
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CIVIL DEFENSE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that pets enrich our
2 lives in more ways than we sometimes realize. In turn, they
3 depend on us for their safety and well-being. In times of
4 natural disaster, both humans and animals, particularly pet
5 animals, are in danger of loss of life or serious injury.
6 However, the legislature finds that, during an emergency period,
7 most emergency shelters will not accept pet animals due to
8 public health concerns.

9 The legislature is concerned with the welfare of pet
10 animals during emergencies; however, of equal concern is the
11 fact that many pet owners, worried about their pets' safety, may
12 be dissuaded or delayed in seeking proper shelter in these
13 emergencies. As recent events have shown, many pet owners would
14 put themselves in harm's way rather than abandon their pets.

15 The purpose of this Act is to require the director of civil
16 defense and organizations under the direction of the director
17 that operate and maintain emergency shelters during emergency
18 periods, subject to the public's health and safety, to make



1 suitable arrangements and accommodations to provide shelter to
2 pet animals.

3 SECTION 2. Chapter 128, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
5 and to read as follows:

6 "§128- Public shelters; accommodation of pet animals.

7 (a) The governor shall prescribe rules, pursuant to section
8 128-27, for the purpose of establishing criteria, requirements,
9 conditions, and limitations for providing suitable arrangements
10 and accommodations for the sheltering of pet animals in public
11 shelters under this chapter.

12 (b) The director of civil defense shall identify, in
13 coordination with other organizations engaged in civil defense
14 functions relating to providing shelter, or the management or
15 operation of a public shelter under this chapter, those public
16 shelters that are suitable for the sheltering of pet animals.

17 (c) The director may also identify, in coordination with
18 private owners, operators, or controllers of real property,
19 private shelters that are suitable for the sheltering of pet
20 animals; provided that any private shelter so identified shall
21 not be subject to the rules prescribed by the governor for the

1 operation of a public shelter that has been identified for the
2 sheltering of pet animals pursuant to subsection (b).

3 (d) A public shelter identified for the sheltering of pet
4 animals pursuant to subsection (b) need not be subject to the
5 criteria developed pursuant to section 5 of Act 5, Special
6 Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, unless the particular shelter has
7 been specifically identified as a shelter for both pet animals
8 and the public.

9 (e) For purposes of this section, "pet animal" shall have
10 the same meaning as defined in section 711-1100."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

H.B. NO. 3121
HD2, SD1, CD1

Report Title:

Civil Defense; Shelters

Description:

Directs the Governor to establish criteria, requirements, conditions, and limitations for providing emergency shelters for pet animals. Requires the Director of Civil Defense to identify public shelters suitable for sheltering pet animals. Allows the Director to identify private shelters for the same purpose. Effective on approval. (HB3121 CD1)

