
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDLIFE.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§183D- Cetaceans; captivity; prohibited. (a) Except
5 as provided in subsection (c), no person shall keep in captivity
6 a cetacean for any purpose including but not limited to display,
7 performance, or entertainment purposes; provided that:

8 (1) A cetacean held in captivity by a bona fide
9 educational or scientific institution that cannot be
10 released into the wild because of concerns for the
11 health or safety of the animal may be used for
12 educational presentations; and

13 (2) A cetacean held in captivity by an organization other
14 than a bona fide educational or scientific institution
15 prior to the effective date of this Act may continue
16 to be held in captivity for display, performance, or
17 entertainment purposes.



1 (b) No person shall:

2 (1) Breed or impregnate a cetacean held in captivity,
3 including any cetacean held in captivity by a bona
4 fide educational or scientific institution, after the
5 effective date of this Act;

6 (2) Import, export, or collect the semen, gametes, or
7 embryos of a cetacean for the purposes of artificial
8 insemination; or

9 (3) Import, export, transport, move, or sell a cetacean
10 held in captivity in the State to another state or
11 country.

12 (c) Subsection (a) shall not apply to cetaceans that:

13 (1) Are held in captivity by a bona fide educational or
14 scientific institution and cannot be released into the
15 wild due to health or other safety concerns; or

16 (2) Are temporarily in the custody of a bona fide
17 education or scientific institution for rehabilitation
18 after a rescue or stranding or for research purposes.

19 (d) Any organization that rescues or otherwise acquires a
20 cetacean after the effective date of this Act shall promptly



1 notify the department of land and natural resources of the
2 rescue or acquisition of the cetacean.

3 (e) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty
4 of a misdemeanor and shall be subject to a fine of no more than
5 \$_____.

6 (f) For the purposes of this section:

7 "Bona fide educational or scientific institution" means an
8 organization that:

9 (1) Is an educational or scientific tax exempt
10 organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
11 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; or

12 (2) Has received accreditation as an educational or
13 scientific institution from the Association of Zoos
14 and Aquariums or a qualified national, regional,
15 state, or local authority for the institution's
16 location.

17 "Cetacean" means any member of the order cetacea, including
18 whales, dolphins, and porpoises.

19 "Educational presentation" means a live, scheduled display
20 of a cetacean in the presence of spectators that includes
21 demonstrations of natural behaviors, enrichment, or exercise



1 activities and is accompanied by a live narration or video
2 content that provides science-based education about cetaceans."

3 SECTION 2. New statutory material is underscored.

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

5

INTRODUCED BY: _____



JAN 10 2025



H.B. NO. 49

Report Title:

Cetaceans; Captivity; Breeding; Ban; Fine

Description:

Bans the keeping or breeding of cetaceans in captivity except in certain circumstances.

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

