
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES TO EXAMINE THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ACT 217, SESSION LAWS OF HAWAII 2018,
REGARDING MISREPRESENTATION OF SERVICE ANIMALS.

1 WHEREAS, a service animal is an animal that is individually
2 trained to work or perform tasks for a person with a disability;
3 and
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5 WHEREAS, the misrepresentation of pets and other non-
6 service animals as service animals diminishes the respect given
7 to service animals and can create challenges for individuals who
8 use the services of legitimate service animals; and
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10 WHEREAS, Act 217, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018 (Act 217),
11 established a civil penalty for knowingly misrepresenting an
12 animal as a service animal; and
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14 WHEREAS, the prohibition against misrepresentation of a
15 service animal is placed in chapter 347, Hawaii Revised
16 Statutes, which is administered by the Department of Human
17 Services; and
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19 WHEREAS, questions have arisen about Act 217, including the
20 means to enforce the prohibition and the sufficiency of the
21 language to address the issue; and
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23 WHEREAS, guidance about misrepresentation of a service
24 animal is needed to adequately inform law enforcement officers
25 and the business community of the law; now, therefore,
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27 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
28 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
29 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Human
30 Services, in consultation with the Hawai'i Civil Rights
31 Commission and the Disability and Communication Access Board, is



1 requested to examine and report on the implementation of Act
2 217, including:

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- 4 (1) How to enforce the prohibition against
- 5 misrepresentation of a service animal;
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- 7 (2) Whether administrative rules need to be adopted;
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- 9 (3) How to better oversee and regulate service animals;
- 10 and
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- 12 (4) Whether additional legislation is necessary; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
15 Services, in consultation with the Hawai'i Civil Rights
16 Commission and the Disability and Communication Access Board, is
17 requested to issue guidance about misrepresentation of a service
18 animal for use by law enforcement and the business community;
19 and

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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
22 Services is requested to develop a public outreach campaign to
23 educate places of accommodations as well as the public as to the
24 important work that legitimate service animals do and why it is
25 important for service animals to assist their owners; and

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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Human
28 Services is requested to submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations to the Legislature, including any proposed
30 legislation, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
31 the regular session of 2020; and

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Human
35 Services, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Civil Rights
36 Commission, and Executive Director of the Disability and
37 Communication Access Board.

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