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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMALS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that thousands of animals,  
2 primarily dogs and cats, are deserted or abandoned across Hawaii  
3 every year, contributing to increased animal control costs,  
4 animal suffering and overpopulation, and increased euthanasia  
5 rates at local animal shelters. Abandoned animals are often  
6 subject to illness, injury, starvation, disease, attacks by  
7 other animals, and even human cruelty. Abandoned animals may  
8 also harm native wildlife. Weak penalties associated with  
9 Hawaii's current animal desertion statute have failed to  
10 adequately deter animal abandonment. Stronger penalties would  
11 encourage pet owners to work with local shelters and animal  
12 control contractors when a pet must be re-homed, strengthen pet  
13 retention and the human-animal bond, and protect pet owners and  
14 the animals themselves.

15           The purpose of this Act is increase penalties for animal  
16 desertion.



1 SECTION 2. Section 143-2.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~§143-2.6~~ Animal desertion. (a) It shall be  
4 unlawful for the owner of any animal or any person in possession  
5 of an animal that belongs to another person to leave the animal  
6 without the intention of returning to it.

7 (b) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty  
8 of a petty misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$1,000 in  
9 addition to any other penalties; provided that if, as a result  
10 of the desertion, the animal suffers death or substantial bodily  
11 injury, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject  
12 to a penalty of \$2,000 in addition to any other penalties;  
13 provided further that each violation shall constitute a separate  
14 offense per animal."

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

18 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 25 2016



# H.B. NO. 2245

**Report Title:**

Animal Desertion; Penalties; Fines

**Description:**

Increases penalties for animal desertion.

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

