
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL CRUELTY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's existing
2 penal code does not adequately address situations when an
3 offender injures or kills an animal used by a law enforcement
4 agency or corrections facility. Dogs, horses, or other animals
5 are specifically trained to assist law enforcement in detecting
6 criminal activity, enforcing laws, or apprehending criminal
7 offenders. On the national level, law enforcement trained
8 animals are being used more frequently on a daily basis to
9 assist law enforcement officers in the field to safely complete
10 their daily activities, search for narcotics and explosives, and
11 assist in search and rescue missions. Within the last twenty
12 years, law enforcement agencies have relied on trained animals
13 to address some of the departments' most dangerous assignments.

14 Although the death or injury of a law enforcement animal is
15 not a serious problem in Hawaii yet, it has become a problem
16 across the country. During the last forty years, one hundred
17 thirty-nine police dogs were killed in the line of duty by
18 firearms. In 2000, the federal government enacted the Federal



1 Law Enforcement Animal Protection Act of 2000. This federal law
2 recognized the need to provide legal protection to animals who
3 work with sworn law enforcement personnel on a daily basis to
4 keep communities safe by imposing penalties on any person who
5 wilfully and maliciously harms any police animal or attempts or
6 conspires to do so, permanently disables or disfigures the
7 animal, or causes serious bodily injury to or the death of the
8 animal. Forty-four states and one territory have laws that
9 protect law enforcement animals that include police dogs, police
10 horses, and fire dogs. The legislature finds that it is now
11 time for Hawaii to join this group to protect the animals that
12 work hard every day to keep our community safe.

13 The purpose of this Act is to protect law enforcement
14 animals in the line of duty by including law enforcement animals
15 under the offenses of causing injury or death to a service dog
16 and intentional interference with the use of a service dog.

17 SECTION 2. Section 711-1110, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
19 and to read as follows:

20 "Law enforcement animal" means any dog, horse, or other
21 animal used by law enforcement or corrections agencies and
22 trained to work in areas of tracking, suspect apprehension,



1 victim assistance, crowd control, or drug or explosive detection
2 for law enforcement purposes."

3 SECTION 3. Section 711-1109.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§711-1109.4 **Causing injury or death to a service dog[-]**
6 **or law enforcement animal.** (1) A person commits the offense of
7 causing injury or death to a service dog or law enforcement
8 animal if:

9 (a) The person recklessly causes substantial bodily injury
10 to or the death of any service dog or law enforcement
11 animal while the service dog or law enforcement animal
12 is in the discharge of its duties; or

13 (b) The person is the owner of a dog and recklessly
14 permits that dog to attack a service dog or law
15 enforcement animal while the service dog or law
16 enforcement animal is in the discharge of its duties,
17 resulting in the substantial bodily injury or death of
18 the service dog or law enforcement animal.

19 (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to:

20 (a) Accepted veterinary practices;



1 (b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed
2 by standards of accepted educational or medicinal
3 practices; or

4 (c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced and
5 permitted by law.

6 [~~2~~] (3) Any person who commits the offense of causing
7 injury or death to a service dog or law enforcement animal shall
8 be ~~[punished as follows:~~

9 ~~(a) For a first offense by a fine of not more than \$2,000,~~
10 ~~imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both,~~
11 ~~and~~

12 ~~(b) For a second or subsequent offense by a fine of not~~
13 ~~more than \$5,000, imprisonment of not more than thirty~~
14 ~~days, or both.] guilty of a class C felony.~~

15 [~~3~~—Any] (4) In addition to any other penalties, any
16 person who is convicted of a violation of this section shall be
17 ordered to make restitution to:

18 (a) The ~~[person with a disability who has custody or~~
19 ~~ownership]~~ owner of the service dog~~[7]~~ or law
20 enforcement animal, for any veterinary bills and out-
21 of-pocket costs incurred as a result of the injury to
22 the service dog~~[7]~~ or law enforcement animal; and



1 (b) The person, entity, or organization that incurs the
2 cost of retraining or replacing the service dog~~[7]~~ or
3 law enforcement animal, for the cost of retraining or
4 replacing the service dog or law enforcement animal,
5 if it is disabled or killed.

6 ~~[(4)]~~ (5) As used in this section "service dog" shall have the
7 same meaning as in section 347-2.5."

8 SECTION 4. Section 711-1109.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§711-1109.5 Intentional interference with the use of a**
11 **service dog~~[7]~~ or law enforcement animal.** (1) A person commits
12 the offense of intentional interference with the use of a
13 service dog or law enforcement animal if the person, with no
14 legal justification, intentionally or knowingly~~[7]~~

15 ~~(a) — Harms]~~ strikes, beats, kicks, cuts, stabs, shoots, or
16 administers any type of harmful substance or poison to
17 a service dog or law enforcement animal~~[7] — or~~

18 ~~(b) — Strikes or kicks a service dog,]~~
19 while the service dog or law enforcement animal is in the
20 discharge of its duties.

21 (2) Subsection (1) shall not apply to:

22 (a) Accepted veterinary practices;



1 (b) Activities carried on for scientific research governed
2 by standards or accepted educational or medicinal
3 practices; or

4 (c) Cropping or docking as customarily practiced and
5 permitted by law.

6 [~~+2~~] (3) Intentional interference with the use of a
7 service dog or law enforcement animal is a misdemeanor.

8 (4) In addition to any other penalties, any person who is
9 convicted of a violation of this section shall be ordered to
10 make restitution to:

11 (a) The owner of the service dog or law enforcement
12 animal, for any veterinary bills and out-of-pocket
13 costs incurred as a result of the injury to the
14 service dog or law enforcement animal; and

15 (b) The person, entity, or organization that incurs the
16 cost of retraining or replacing the service dog or law
17 enforcement animal, for the cost of retraining or
18 replacing the service dog or law enforcement animal,
19 if it is disabled or killed.

20 [~~+3~~] (5) Nothing in this section is intended to affect
21 any civil remedies available for a violation of this section.



1 [~~4~~] (6) As used in this section, "service dog" shall
2 have the same meaning as in section 347-2.5."

3 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Animal Cruelty; Law Enforcement Animal

Description:

Amends offenses of causing injury or death to a service dog and intentional interference with the use of a service dog to include law enforcement animals. Adds a definition for "law enforcement animal to the Penal Code". (SB635 HD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

