

# Veterinarian Shortage Situation Nomination Form

To be completed by the chief State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or his/her designee

**Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP)**

**Nomination of Veterinarian Shortage Situations for the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program (VMLRP) Authorized Under the National Veterinary Medical Service Act (NVMSA)**

**Note: Please submit one separate nomination form for each position. See solicitation for number of nominations permitted for your state or insular area.**

**Location of Veterinary Shortage Area for this Nomination**

Note: If this nomination is for a public practice position, please provide the location of the home office or the center of service area.

Location of Veterinary Shortage: Maui, Hawaii  
(e.g., County, State/Insular Area)

Center of Service Area or  
 Location of Position: Kahului, Maui Island 96732  
(e.g., Address or Cross Street, Town/City, and Zip Code)

**Type of Veterinary Practice Area/Discipline/Specialty**

Type I Shortage: Private Practice  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 80 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Type II Shortage: Private Practice – Rural Area  
 Food Animal Medicine (at least 30 percent time)  
 Please select **one or more** specialties requested for this position:

- Beef Cattle
- Dairy Cattle
- Swine
- Poultry
- Small Ruminant
- Other : \_\_\_\_\_

Type III Shortage: Public Practice (at least 49 percent time\*)  
 Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Please select **one or more** specialty/disciplinary areas.

- Food Safety
- Public Health
- Epidemiology
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe the objectives of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation as well as being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The objectives of the veterinarian in this shortage situation would be food animal veterinary practice with support for other endeavors such as companion animal practice (to supplement salary) and collaboration with University and State/Federal Officials regarding County Food Animal Health Issues. Currently there are ~65,000 cattle in Hawaii with a large number in Maui County. Pigs are also a keystone of Polynesian culture and recent growth of the small ruminant sector and the initiation of multi-species grazing will require food animal expertise. There are few private practitioners in this County that covers 727 square miles and a population of over 155,000 with +20.8% population change since 2000. With increased demand for local meat production and the need for greater food security for the islands, the primary objective will be to serve as a food animal practitioner for Maui County (including the islands of Molokai and Lanai within the county). A secondary role will be to collaborate with University of Hawaii Extension personnel (Agents, Specialists, and Veterinarian) and with State/Federal Veterinary Officials related to food animal health. These entities have historically worked well together in addressing food animal issues (i.e. animal health impacts on Big Island from recent volcanic eruptions).

Please describe the activities of a veterinarian meeting this shortage situation and being located in the community, area, state/insular area, or position requested above (limit your response to 200 words or less).

The activities of the veterinarian in this shortage situation will be to provide food animal expertise to Maui County and its food animal producers. There are opportunities to supplement the salary of the individual with higher-paying fields such as companion animal practice since there are only ~11 private practices in Maui (almost all 100% companion animal focus) that serve the quickly growing population and vacationing/tourist population (over 2 million visitors spending ~ \$3 billion in Maui alone in 2010). The third area of activity for this veterinarian will be interaction with State/Federal Veterinary Officials and University of Hawaii Extension (Agents, Specialists, and Veterinarian) to contribute to initiatives to ensure food security and animal health. The veterinarian hired through the VMLRP will not have an appointment within the University or State/Federal agencies, but rather to be an active veterinary community member in this regard.

Please describe any past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian in the shortage situation identified above (limit your response to 100 words or less).

Past efforts to recruit and retain a veterinarian for food animal practice has focused on involvement of pre-veterinary students in local practices before they leave for veterinary school in hopes of their return to the islands. However, most students do not return because of mainland job opportunities and the expense of living in Hawaii. Those that do return stay long-term with successful practices, although in companion animal practice due to higher salaries. The ability to recruit a high quality veterinarian for food animal practice would be greatly facilitated with the VMLRP to offset the high cost of living in Hawaii.

Please describe the risk of this veterinarian position not being secured or retained. Include the risk(s) to the production of a safe and wholesome food supply and to animal, human, and environmental health not only in the community but in the region, state/insular area, nation, and/or international community (limit your response to 250 words or less).

Food security is a tremendous issue for the islands of Hawaii in many regards. Hawaii imports vast amounts of food from around the globe, including products that could come from local food animal producers. Economically, the beef industry alone contributed over \$1.8 billion to the State in direct and indirect contributions in 2005. The national average of labor force employed by agriculture is 2%; however, Hawaii's agricultural labor force accounts for ~5% of the population pointing to the importance of these industries both culturally and economically. Additionally, Hawaii is a major location for tourism and importation of goods, making it susceptible to introduction of foreign animal disease or other animal health threats. Finally, Hawaii serves as a gateway of information and expertise for the Pacific Region and Internationally for animal health with numerous visitors attending veterinary continuing education in Hawaii from around the Pacific and globe. If this position is not secured, a downturn in the capacity of Maui County for livestock could occur due to lack of veterinary expertise. Sustainable agriculture requires the inclusion of veterinarians to ensure animal health, food security, and support Pacific and International veterinary capabilities.

Please indicate whether you consider this situation/position a candidate for a "service in emergency" agreement (limit your response to 100 words or less). Please see solicitations for additional information regarding the obligation of participants who enter into the "Service in Emergency" agreement.

We are not seeking a "Service in Emergency" agreement at this time.

Authorized State or Insular Area Animal Health Official or designee:

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Public reporting for OMB control number 0524-0046 is estimated to average two hours, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information, unless it displays a current valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden to NIFA, OEP, 800 9<sup>th</sup> St. SW, Washington, DC 20024, Attention Policy Section. Do not return the completed form to this address.