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# 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 increased euthanasia rates at local animal shelters. Abandoned  
6 animals are often subject to illness, injury, starvation,  
7 disease, attacks by other animals, and even human cruelty.  
8 Abandoned 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.

17       SECTION 2. Section 143-2.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:



1        "[~~f~~]~~\$143-2.6~~[~~f~~]    **Animal desertion.**    (a)    It shall be  
2    unlawful for the owner of any animal or any person in possession  
3    of an animal that belongs to another person to leave the animal  
4    without the intention of returning to it.

5        (b)    Any person who violates this section shall be guilty  
6    of a petty misdemeanor[~~r~~] and subject to a fine of \$1,000 in  
7    addition to any other penalties; provided that if, as a result  
8    of the desertion, the animal suffers death or substantial bodily  
9    injury, the person shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject  
10   to a penalty of \$2,000 in addition to any other penalties;  
11   provided further that each violation per animal shall constitute  
12   a separate offense."

13        SECTION 3.    This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
14    matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
15    begun before its effective date.

16        SECTION 4.    Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17    and stricken.    New statutory material is underscored.



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

2



**Report Title:**

Animal Desertion; Penalties; Fines

**Description:**

Increases penalties and establishes a fine for animal desertion.  
(SD1)

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

