

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

MINUTES

Date: March 19, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Place: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
HRH King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, HI 96813

Virtual Videoconference Meeting - Zoom Webinar

[https://dcca-hawaii-
gov.zoom.us/j/87528928649?pwd=vllipT1z0CCmZhwaFI6yrViM1AyGc.1](https://dcca-hawaii.gov.zoom.us/j/87528928649?pwd=vllipT1z0CCmZhwaFI6yrViM1AyGc.1)

Zoom Recording Link: https://youtu.be/rH_jaSwOplc

Present: Marcella Chock, Chairperson
Lisa Wood, D.V.M., Vice-Chairperson ("Vice-Chair")
Craig Nishimoto, D.V.M., Member
Gabrielle Asay, D.V.M., Member
Tiffany Hummel, D.V.M. Member
Kimberley Thomson-Kerr, D.V.M., Member
Aileen Wada, Public Member
Lei Fukumura, Esq., Deputy Attorney General ("DAG")
Kerrie Shahan, Executive Officer ("EO Shahan")
Julie Halapio, Secretary

Excused: None.

Guests: Beth Venit

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: Chairperson Chock proceeded with roll call. All Board members confirmed they were present. Those joining by videoconference confirmed there was no one with them. There being a quorum present, the meeting was called to order at 10:17 a.m.

Amendments to the Agenda: The following amendment to the agenda is to correct inadvertent errors:

1. Correct the name of the applicant on agenda item 3.A.i, from Connor Weston to Connor Weston Grimes.

It was moved by Dr. Asay, seconded by Vice-Chair Woods, and unanimously carried, to amend the agenda.

Approval of the
December 13, 2024
Minutes:

Chairperson Chock asked if any members of the public would like to provide oral testimony on this agenda item. There were none. It was moved by Vice-Chair Wood, seconded by Ms. Wada, and unanimously carried to approve the Open session minutes of the December 13, 2024, meeting.

The internet connection was lost at 10:20 a.m. and was restored at 10:26 a.m.

Chapter 91, HRS
Adjudicatory
Matters:

Chairperson Chock called for a recess from the Board's meeting at 10:27 a.m. to discuss and deliberate on the following adjudicatory matters pursuant to HRS chapter 91.

- A. In the Matter of the License to Practice Veterinary Medicine of Alycia Beth Eisenstein, D.V.M.; Settlement Agreement Prior to the Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action

After discussion, it was moved by Dr. Nishimoto, seconded by Ms. Wada, and unanimously carried to approve the Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order in the above case.

- B. In the Matter of the License to Practice Veterinary Medicine of Celina M. Hatt, D.V.M.; Settlement Agreement Prior to the Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order: VET-2024-20-L

Following discussion, Vice-Chair Wood made the motion, seconded by Dr. Asay, and unanimously carried to defer decision making on the Settlement Agreement Prior to Filing of Petition for Disciplinary Action and Board's Final Order in the above case.

Following the Board's review, deliberation and decision on these matters pursuant to Chapter 91, HRS, Chairperson Chock announced that the Board would reconvene to its regular Chapter 92, HRS meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Applications:

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

At 10:59 a.m., Dr. Asay made the motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wood, and unanimously carried to move into Executive Session to consider and

evaluate personal information relating to individuals applying for professional or vocational licenses, or 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 HRS section 92-5(A)(1) AND (4).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:19 a.m., the Board returned to Open Session.

A. Application Review

i. CONNOR WESTON GRIMES

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Nishimoto, seconded by Dr. Hummel, and unanimously carried to approve the application for examination of Connor Weston pending receipt of additional documentation.

B. Ratification of Issued Licenses

- | | | |
|-------|---------|---------------------|
| i. | VE-1257 | CHARLES MAKER |
| ii. | VE-1258 | BETHANY WEINHEIMER |
| iii. | VE-1259 | ROZALYN DONNER |
| iv. | VE-1260 | BRITTNEY SKOPEK |
| v. | VE-1261 | NATALIA FESCHUK |
| vi. | VE-1262 | KEALAKA'I MATSUMOTO |
| vii. | VE-1263 | BRENDA DINES |
| viii. | VE-1264 | DENNIS LEON |
| ix. | VE-1265 | GWENDOLYN LONG |
| x. | VE-1266 | DILLON MORTON |
| xi. | VE-1267 | KAREN IOVINO |
| xii. | VE-1268 | JAMIE SCARPINO |

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Thomson-Kerr, seconded by Dr. Hummel, and unanimously carried to ratify the licenses listed above.

C. Ratification of Courtesy/Relief Permits

- | | | |
|-------|----------|------------------|
| i. | VECR-109 | KEVEN GULIKERS |
| ii. | VECR-110 | STACY HUDAK |
| iii. | VECR-111 | ELISE OSMEK |
| iv. | VECR-112 | NIA POWELL |
| v. | VECR-113 | JULIA VASILYEVA |
| vi. | VECR-114 | JOSEPH FIFER |
| vii. | VECR-115 | SHANNON DREXLER |
| viii. | VECR-116 | MICHAELE LEMONS |
| ix. | VECR-117 | JENNIFER SPENCER |
| x. | VECR-118 | EMMA KLINE |
| xi. | VECR-119 | BREANNA HOEKSEM |

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Thomson-Kerr, seconded by Dr. Hummel, and unanimously carried to ratify the licenses listed above.

D. Restored Licenses

i. VE-627 MICHAEL KING

Following discussion, it was moved by Dr. Thomson-Kerr, seconded by Dr. Hummel, and unanimously carried to ratify the licenses listed above.

Executive
Officer
Report:

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

A. Results of the State Veterinary Licensing Examination for December 2024, January 2025, and February 2025.

EO Shahan stated the following results of the examinations:

	Candidates	Passed	Failed	Passing %
Dec-24	4	2	2	50.00
Jan-25	5	4	1	80.00
Feb-25	6	6	0	100.00

B. AAVSB Annual Meeting & Conference, Cincinnati, OH, September 17-20, 2025 (Registration open in May)

EO Shahan stated that the Board holds membership in the AAVSB (American Association of Veterinary State Boards). Part of the membership benefits the Board receives is registration and travel covered for one Board member and the Board's DAG attend the AAVSB Annual Meeting and Convention. The Board has tried to rotate the attendee to new Board members and previously discussed Vice-Chair Wood attending the 2025 meeting.

Vice-Chair Wood stated that she was still available to attend this year. The Board was in consensus that Vice-Chair Wood should attend this year's meeting.

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

A. Email from Gregg Morimoto, RICO, Regarding Euthanasia and Direct Supervision as Defined in HAR §16-101-2

The Regulated Industries Complaints Office has posed the following questions:

1. Is a veterinary license required to perform medicated and/or injectable euthanasia?

EO Shahan asked if pursuant to chapter 143-13, HRS, Animal Control Officers are also authorized to administer medical euthanasia. Dr. Nishimoto stated that provision was for diseased animals and not for elective euthanasia. EO Shahan read the section:

§143-13 Destruction of diseased or unfit dogs. All dogs taken into the custody of the animal control officer which by reason of age, disease, or other causes, and are unfit for further use or are dangerous to keep impounded, may be forthwith humanely destroyed by the animal control officer.

EO Shahan asked if the statute precluded “excess” dogs. Vice-Chair Wood stated that it was open-ended due to the clause, “or other causes”.

Vice-Chair Wood stated that her concern was where the animal control officers were getting the drugs and who was signing for the drugs. She further explained that whoever is prescribing the drug would need to oversee the administration.

Dr. Nishimoto agreed that the person prescribing is taking responsibility for the administration. He followed up with asking if the statute indicated if the supervision had to be direct or indirect.

EO Shahan stated that chapter 143-13 did only provided that the animal control officer is authorized to euthanize the animal. She also noted that animal control officers cannot obtain NED. Vice-Chair Wood agreed that individuals cannot get a DEA license without a medical degree or research authorization to get schedule II drugs. She stated that her first question would be, “Who is signing for the drugs?”.

EO Shahan stated that her response would state that chapter 143-13, HRS states that animal control officers can euthanize, but only a licensed veterinarian holding a NED/DEA license can purchase, obtain or prescribe the necessary drugs.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr noted that that is an issue currently on Molokai. there is no one there consistently to prescribe the drugs. Dr. Asay noted that they may be using other methods than barbiturates.

2. Are there any other methods of animal euthanasia that do NOT require a veterinarian license? If so, what are they?

Vice-Chair Wood stated that another form of euthanasia is gunshot, CO2, inhalation. She noted that while there are other forms of euthanasia, they are not recommended by the AVMA (American Veterinary Medical Association). Vice-Chair Wood stated this was especially true of gunshot which is a last resort if there is no way of restraining the animal (the animal is loose or dangerous, there is no way to approach the animal).

Dr. Nishimoto stated that while they are recognized, these methods are not ideal or recommended. Dr. Thomson-Kerr concurred stating they are used when there is no other option.

Dr. Asay noted that it also is dependent on concerns (not so much for small animals such as dogs/cats, but with large animals) for water contamination and other environmental factors. For large animals, non-barbiturate euthanasia is used so the carcass can be disposed of without risk of contamination of the environment. She stated that when working with large animals she will heavily sedate the animal so that the owner can shoot the animal. She noted that the AVMA has a booklet online concerning appropriate bullet size for various species.

Dr. Thomson-Kerr noted that injectable euthanasia could be gabapentin and does not necessarily have to be a controlled substance. It could be potassium or many other things.

Dr. Asay noted it could be magnesium salts.

Vice-Chair Woods recommended referring to the AVMA document which lists those methods. She noted she would not recommend most of those methods stating that with potassium chloride the animal should be sedated prior to administration. She doesn't believe those are consistently good ways to perform euthanasia.

Dr. Asay stated that these methods require an anesthesia level, not just sedation. The Board members concurred.

EO Shahan asked if the anesthesia level would require a veterinarian? The response was, yes this is a controlled substance.

3. Would the other methods of animal euthanasia require the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian? If so, what statute and/or rule would require this?

Dr. Thomas-Kerr stated that if the method does not involve a controlled substance, veterinary supervision is not required. A suffering animal can be shot without veterinary supervision. She further stated that these questions have a lot of intricacies in terms of how each can be answered.

Chairperson Chock asked if in response to question #2, the response should be that non-pharmaceutical methods of euthanasia does not require veterinary supervision.

Dr. Asay noted that any pharmaceutical method, controlled or non-controlled medications, would require veterinary supervision.

Dr. Nishimoto stated either direct or indirect veterinary supervision.

Chairperson Chock asked the definition of direct supervision.

EO Shahan stated that direct supervision requires the veterinarian to be “on-site” and indirect means that the veterinarian is available via phone, videoconference or other communications methods.

Vice-Chair Wood stated that the questions raised are very good and that she was unaware that the laws concerning euthanasia were so vague. She wondered if RICO felt an animal control officer was abusing the authority or if this is an “academic” question. EO Shahan stated that based on the email it appears there has been some type of complaint reported to RICO and the questions brought to the Board are stemming from that situation.

Vice-Chair Wood stated that to respond it is important to know what medications are being used and who authorized the medication.

Dr. Asay stated that if the carcass is available, a toxicology screening can be performed.

Dr. Thomas-Kerr wondered if there is a licensed veterinarian working under animal control. She stated if a licensed veterinarian is working or contracted with the animal control office, the pharmaceuticals are being obtained properly.

4. Can an unlicensed person or a licensed veterinary technician perform any methods of animal euthanasia WITHOUT being under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian? If so, what methods would apply to an unlicensed person, and what methods would apply to a licensed veterinary technician?
5. Is an employee of a government agency acting under the scope of their employment allowed to euthanize animals WITHOUT being a licensed veterinarian? If not, what statute and/or rule prevents the employee from performing their duties?
6. Is an employee of a government agency acting under the scope of their employment allowed to euthanize animals WITHOUT being under the direct supervision of a licensed veterinarian?

EO Shahan asked the Board if the following summary was correct for response: animal control officers are allowed by statute to humanely euthanize animals, pursuant to chapter 143-13, HRS. If it is a medically administered euthanasia, what drugs are being used and if a controlled substance, who is the licensed veterinarian prescribing the drug. If the drug is a controlled substance, the veterinarian is required to provide supervision of the animal control officer.

Chairperson Chock stated that the response should indicate that knowing the type of medication would assist the Board in answering the question of direct or indirect supervision (question #2).

EO Shahan restated the response as, "Based on the medication being used, would determine if the person needs access to a veterinarian to use it. If the medication is a controlled substance, there should be a veterinarian associated with the euthanasia because a license is required to both access and administer the medication.

Dr. Nishimoto agreed and recommended referring RICO to the AVMA list of alternative euthanasia.

EO Shahan asked for someone to review her response before it is sent to RICO. Vice-Chair Wood volunteered.

Dr. Nishimoto stated that based on other states information, he would like the Board to discuss certification of euthanasia technicians/specialists in the future. He feels that individuals who perform euthanasia should be trained properly. Dr. Thomson-Kerr agreed it was an area that needs to be addressed.

Ms. Wada asked if the Board could get a copy of the job description for the animal control officer to know what is within the scope of their job.

EO Shahan noted that she does not know which county this is or which animal control office these concerns, so it would be difficult to get the job description.

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

A. SB493, SD1: Relating to Veterinarians

Establishes the Veterinarian Workforce Development Special Fund. Establishes the Veterinarian Workforce Development Fee to support recruitment and retention of veterinarians in the State. Establishes the Veterinarian Workforce Development Loan Repayment and Scholarship Program to support qualified veterinarians committed to or currently working in veterinary medicine in the State. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050.

EO Shahan stated that the Legislative Liaisons reviewed this bill which is similar to one filed in 2024 which the Board opposed as it proposes to create a scholarship and loan repayment plan which the Board would have full responsibility including creating requirements for both the scholarship and loan repayment plan, awarding scholarships, and full administration of both the scholarship and loan repayment. The Board previously determined that it does not have the expertise necessary for these duties. The bill has crossed over from the Senate to the House and has been referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

The Board concurred with the Legislative Liaisons and instructed EO Shahan to provide testimony showing that while the Board supports the intent of the bill, it is in opposition stating that the Board does not have the expertise or authority to administer scholarships or loan repayment plans.

B. SB874: Relating to Veterinary Medicine

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. Authorizes the Hawaii Board of Veterinary Medicine to establish penalties, which may include fines or suspension or revocation of a license.

EO Shahan stated that this bill was being tracked but has died in Committee. The Board had no comment.

C. HB364 HD1: Relating to Animal Control

Requires that female cats over the age of three months and male cats over the age of five months be surgically sterilized, with certain exceptions. Authorizes county animal control authorities to establish and enforce a permit program to allow the responsible breeding of cats. Establishes minimum requirements for breeding permits and penalties. Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation, including the free-roaming cat population, and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000.

The Legislative Liaison reviewed and recommended commenting regarding the age proposed for required spay/neuter. The original bill stated that all cats under the age of three months should be surgically sterilized, the new draft changes this to female cats over the age of three months and male cats over the age of five months to be surgically sterilized. This Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce bill has been deferred by the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

D. HB547 HD1: Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund. Effective 7/1/3000.

EO Shahan noted that this bill is being tracked and has crossed over to the House. Its companion bill is SB1023.

E. SB394: Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Establishes a Spay and Neuter Special Fund. Allows funds from an income tax check-off to be deposited into the Spay and Neuter Special Fund. Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund Advisory Committee to establish eligibility criteria and disbursement procedures from the Special Fund. Appropriates funds.

EO Shahan stated that this bill was being tracked but it died in committee.

F. SB566: Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Establishes a spay and neuter special fund. Establishes a spay and neuter special fund advisory committee to develop eligibility criteria for and manage the disbursement of the special fund. Authorizes, and requires the Director of Taxation to amend the individual state income tax form to facilitate, the designation of tax refund moneys to be paid to the spay and neuter special fund. Appropriates moneys into and out of the special fund.

EO Shahan noted that this bill was being tracked but it died in committee.

G. SB1023 HD1: Relating to the Spaying and Neutering of Animals

Establishes the Spay and Neuter Special Fund to reduce pet overpopulation and the reproduction of free-roaming cats and various revenue and fundraising sources for the special fund. Effective 7/1/3000.

EO Shahan stated that this bill is being tracked and has crossed over to the House. Its companion bill is HB 547.

Ms. Wada asked about a former discounted price for spay/neuter that the City and County of Honolulu offered and wondered if it was still being offered. EO Shahan stated when was not certain if it was still being offered. Chairperson Chock noted that the program was funded by a grant which is no longer available.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Videoconference Meeting Zoom Meeting and

In-Person
Location: Queen Liliuokalani Conference Room
King Kalakaua Building
335 Merchant Street, First Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Adjournment: There being no further business to discuss at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 a.m.

Taken, recorded,
and approved by:

/s/ Kerrie Shahan

Kerrie Shahan
Executive Officer

05/27/2025

[] Minutes approved as is.

[X] Minutes approved with changes. See minutes of June 4, 2025