
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
2 animals, primarily dogs and cats, are deserted or abandoned
3 across Hawaii every year, contributing to increased animal
4 control costs, animal suffering and overpopulation, and
5 euthanasia rates at local animal shelters. Abandoned animals
6 are often subject to illness, injury, starvation, disease,
7 attacks by other animals, and even human cruelty. Abandoned
8 animals may also harm native wildlife. Weak penalties
9 associated with Hawaii's current animal desertion statute have
10 failed to adequately deter animal abandonment. Stronger
11 penalties would encourage pet owners to work with local shelters
12 and animal control contractors when a pet must be re-homed,
13 strengthen pet retention and the human-animal bond, and protect
14 pet owners and 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, after the
10 offense of animal desertion is committed, the animal suffers
11 death or substantial bodily injury, the person shall be guilty
12 of a misdemeanor and subject to a penalty of \$2,000 in addition
13 to any other penalties; provided further that each violation
14 shall constitute a separate offense.

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

17 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
19 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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed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 on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Animal Desertion; Penalties; Fines

Description:

Increases penalties for animal desertion, except where the animal is released as part of a game management program.

(SB2512 HD2)

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