

JAN 23 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WILDLIFE CONSERVATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that feral non-native
2 animals pose a threat to the State's native species, including
3 the Hawaiian monk seal, nene goose, and other native birds.
4 Feral non-native animals may carry diseases, including
5 toxoplasmosis, a disease caused by the parasite *Toxoplasma*
6 *gondii*, which is the leading cause of Hawaiian monk seal
7 mortality. *T. gondii* reproduces in the digestive system of
8 certain non-native animals, spreading into the environment via
9 the feces of these animals. Rainwater and runoff transport the
10 eggs of *T. gondii* into the ocean through streams and gutters,
11 infecting Hawaiian monk seals that consume contaminated water or
12 prey. The disease is almost always lethal for Hawaiian monk
13 seals as there is a lack of effective treatment options.

14 The legislature further finds that there are large and
15 growing populations of feral non-native animals throughout the
16 State. Feeding feral non-native animals perpetuates population
17 growth and ultimately increases the amount of *T. gondii* eggs



1 spread into the environment. For the protection and
2 preservation of the State's native species, it is necessary to
3 manage feral non-native animal populations.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
5 feeding of feral non-native animals within one-half mile of the
6 ocean or a stream and impose certain penalties.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part V to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§183D- Feeding of feral non-native animals; prohibited;
11 penalty. (a) No person shall harbor, feed, or in any way care
12 for a feral non-native animal on state land within one-half mile
13 of the ocean or a stream.

14 (b) Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be:

15 (1) For a first offense, issued a warning by the
16 department;

17 (2) For a second offense, issued a citation and required
18 to perform community service as directed by the
19 department; provided that the department may recommend
20 an order of community service that benefits the
21 resource that was damaged; and



1 (3) For a third or subsequent offense, guilty of a
2 misdemeanor.

3 (c) Each county shall adopt or amend its ordinances to
4 implement this section no later than January 1, , as it
5 relates to the prohibition of harboring, feeding, or in any way
6 caring for a feral non-native animal on county land within one-
7 half mile of the ocean or a stream.

8 (d) The department shall submit a report to the
9 legislature, no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
10 each regular session, detailing violations of this section."

11 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

13

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1537

Report Title:

DLNR; Wildlife; Feral Non-Native Animals; Prohibition; State Land; County Land; Penalties; Reports

Description:

Prohibits the feeding of feral non-native animals on state land within one-half mile of the ocean or a stream. Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to enforce certain penalties for violations. Requires the counties to adopt or amend ordinances to prohibit the feeding of feral non-native animals on county land within one-half mile of the ocean or a stream and impose certain penalties for violations. Establishes an annual reporting requirement to the Legislature.

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

