

S .B. NO. 2905

JAN 27 2016

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PREDATORS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 183D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending the definition of "predators" to read as
3 follows:

4 ""Predators" means animals destructive of wildlife by
5 nature of their predatory habits, including mongooses, cats,
6 dogs, and [~~rats-~~] rodents."

7 SECTION 2. Section 183D-65, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "§183D-65 [~~Posting; destruction of predators-~~] Predators.

10 (a) On any game management area, public hunting area, or forest
11 reserve or other lands under the jurisdiction of the department,
12 predators deemed harmful to wildlife by the department may be
13 destroyed by any means deemed necessary by the department.

14 (b) Where the predators are dogs and the methods of
15 destruction may endanger pets or hunting dogs, all major points
16 of entrance into the area where the predators are to be
17 destroyed shall be posted with signs indicating that a program
18 of predator destruction in the area is in progress. Any

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1 predator may be destroyed in a posted area without claim or
2 penalty whether or not the predator is the property of some
3 person.

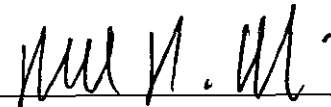
4 (c) On all state lands, it shall be unlawful for
5 individuals to release, feed, water, or otherwise care for
6 unrestrained predators. Any individual who violates this
7 subsection shall be assessed an administrative fine of not less
8 than:

- 9 (1) \$100 for a first violation;
- 10 (2) \$500 for a second violation; or
- 11 (3) \$1,000 for a third or subsequent violation.

12 This subsection shall not apply to hunters that deploy,
13 feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting."

14 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
15 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

17
18 INTRODUCED BY: 

19 BY REQUEST

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Report Title:

Predator Control

Description:

Increases protection to human health and wildlife by prohibiting individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on state lands and provides a fine for individuals that violate this prohibition and an exemption for hunters who deploy, feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting.

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Land and Natural Resources

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PREDATORS.

PURPOSE: To increase protection to human health and wildlife by prohibiting individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators on state lands; to provide a fine for individuals that violate this prohibition; and to provide an exemption for hunters who deploy, feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting.

MEANS: Amend sections 183D-1 and 183D-65, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Predators pose a threat to human health and wildlife. Predators, by their nature, prey on wildlife and other natural resources and therefore pose a threat to Hawaii's native species, many of which are listed as threatened or endangered and are protected under federal and state law. These predators also have the potential to carry diseases that adversely affect human health and wellbeing.

Due to these potential threats, it is in the best interest of the State to impose a penalty upon individuals who release, feed, water, or care for predators on state lands. As such, this bill proposes to establish fines for individuals who release, feed, water, or otherwise care for unrestrained predators on state lands. While at the same time, the bill also proposes to provide an exemption to hunters that deploy, feed, or water unrestrained dogs in the course of hunting.

Impact on the public: This bill proposes to protect the public from predator borne

diseases and also protect natural resources by reducing predation on them.

Impact on the department and other agencies:

This bill proposes to provide added protection to Hawaii's native species by curtailing individuals from releasing, feeding, watering, or otherwise caring for unrestrained predators, through the imposition of monetary fines.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: LNR 402.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: All state agencies that manage state lands.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.