
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 to 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:

- 11 (1) Suffers death or substantial bodily injury; or
- 12 (2) Causes the death or injury of livestock,
- 13 the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a
- 14 penalty of \$2,000 in addition to any other penalties;
- 15 provided further that each violation shall constitute a separate
- 16 offense.

17 (c) This section shall not apply to the release of an
18 animal as part of a population management program."

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



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

Animal Desertion; Penalties; Fines

Description:

Increases penalties for animal desertion. (HB2245 HD1)

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

