
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMBAT SPORTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has embraced
2 full-contact combat sports that allow the use of both striking
3 and grappling techniques; involve both standing and
4 on-the-ground; and blend boxing, wrestling, Brazilian jiu-jitsu,
5 Muay Thai, kickboxing, karate, judo, and other styles. Combat
6 sports events have drawn capacity crowds to the Neal S.
7 Blaisdell Arena. The prestigious Ultimate Fighting Championship
8 organization has never staged a show in Hawaii, but the idea has
9 been floated many times. The legislature finds that to continue
10 growing the combat sports industry in the State and to attract
11 events like those staged by the Ultimate Fighting Championship,
12 Hawaii's boxing commission should be expanded to include combat
13 sports.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Rename the existing boxing commission of Hawaii to the
16 combat sports commission of Hawaii and expand its



1 jurisdiction to include combat sports and mixed
2 martial arts; and

3 (2) Repeal the existing mixed martial arts program under
4 chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 440, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by designating sections 440-1 to 440-37 as part I, and
7 inserting a title before section 440-1 to read "General
8 Provisions".

9 SECTION 3. Chapter 440, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
11 to read as follows:

12 **"PART . COMBAT SPORTS CONTESTS**

13 **§440-A Definitions.** As used in this part:

14 "Combat sports" means unarmed combat involving the use of a
15 combination of techniques from different disciplines of martial
16 arts, including grappling, kicking, and striking, subject to any
17 applicable limits set forth in this part and any rules adopted
18 to implement these limits.

19 "Combat sports contest" means a contest or exhibition in
20 which a combat sports contestant competes with another combat



1 sports contestant, using combat sports, for money, prize, purse,
2 or other forms of compensation.

3 "Combat sports contestant" or "contestant" means a person
4 who is trained in combat sports and competes in a combat sports
5 contest.

6 "Manager" means any person who:

7 (1) Undertakes or has undertaken to represent in any way
8 the interests of any combat sports contestant in
9 procuring, arranging, or conducting any combat sports
10 contest in which the combat sports contestant is to
11 participate; or

12 (2) Directs or controls the combat sports activities of
13 the combat sports contestant.

14 "Manager" does not include an attorney licensed to practice in
15 the State while the attorney is representing the legal interests
16 of a combat sports contestant as a client.

17 "No rules combat or similar contest" means a contest or
18 exhibition performed in the State in which the contestants:

19 (1) Are permitted to use, with few or no rules or
20 restrictions, a combination of combative contact
21 techniques, including punches, kicks, chokes, joint



1 locks, and other maneuvers, with or without the use of
2 weapons, that place contestants at an unreasonably
3 high risk of bodily injury or death; and

4 (2) Have received, directly or indirectly, any money,
5 prize, reward, purse, or other compensation, or
6 promise thereof, for the expenses of training, taking
7 part in the contest, or winning the contest.

8 "No rules combat or similar contest" does not include a contest
9 involving the exclusive use of boxing, wrestling, kickboxing,
10 martial arts, or combat sports.

11 "Promoter" means an individual, corporation, joint venture,
12 partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability
13 partnership, or any other type of business entity that promotes,

14 **§440-B Deputy commissioners.** The director may appoint
15 deputy combat sports commissioners; provided that the director
16 shall have the approval of the commission before any
17 appointment. The director may remove deputy commissioners after
18 consultation with the commission. The commission may direct one
19 or more deputy commissioners to be present at any combat sports
20 contest and, in the absence of the commission or a member
21 thereof, to supervise and control the combat sports contest, in



1 accordance with this part and the rules adopted by the
2 commission pursuant to this part. The deputy commissioners
3 shall submit a written report to the executive officer in the
4 manner and form prescribed by the commission detailing the
5 conditions prevailing at every combat sports contest.

6 **§440-C Other employees.** Subject to chapter 76, the
7 department may employ clerks, inspectors, and other employees as
8 it deems necessary for the purposes of this part.

9 **§440-D Powers and duties of the commission.** The
10 commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary or
11 expedient for the conduct of its business and the regulation of
12 the matters in this part committed to its charge, including:

13 (1) An appropriate method of ensuring that all financial
14 obligations are met by a promoter who conducts, holds,
15 or gives a combat sports contest;

16 (2) A public record accounting for the distribution of all
17 tickets provided to the commission by a promoter and
18 anything else of value that is provided to the
19 commission;

20 (3) Clinics or seminars on health and safety for licensees
21 as deemed necessary by the commission;



- 1 (4) A mandatory neurological examination for any combat
2 sports contestant who is knocked out in a combat
3 sports contest, and an eye examination as part of a
4 combat sports contestant's annual medical examination;
- 5 (5) An automatic medical suspension from a combat sports
6 contests for a period of time to be determined by the
7 commission for any combat sports contestant who is
8 knocked out from head blows or who has received a
9 severe beating about the head; provided that the
10 period of time of the automatic medical suspension
11 shall be based upon the severity of the beating
12 received by the combat sports contestant;
- 13 (6) Procedures to evaluate the professional records and
14 the health care provider's certification of each
15 combat sports contestant participating in a combat
16 sports contest in the State and to deny authorization
17 to a combat sports contestant to participate in a
18 combat sports contest when the requirements of this
19 paragraph are not met;
- 20 (7) Procedures to ensure that no combat sports contestant
21 shall be permitted to compete while under suspension



- 1 from any government entity that regulates combat
2 sports due to:
- 3 (A) A recent knockout or series of consecutive
4 losses;
 - 5 (B) An injury, any required medical procedure, or a
6 health care provider's denial of certification to
7 compete;
 - 8 (C) Failure of any drug test; or
 - 9 (D) The use of false aliases or falsifying or
10 attempting to falsify official identification
11 cards or documents relating to combat sports
12 contests;
- 13 (8) Procedures to review a suspension if appealed by a
14 combat sports contestant, including an opportunity for
15 the contestant to present contradictory evidence;
- 16 (9) Procedures to revoke a suspension if a combat sports
17 contestant furnishes proof of sufficiently improved
18 medical or physical condition or furnishes proof that
19 the suspension was not, or is no longer, warranted by
20 the facts; and



1 (10) Establishing a combat sports registry and the issuance
2 of an identification card to combat sports
3 contestants.

4 **§440-E Jurisdiction of commission.** (a) The commission
5 shall have exclusive jurisdiction, direction, management, and
6 control over all combat sports contests conducted, held, or
7 given within the State. No combat sports contest shall be
8 conducted, held, or given within the State except in accordance
9 with this part and the rules adopted by the commission pursuant
10 to this part.

11 (b) No combat sports contest shall take place unless the
12 commission has approved the proposed combat sports contest. In
13 addition, the commission shall not allow any combat sports
14 contest unless:

15 (1) The combat sports contest consists of not more than
16 five rounds of a duration of not more than five
17 minutes each with an interval of at least one minute
18 between each round and the succeeding round;

19 (2) Each contestant is at least eighteen years of age and
20 is not disqualified from competing in a similar combat



1 sports contest in another jurisdiction at the time of
2 the combat sports contest;

3 (3) One hour before the combat sports contest, each combat
4 sports contestant is examined by at least one licensed
5 health care provider who shall certify in writing to
6 the referee of the combat sports contest that the
7 contestant is physically fit to engage in the combat
8 sports contest;

9 (4) The combat sports contest is under the control of a
10 licensed referee in the ring who has at least one
11 year's experience in refereeing a match or exhibition
12 involving combat sports and who has passed a physical
13 examination by a licensed health care provider,
14 including an eye examination, within two years before
15 the combat sports contest;

16 (5) At least thirty days before a combat sports contest, a
17 promoter of the combat sports contest provides to the
18 commission information and documents, as prescribed by
19 the commission, together with a review and enforcement
20 fee of \$500, to establish that the combat sports
21 contest is not prohibited under this part; provided



1 that if the commission determines that the combat
2 sports contest is prohibited by this part, the
3 commission shall refund the \$500 review and
4 enforcement fee to the promoter;

5 (6) The promoter has complied with sections 440-F and 440-
6 G; and

7 (7) All participants have complied with the requirements
8 provided in this part and rules adopted in accordance
9 with chapter 91, including any rules or requirements
10 that protect the safety of the contestants to the
11 extent feasible.

12 (c) No person shall hold, promote, or participate in no
13 rules combat or similar contests. The commission shall enforce
14 the prohibition on no rules combat or similar contests, and may
15 adopt rules, pursuant to chapter 91, to enforce the prohibition.
16 In addition to any applicable judicial remedy, a person who
17 violates this subsection shall be subject to the penalties,
18 fines, and other provisions applicable to violators of this
19 part.

20 **§440-F Licenses; promoters.** (a) A promoter shall apply
21 to the commission for a license to conduct, hold, or give a



1 combat sports contest. The application shall be in writing,
2 addressed to the commission, signed by the applicant, and shall
3 include the following:

4 (1) Evidence of financial integrity in accordance with
5 rules adopted by the commission pursuant to chapter
6 91; and

7 (2) Proof that the applicant has satisfied all of the
8 applicable requirements of the department's business
9 registration division.

10 (b) The application shall contain a recital of the facts
11 as may be specified by the commission, for the commission to
12 determine whether the applicant possesses the necessary
13 physical, mental, moral, and financial qualifications to entitle
14 the applicant to a license.

15 (c) The application for a license to promote combat sports
16 contests shall be accompanied by a fee as provided in rules
17 adopted by the director pursuant to chapter 91.

18 (d) The commission shall not issue any license to conduct,
19 hold, or give combat sports contests unless the commission is
20 satisfied that the applicant:

21 (1) Has complied with the conditions of this part;



- 1 (2) Possesses the necessary qualifications for a license;
- 2 (3) Is the real party in interest; and
- 3 (4) Intends to conduct, hold, or give the combat sports
- 4 contest itself.

5 The commission shall not issue a promoter's license to an
6 applicant if the applicant or any of the applicant's officers,
7 partners, members, or associates have been convicted of any
8 crime related to gambling or a crime that is directly related to
9 a person's performance in the sport of combat sports.

10 (e) A license may be revoked at any time if the commission
11 finds after a hearing that:

- 12 (1) The licensee is not the real party in interest or has
- 13 not complied with this part or the rules of the
- 14 commission; or
- 15 (2) The licensee or any of the licensee's officers,
- 16 partners, members, or associates have been convicted
- 17 of any crime related to gambling or a crime that is
- 18 directly related to a person's performance in the
- 19 sport of combat sports.

20 (f) Every license shall be subject to this part and the
21 rules of the commission.



1 **§440-G Requirements to hold a combat sports contest.** (a)

2 For approval to conduct, hold, or give a combat sports contest,
3 a promoter shall provide proof of medical insurance for combat
4 sports contestants in accordance with rules adopted by the
5 commission. A promoter shall be responsible for paying any
6 deductible amount of the medical insurance policy.

7 (b) Before each combat sports contest, a promoter shall
8 provide a bond, in an amount determined by the commission, to
9 adequately cover the promoter's obligations in conducting,
10 holding, or giving a combat sports contest. The bond shall be
11 executed by the promoter as principal and by a surety company
12 authorized to conduct business in the State as the surety. If
13 the promoter fails to pay any obligations covered by the bond,
14 any aggrieved person may file an action against the bond to
15 recover the amount owed in the circuit court in the circuit in
16 which the combat sports contest was conducted, held, or given;
17 provided that the aggregate liability of the surety to all
18 aggrieved persons shall not exceed the amount of the bond. Any
19 action against the bond shall be commenced within ninety days
20 after the combat sports contest was conducted, held, or given.



1 (c) Before any combat sports contest, all contracts with
2 managers, combat sports contestants, and venues, including any
3 agreement of pre-contest training funds advanced to any
4 contestant either by the promoter or manager or any party in
5 interest, shall be submitted by the promoter to the commission
6 for the commission's review and approval.

7 (d) Before any combat sports contest, a promoter shall
8 submit to the commission, for the commission's review and
9 approval, all ring records of all combat sports contestants
10 scheduled to participate in the combat sports contest.

11 (e) A promoter shall provide a cashier's or certified
12 check made payable to each combat sports contestant for the
13 amount due the contestant or the contestant's manager, as the
14 case may be, in accordance with the contracts approved by the
15 commission.

16 (f) A promoter shall provide to the commission written
17 confirmation that appropriate security service has been obtained
18 and will be present at all times at the venue of the combat
19 sports contest and provide evidence that security personnel and
20 resources will be present in sufficient number and force to



1 exercise crowd control and to protect spectators at the combat
2 sports contest.

3 (g) A promoter shall provide to the commission evidence
4 that the combat sports contest will be conducted in compliance
5 with applicable fire codes.

6 (h) The promoter shall maintain sanitary conditions at the
7 site of the combat sports contest.

8 (i) Failure, refusal, or neglect of any licensed promoter
9 to comply with this section shall result in the automatic denial
10 to hold the combat sports contest.

11 (j) Licensed promoters may engage in promotions with other
12 licensed promoters as long as each promoter holds a valid,
13 unexpired license and has received the written approval of the
14 commission before the promotion.

15 (k) In addition to the payment of other fees and moneys
16 due under this part, a licensed promoter shall pay:

17 (1) A license fee of three per cent of the first \$50,000
18 of the total gross receipts from admission fees to a
19 combat sports contest, exclusive of federal, state,
20 and local taxes;



- 1 (2) A license fee of two per cent of the total gross
2 receipts over \$50,000 from admission fees to a combat
3 sports contest, exclusive of federal, state, and local
4 taxes;
- 5 (3) Two per cent of the gross sales price for the sale,
6 lease, or other exploitation of broadcasting,
7 television, internet, and motion picture rights for a
8 combat sports contest, without any deductions for
9 commissions, brokerage fees, distribution fees,
10 advertising, contestants' purses, or any other
11 expenses or charges, including federal, state, or
12 local taxes; and
- 13 (4) Two per cent of the gross receipts from subscription
14 or admission fees, exclusive of federal, state, and
15 local taxes, charged for viewing within the State of a
16 simultaneous telecast of a combat sports contest;
- 17 provided that payments under this subsection shall be deposited
18 into a separate account in the compliance resolution fund and
19 shall be used to cover the costs of the commission and
20 regulating this part.



1 (l) Within seven days following a combat sports contest,
2 the promoter shall provide the commission with an unedited video
3 record of the combat sports contest in a format prescribed by
4 the commission.

5 (m) No combat sports contest shall be commenced without
6 the approval of the commission pursuant to this section.

7 **§440-H Licenses; participants.** (a) Any person may apply
8 to the commission for a license to act as a health care
9 provider, referee, judge, matchmaker, manager, timekeeper,
10 second, or combat sports contestant to participate, either
11 directly or indirectly, in any combat sports contest. The
12 application shall be in writing, addressed to the commission,
13 and signed by the applicant. The application shall contain a
14 recital of facts, as may be specified by the commission, for the
15 commission to determine whether the applicant possesses the
16 necessary licensure and physical, mental, and moral
17 qualifications to entitle the applicant to a license. The
18 commission shall adopt rules for licensure in accordance with
19 chapter 91.

20 (b) In addition to subsection (a), the applicant for a
21 referee, judge, manager, or second license shall take and pass a



1 written examination as provided by the commission. The
2 commission may exempt a manager or second license applicant from
3 examination requirements; provided that the applicant holds a
4 valid manager or second license in another jurisdiction with
5 comparable combat sports regulations.

6 (c) Any license to act as a health care provider, referee,
7 judge, matchmaker, manager, timekeeper, second, or combat sports
8 contestant may be suspended or revoked, or the person otherwise
9 disciplined by the commission after a contested case hearing
10 held in accordance with chapter 91.

11 **§440-I License fees.** License fees shall be paid annually
12 to the State by every applicant to whom a license is issued to
13 participate in the conduct of combat sports in any of the
14 capacities described in this part: promoter, health care
15 provider, referee, judge, matchmaker, manager, timekeeper,
16 second, and combat sports contestant. The charge for a
17 duplicate of a license and all fees required by this part shall
18 be as provided in rules adopted by the director pursuant to
19 chapter 91 and shall be deposited with the director to the
20 credit of the compliance resolution fund.



1 **§440-J Licenses; limitations and renewals.** (a) No combat
2 sports contest shall be conducted, held, or given unless all the
3 parties participating, as designated herein, are licensed by the
4 commission. It shall be unlawful for any individual or promoter
5 to participate in a combat sports contest in any capacity
6 designated herein unless the person is licensed to do so.

7 (b) The commission may limit the number of licenses issued
8 for any purpose as specified in this part and may limit the
9 number of combat sports contests conducted, held, or given in
10 any county of the State.

11 (c) All licenses shall be for a period of not more than
12 one year and all licenses shall expire on December 31 of the
13 year in which the licenses are issued.

14 (d) The commission, at the commission's discretion and
15 upon application, may renew a license for the following year.
16 Failure to timely apply for renewal of any license shall result
17 in the automatic forfeiture of the license. Any applicant whose
18 license has been forfeited shall file an application for a new
19 license and meet all current requirements, including successful
20 passage of the examination, as the case may be, for the license.



1 (e) Any person or promoter licensed under this part shall
2 be subject to the rules adopted by the commission.

3 **§440-K Receipts and reports.** (a) Every promoter holding
4 a license to conduct, hold, or give a combat sports contest,
5 within seventy-two hours after the determination of every combat
6 sports contest for which admission fees were charged and
7 received, shall furnish to the commission a written report, duly
8 verified, showing the number of tickets sold for the combat
9 sports contest, the amount of the gross receipts or proceeds
10 thereof, and other matters as the commission prescribes.

11 (b) For the purposes of this section, "gross receipts"
12 include income received from the sale of print, internet,
13 broadcasting, television, and motion picture rights.

14 **§440-L Failure to report receipts.** Whenever any promoter
15 holding a license to conduct, hold, or give a combat sports
16 contest fails to make a report of any combat sports contest at
17 the time and in the manner prescribed by this part, or whenever
18 the report is unsatisfactory to the commission, the executive
19 officer, at the promoter's expense, may examine, or cause to be
20 examined, the books and records of the promoter.



1 **§440-M Admission tickets.** All tickets of admission to any
2 combat sports contest for which admission fees are charged and
3 received shall have printed clearly upon the face of the ticket
4 the purchase price of the ticket, and no ticket shall be sold
5 for more than the printed price.

6 **§440-N Inspectors; duties.** The commission may appoint
7 official representatives designated as inspectors, each of whom
8 shall receive from the commission a card or badge authorizing
9 the person to act as an inspector whenever the commission may
10 designate the person to so act. An inspector, the executive
11 officer, or a deputy commissioner shall be present at all combat
12 sports contests to ensure that this part and the rules are
13 strictly observed.

14 **§440-O Judges; duties.** The commission, in the
15 commission's discretion, may appoint two judges to act with the
16 referee in rendering a decision, or three judges to act with a
17 nonvoting referee in rendering a decision.

18 **§440-P Health care provider; duties.** Any promoter holding
19 a license to conduct, hold, or give a combat sports contest
20 shall have in attendance at every contest at least two health
21 care providers who are licensed to provide medical and other



1 health services in the State, and licensed pursuant to this
2 part, who shall observe the physical condition of the combat
3 sports contestants and advise the referee with regard thereto
4 and, one hour before a contestant enters the ring, certify in
5 writing as to the physical condition of the contestant to engage
6 in the combat sports contest. A report of the medical
7 examination shall be filed with the commission not less than
8 forty-eight hours after the conclusion of the combat sports
9 contest. In addition, at least one health care provider shall
10 immediately examine every contestant who was knocked down or who
11 sustained a severe beating about the head during the contest and
12 file a written medical opinion within forty-eight hours of the
13 combat sports contest to the executive officer.

14 **§440-Q Referees; duties.** (a) At each combat sports
15 contest there shall be in attendance a duly licensed referee
16 designated by the commission, who shall direct and control the
17 combat sports contest. The referee shall render a decision for
18 each combat sports contest, except as otherwise provided under
19 section 440-0.

20 (b) The referee may recommend, and the commission may
21 declare, the forfeiture of any prize, reward, purse, or other



1 compensation, or any part thereof, to which one or both of the
2 contestants may be entitled, or any part of the gate receipts
3 for which the contestants are competing, if in the commission's
4 judgment one or both of the contestants are not honestly
5 competing.

6 (c) Each referee shall warn contestants of the referee's
7 power to recommend the forfeiture of any prize, reward, purse,
8 or other compensation should there be any apparent cause for the
9 warning.

10 (d) In any case where the referee decides that the
11 contestants are not honestly competing and that under the law
12 the contestants' prize, reward, purse, or other compensation, or
13 the prize, reward, purse, or other compensation, of either
14 contestant should be forfeited, the combat sports contest shall
15 be stopped before the end of the last round, and no decision
16 shall be given. A contestant shall earn nothing and shall not
17 be paid for a combat sports contest in which there is stalling,
18 faking, dishonesty, or collusion. The commission, independently
19 of the referee or the referee's decision, may determine the
20 merits of any contest and take whatever action it considers
21 proper. The executive officer or any commissioner may order the



1 prize, reward, purse, or other compensation, of the offender to
2 be held for investigation and action.

3 (e) The referee shall stop the combat sports contest when,
4 in the referee's judgement, either of the contestants shows a
5 marked superiority or is apparently outclassed.

6 **§440-R Timekeeper; duties.** (a) At each combat sports
7 contest there shall be in attendance at least one timekeeper
8 licensed pursuant to this part and designated to act as the
9 official timekeeper of the combat sports contest.

10 (b) The timekeeper shall keep track of the time elapsing
11 during each round of a combat sports contest, the time intervals
12 between each round, and time between contests. The timekeeper
13 shall keep the referee aware during each combat sports contest
14 of the time constraints of each combat sports contest.

15 **§440-S Drug test; withholding of wages; penalty.** (a) On
16 the advice of one or both of the health care providers in
17 attendance at a combat sports contest, a post-contest drug test
18 may be administered to any contestant, at the sole expense of
19 the promoter, to determine whether the contestant has consumed
20 any illegal drugs or drugs banned by the commission.



1 (b) Any wages due to a contestant shall be withheld by the
2 commission until the commission, in consultation with the two
3 attending health care providers, is satisfied that the
4 contestant did not have the presence of any illegal or banned
5 drugs in the contestant's person.

6 (c) Any contestant who fails a drug test shall have the
7 contestant's license suspended by the commission for not less
8 than twelve months from the date of the offense and, in the
9 discretion of the commission, may have the contestant's license
10 permanently revoked.

11 **§440-T Sham or false contests; forfeiture of license.** Any
12 promoter who knowingly conducts, holds, gives, or participates
13 in any sham or false combat sports contest shall forfeit the
14 license issued in accordance with this part, and the license
15 shall be canceled and declared void by the commission. The
16 promoter and any officers, partners, or members of the promoter
17 shall not be entitled to receive, and shall not be given,
18 another license.

19 **§440-U Sham or false contests; penalty against contestant.**
20 Any contestant who knowingly participates in any sham or false
21 combat sports contest shall be suspended by the commission for



1 not less than twelve months from the date of the offense from
2 further participation in any combat sports contest held or given
3 under this part and may be permanently disqualified from further
4 participation in any combat sports contest held or given under
5 this part.

6 **§440-V Financial interest in combat sports contestants**
7 **prohibited.** (a) No commission member or staff, or appointee,
8 shall receive compensation from any person who sanctions,
9 arranges, or promotes a combat sports contest. No commission
10 member or staff, or appointee, shall have, either directly or
11 indirectly, any financial interest in any contestant competing
12 in any combat sports contest.

13 (b) For the purposes of this section, "compensation" shall
14 not include funds held in escrow for payment to another person
15 in connection with a combat sports contest. The prohibition
16 described in this section shall not apply to any contract
17 entered into, or any reasonable compensation received, by the
18 commission to supervise a combat sports contest in this State or
19 another state.

20 **§440-W Wages of contestants; prepayment prohibited.** All
21 moneys paid to a combat sports contestant for services, as money



1 prize, reward, compensation, or otherwise, shall be considered
2 wages. No contestant shall be paid for services before the
3 commencement of a combat sports contest; provided that, with the
4 approval of the commission, a promoter may advance sums of money
5 for training purposes.

6 **§440-X Disposition of receipts.** Except as otherwise
7 provided in this part, all fees and other moneys received by the
8 commission shall be deposited into the compliance resolution
9 fund.

10 **§440-Y Summary disciplinary action.** The commission may
11 fine, withhold purse money or fees, and issue immediate
12 temporary suspensions of not more than sixty days against a
13 licensee for any violation of this part or commission rules.
14 The commission shall notify the licensee in writing of any
15 temporary suspension, fine, or withholding of purse money within
16 five days of the commission's action. The licensee shall have a
17 right to a hearing in accordance with chapter 91; provided that
18 the licensee shall notify the commission in writing of the
19 request for a hearing within thirty days after the commission
20 notifies the licensee in writing, by mail or personal service,
21 of the commission's order.



1 **§440-Z Inapplicability to active duty armed forces, armed**
2 **forces reserves, national guard, or Police Activities League.**

3 This part shall not apply to any combat sports contest held as a
4 recreational activity by personnel of the active duty armed
5 forces, armed forces reserves, national guard, or the Police
6 Activities League, when the combat sports contest is held under
7 the supervision of a recreational officer of the active duty
8 armed forces, armed forces reserves, national guard, or Police
9 Activities League staff member.

10 **§440-AA Revocation; suspension.** (a) In addition to any
11 other actions authorized by law, the commission shall have the
12 power to revoke or suspend the license of any person licensed
13 under any of the classifications designated in this part, or
14 fine the licensee, or both, for any cause authorized by law,
15 including but not limited to the following:

16 (1) Violation of this part, or the rules adopted pursuant
17 to this part or any other law, or any rule that
18 applies to those persons licensed under this part;

19 (2) Manifest incapacity, professional misconduct, or
20 unethical conduct;



- 1 (3) Making any false representations or promises through
- 2 advertising or other dissemination of information;
- 3 (4) Any fraudulent, dishonest, or deceitful act in
- 4 connection with the licensing of any promoter under
- 5 this part or in connection with any combat sports
- 6 contest;
- 7 (5) Making any false or misleading statement in any
- 8 application or document submitted or required to be
- 9 filed under this part;
- 10 (6) Revocation or suspension of a license or other
- 11 disciplinary action against the licensee by another
- 12 combat sports commission, or other similar commission;
- 13 (7) Failure to report any disciplinary action, including
- 14 medical and mandatory suspensions, or revocation or
- 15 suspension of a license in another jurisdiction within
- 16 fifteen days preceding any combat sports contest in
- 17 which the licensee participates; or
- 18 (8) Participation in any sham or false combat sports
- 19 contest.
- 20 (b) A manager may be held responsible for any violations
- 21 of this part by a contestant whom the manager manages and may be



1 subject to license revocation or suspension, fines, or any
2 combination thereof, irrespective of whether any disciplinary
3 action is taken against the contestant.

4 **§440-BB Penalties.** (a) Any person in violation of this
5 part or the rules of the commission shall be fined not more than
6 \$5,000 for each violation. Each day's violation or failure to
7 comply shall be deemed a separate offense.

8 (b) In addition to the penalties provided in this part,
9 any person in violation of this part may be prohibited from
10 engaging in any combat sports activities in the State for a
11 period in conformity with that set forth in section 92-17."

12 SECTION 4. Section 26-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:

14 "(c) The board of acupuncture, board of public
15 accountancy, board of barbering and cosmetology, [~~boxing~~
16 ~~commission,~~] Hawaii board of chiropractic, combat sports
17 commission of Hawaii, contractors license board, board of
18 dentistry, board of electricians and plumbers, elevator
19 mechanics licensing board, board of professional engineers,
20 architects, surveyors, and landscape architects, board of
21 massage therapy, Hawaii medical board, motor vehicle industry



1 licensing board, motor vehicle repair industry board, board of
2 naturopathic medicine, board of nursing, Hawaii board of
3 optometry, pest control board, board of pharmacy, board of
4 physical therapy, board of psychology, board of private
5 detectives and guards, real estate commission, Hawaii board of
6 veterinary medicine, board of speech pathology and audiology,
7 and any board, commission, program, or entity created pursuant
8 to or specified by statute in furtherance of the purpose of this
9 section including but not limited to section 26H-4, or chapters
10 484, 514B, and 514E shall be placed within the department of
11 commerce and consumer affairs for administrative purposes.

12 The public utilities commission shall be placed, for
13 administrative purposes only, within the department of commerce
14 and consumer affairs. Notwithstanding section 26-9(e), (f),
15 (g), (h), (j), (k), (l), (m), (n), (p), (q), (r), and (s), and
16 except as permitted by sections 269-2 and 269-3, the department
17 of commerce and consumer affairs shall not direct or exert
18 authority over the day-to-day operations or functions of the
19 commission."

20 SECTION 5. Section 92-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended to read as follows:



1 **"§92-28 State service fees; increase or decrease of.** Any
 2 law to the contrary notwithstanding, the fees or other nontax
 3 revenues assessed or charged by any board, commission, or other
 4 governmental agency may be increased or decreased by the body in
 5 an amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the statutorily
 6 assessed fee or nontax revenue, to maintain a reasonable
 7 relation between the revenues derived from [~~such~~] the fee or
 8 nontax revenue and the cost or value of services rendered,
 9 comparability among fees imposed by the State, or any other
 10 purpose [~~which~~] that it may deem necessary and reasonable;
 11 provided that:

- 12 (1) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
 13 revenues shall be subject to the approval of the
 14 governor and extend only to the following: chapters
 15 36, 92, 94, 142, 144, 145, 147, 150, 171, 188, 189,
 16 231, 269, 271, 321, 338, 373, 412, 414, 414D, 415A,
 17 417E, 419, 421, 421C, 421H, 421I, 425, 425E, 428, 431,
 18 436E, 436H, 437, 437B, 440, [~~440E7~~] 441, 442, 443B,
 19 444, 447, 448, 448E, 448F, 448H, 451A, 451J, 452, 453,
 20 453D, 455, 456, 457, 457A, 457B, 457G, 458, 459, 460J,
 21 461, 461J, 462A, 463, 463E, 464, 465, 465D, 466, 466D,



1 466K, 467, 467E, 468E, 468L, 468M, 469, 471, 472, 482,
2 482E, 484, 485A, 501, 502, 505, 514B, 514E, 572, 574,
3 and 846 (part II) and any board, commission, program,
4 or entity created pursuant to title 25 and assigned to
5 the department of commerce and consumer affairs or
6 placed within the department for administrative
7 purposes;

8 (2) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
9 revenues under the chapters listed in paragraph (1)
10 that are established by the department of commerce and
11 consumer affairs shall apply to fees or nontax
12 revenues established by statute or rule;

13 (3) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
14 revenues established by the University of Hawaii under
15 chapter 304A shall be subject to the approval of the
16 board of regents; provided that the board's approval
17 of any increase or decrease in tuition for regular
18 credit courses shall be preceded by an open public
19 meeting held during or before the semester preceding
20 the semester to which the tuition applies;



- 1 (4) This section shall not apply to judicial fees as may
2 be set by any chapter cited in this section;
- 3 (5) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
4 revenues pursuant to this section shall be exempt from
5 the public notice and public hearing requirements of
6 chapter 91; and
- 7 (6) Fees for copies of proposed and final rules and public
8 notices of proposed rulemaking actions under chapter
9 91 shall not exceed 10 cents a page, as required by
10 section 91-2.5."

11 SECTION 6. Section 440-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended by amending the definition of "commission" to read as
13 follows:

14 ""Commission" means the [~~state boxing commission.~~] combat
15 sports commission of Hawaii."

16 SECTION 7. Section 440-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
17 amended to read as follows:

18 "~~§440-2~~ **Commission established.** There shall be a board
19 which shall be known as the [~~state boxing~~] combat sports
20 commission of Hawaii. The commission shall consist of [~~five~~]
21 eight members. At least one of the members shall be a member of



1 USA Boxing, Inc. At least one member shall have experience in
2 the regulation of combat sports and combat sports events. One
3 member shall be designated by the governor as chairperson of the
4 commission."

5 SECTION 8. Section 440-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**S440-20 Judges; duties.** The [~~boxing~~] commission may in
8 its discretion appoint two judges to act with the referee in
9 rendering a decision or three judges to act with a nonvoting
10 referee in rendering a decision."

11 SECTION 9. Section 440-23, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "**S440-23 Sham boxing contest; penalty against contestant.**
14 Any contestant who knowingly participates in any sham or false
15 boxing contest shall be suspended by the [~~boxing~~] commission for
16 not less than twelve months from the date of the offense from
17 further participation in any boxing contest held or given under
18 this [~~chapter~~] part and may be permanently disqualified from
19 further participation in any boxing contest held or given under
20 this [~~chapter.~~] part."



1 SECTION 10. Section 440-29, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§440-29 Limit of weight difference between contestants.**

4 No boxing contest shall be allowed in which the difference in
5 weight between the respective contestants exceeds the limits
6 which the [~~boxing~~] commission prescribes in its rules."

7 SECTION 11. Section 440-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended to read as follows:

9 **"§440-32 Amateur contestants entitled to medals and**
10 **trophies only.** A medal or trophy may be awarded to each
11 contestant in an amateur boxing contest not to exceed in value
12 the sum of \$35 each. The medal or trophy shall have engraved
13 thereon the name of the winner and the date of the event.

14 No other or additional prize, reward, or remuneration shall
15 be given or awarded to any contestant unless authorized in
16 writing by the [~~boxing~~] commission.

17 Every contestant in an amateur boxing contest or sparring
18 match shall be registered with the commission or its amateur
19 representative and subject to an annual physical examination.
20 Each amateur contestant shall be examined by a physician
21 immediately before the contest."



1 SECTION 12. Section 440-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§440-33 Disposition of receipts.** All moneys received by
4 the [~~boxing~~] commission shall be deposited by the director of
5 commerce and consumer affairs with the director of finance to
6 the credit of the general fund of the State."

7 SECTION 13. Chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 repealed.

9 SECTION 14. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2026-2027 to establish and fund full-time equivalent
14 (FTE) positions within the department of commerce and
15 consumer affairs for the combat sports commission of Hawaii.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
17 of commerce and consumer affairs for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 15. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 16. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii; Combat Sports Contests;
Prohibitions; Boxing Commission; Mixed Martial Arts Contests;
Repeal; Appropriations

Description:

Renames the Boxing Commission of Hawaii to the Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii. Expands the jurisdiction of the Boxing Commission to include combat sports contests. Prohibits no rules combat or similar combat sports contests. Repeals chapter 440E, HRS, relating to Mixed Martial Arts Contests. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

