
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DANGEROUS DOGS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 711-1144, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~[§]~~711-1144~~[§]~~ **Negligent failure to control a dangerous**
4 **dog; penalties.** (a) The owner of a dangerous dog commits the
5 offense of negligent failure to control a dangerous dog if:

6 (1) A bite injury occurs due to the failure of the owner
7 of a dangerous dog to comply with the requirements of
8 this part; or

9 (2) The owner of a dangerous dog negligently fails to take
10 reasonable measures to prevent the dangerous dog from
11 causing a bite injury, without provocation, to a
12 person or another animal and the attack results in:

13 (A) The serious injury to any animal or maiming or
14 death of another animal;

15 (B) Bodily injury to a person other than the owner;

16 ~~[or]~~



1 (C) Substantial bodily injury to[, ~~serious bodily~~
2 ~~injury to, or the death of,~~] a person other than
3 the owner[~~;~~]; or

4 (D) Serious bodily injury to, or the death of, a
5 person other than the owner.

6 (b) An offense under subsection (a)(1)[~~;~~] or (a)(2)(A)[~~;~~
7 ~~or (a)(2)(B)~~] shall be a misdemeanor for which the owner of the
8 dangerous dog shall be sentenced to:

9 (1) A fine of no less than \$1,000 but no more than \$2,000;

10 (2) A term of imprisonment of up to six months or a period
11 of probation of no more than one year;

12 (3) The payment of restitution to any person who has
13 suffered bodily injury or property damage as a result
14 of an attack by the dangerous dog if the person
15 suffers financial losses or medical expenses due to
16 the attack. As used in this paragraph, "medical
17 expenses" may include the costs of necessary
18 counseling or rehabilitative services; and

19 (4) The payment of all expenses for the boarding and
20 retention of the dangerous dog if the dog is seized
21 and impounded pursuant to this part;



1 provided that no sentence under this subsection shall be
2 suspended.

3 (c) Unless the dangerous dog has been or is ordered to be
4 euthanized, an owner who has negligently failed to control a
5 dangerous dog shall also be required to:

6 (1) Meet all conditions imposed on the owner of a
7 dangerous dog pursuant to this part;

8 (2) Obtain liability insurance or post bond of no less
9 than \$50,000, or in a higher amount, if the court
10 finds that a higher amount is appropriate to cover
11 medical or veterinary costs, or both, resulting from
12 potential future actions of the dangerous dog; and

13 (3) Follow any other condition that the court deems
14 necessary to restrain or control the dangerous dog.

15 (d) An offense under subsection [~~(a)(2)(C)~~] (a)(2)(B)
16 shall be a class C felony for which the owner of a dangerous dog
17 shall be sentenced to:

18 (1) A fine of no less than \$1,000 but no more than
19 \$10,000;

20 (2) A term of imprisonment of no less than one year but no
21 more than five years, pursuant to chapter 706; and



1 (3) The euthanasia of the dangerous dog;
2 provided that no sentence under this subsection shall be
3 suspended.

4 (e) An offense under subsection (a)(2)(C) shall be a class
5 B felony for which the owner of a dangerous dog shall be
6 sentenced to:

7 (1) A fine of no less than \$ but no more than
8 \$25,000;

9 (2) A term of imprisonment of no less than but no more
10 than ten years, pursuant to chapter 706; and

11 (3) The euthanasia of the dangerous dog;
12 provided that no sentence under this subsection shall be
13 suspended.

14 (f) An offense under subsection (a)(2)(D) shall be a class
15 A felony for which the owner of a dangerous dog shall be
16 sentenced to:

17 (1) A fine of no less than \$ but no more than
18 \$50,000;

19 (2) A term of imprisonment of no less than but no more
20 than twenty years, pursuant to chapter 706; and

21 (3) The euthanasia of the dangerous dog;



1 provided that no sentence under this subsection shall be
2 suspended."

3 SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
9

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 17 2025



Report Title:

Penal Code; Dangerous Dogs; Negligence; Injuries; Penalties

Description:

Increase penalties for bodily injuries to humans caused by unprovoked dangerous dog bites resulting from dog owner negligence.

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

