implement as questions in the exam should the Board allow open book.

She also expressed concern that should a veterinarian receive a patient that ingested a foreign matter specific to Hawaii, would their knowledge lead to immediate attention and proper care or would the individual require time to research how to appropriately care for the situation which could possibly endanger the patient.

Ms. Wada does not believe the passing score should be lowered as it seems majority of the applicants are passing Hawaii's exam.

Ms. Wada asked what the time period is to retake the exam and fee of the exam.

EO Shahan stated there is a 60-day wait period to retake the exam, and the fee is \$30.00.

Chair Chock stated regardless of the cost, with regard to Dr. Morton's passing score request, the number of questions on the exam has historically been the

same and not as high as other licensing areas, which includes minimum competency the Board wants to help reassure the community that individuals applying to Hawaii are competent.

Dr. Nishimoto asked EO Shahan if she has statistics on pass rates for applicants who have taken the exam a second, and possibly third time.

EO Shahan stated the Board has not maintained that type of statistics but could inquire with PSI for that information. She does not have any recollection of individuals failing when taking the exam a second time. She also asked how far back he would recommend she request statistics indicating that PSI began administering the current exam in April of this year.

Dr. Nishimoto states that is acceptable.

Chair Chock asked if PSI is able to capture the questions most often missed.

EO Shahan stated they are able to and that PSI would bring those to the attention of the Executive Officer with the opportunity to inquire with the subject matter experts to relook at the question.

Vice-Chair Wood asked if PSI could provide the top 3 most missed questions.

EO Shahan stated she will include that with her requests to PSI.

After discussion, EO Shahan stated she will respond to Dr. Morton indicating the Board discussed and taken his inquiry into consideration at this Board meeting, but the passing rate of 75% and a closed-book exam stands.

New
Business:

Chair Chock asked if any member of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none.

A. NAVLE Retake Policy – Upcoming Changes

EO Shahan stated she provided the Board with the updated policy changes issued by the North American Veterinary Licensing Examination (NAVLE) which will take into effect during the 2025 testing cycle. The changes will not affect the Board, only test takers. NAVLE always had a retake limit of five (5) times. Their previous process was for the test taker to receive approval from the state licensing board if requesting a sixth time. NAVLE is changing who the test takers have to ask and now have to petition with the International Council for Veterinary Assessment.

B. AAVSB Board Basics & Beyond Report
Marcella Chock

Chair Chock attended this meeting which is held in Kansas City annually, and reported the following:

- It was a great meeting for new Board members in a leadership role (i.e. Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson);

- This portion of the meeting provided instructions on how to conduct Board meetings;
- An attorney was available to speak on procedures that Boards are recommended to follow
- Representatives from other state Boards provided oversight on how their Boards function, and some states do not have a Board; and,
- Some states do not have public members

C. AAVSB Convention Report
Marcella Chock
Aileen Wada

Ms. Wada stated she attended this year's convention as a committee member. She stated the following as being the most beneficial in attending this annual meeting:

- Learn about all the new ideas;
- Areas affecting the veterinary community;
- Discussed aging regarding concerns of veterinarians who are forgetting to write prescriptions, as an example, which is an issue across the nation;
- Discussed the value of the public member for their input into the industry;
- Spoke with the younger generation of some state Board who meet monthly; and,
- Hawaii has two (2) voting delegate and one (1) alternate;
- Discussed topics that are important to many, such as drug narcotic diversion, with their attorney providing direction on how illegal activity is to be addressed; and,
- Shortage of professionals in the industry, which may have led to the discussion of veterinary technicians

Ms. Wada also stated she noticed that veterinary technicians hold a position as a Board member in some states and recommended that Hawaii consider adding to the Board. The perspective of a veterinary technician could be beneficial.

Chair Chock added that some states added a veterinary technician position as a Board member as they are looking to add representation on their Boards in looking to expand their scope of practice. In doing so, the veterinary technicians will be able to provide input on their current scope of practice, what they can currently perform under current training requirements.

Dr. Nishimoto asked if lectures at the meetings are certified by the AAVSB's Registry of Approved Continuing Education (RACE) program.

Ms. Wada stated there are select lectures which provide continuing education credits (CEs).

Chair Chock added that the morning sessions offer CEs, while other sessions are delegate-based where policy changes were voted on.

Election of
Officers:

A. Chairperson

Chair Chock opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Chair. Ms. Wada nominated Chair Chock to continue as Chair.

It was moved by Ms. Wada, seconded by Dr. Nishimoto, voted on and unanimously carried to approve the election of Marcella Chock to continue as the Board's Chair.

B. Vice-Chair

Chair Chock opened the floor for nominations for the position of Board Vice Chair. Ms. Wada nominated Dr. Wood to continue as Vice Chair.

It was moved by Ms. Wada, seconded by Dr. Nishimoto, voted on and unanimously carried to approve the election of Lisa Wood to continue as the Board's Vice Chair.

Next Meeting:

Friday, December 13, 2024

Videoconference Meeting Zoom Meeting and

In-Person
Location:

PVL Exam Room 330
King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, Exam Room 330
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Adjournment:

There being no further business to discuss at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Reviewed and approved by:

Taken and recorded by:

/s/ Kerrie Shahan

/s/ Marc Yoshimura

Kerrie Shahan
Executive Officer

Marc Yoshimura
Administrative Assistant

KS:my

11/22/2024

[] Minutes approved as is.

[] Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of