

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that public
2 transportation serves as an essential resource for mobility,
3 employment, education, healthcare, and community engagement,
4 benefiting residents and visitors alike. The inclusion of
5 companion animals in public transportation can enhance
6 accessibility, reduce barriers for pet owners in need, and
7 promote the humane treatment of animals. A survey of
8 underserved areas conducted by the Hawaii Humane Society
9 revealed that large portion of pet owners identified
10 transportation limitations as a significant barrier to accessing
11 veterinary care, pet-friendly housing, and other essential
12 services.

13 The legislature further finds that comparable policies in
14 metropolitan areas such as Boston, New York City, and
15 Washington, D.C., have demonstrated that accommodating pets on
16 public transportation is feasible with proper limitations and
17 oversight to ensure the safety and comfort of all riders.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to allow service
2 animals and non-service pet animals on mass transit systems in
3 the State.

4 SECTION 2. Chapter 51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended
5 by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to
6 read as follows:

7 "**§51- Animals on mass transit.** (a) Service animals, as
8 defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act, shall be allowed
9 on any mass transit vehicle at all times.

10 (b) Non-service pet animals shall be allowed:

11 (1) During peak hours between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and
12 9:00 a.m. and between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 7:00
13 p.m.; provided that non-service pet animals shall be
14 secured in an enclosed carrier that fits on the
15 passenger's lap or under the seat without obstructing
16 the aisles; and

17 (2) During off-peak hours; provided that larger dogs shall
18 be securely leashed and not occupy seats or impede
19 passenger movement.



1 (c) Pet animal owners shall ensure their pet animals are
2 well-behaved, properly leashed or contained, and do not cause a
3 disturbance or pose a risk to passengers.

4 (d) Any pet animal exhibiting aggressive or disruptive
5 behavior shall result in the owner being asked to disembark.

6 (e) Transit personnel shall retain the authority to
7 restrict pet animal access during emergencies, overcrowding, or
8 other safety concerns.

9 (f) Pet animal owners shall assume liability for any
10 damage or injury caused by their animal while using public
11 transportation.

12 (g) For the purposes of this section, "pet animal" shall
13 have the same meaning as defined in section 711-1100."

14 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

16
INTRODUCED BY: _____



S.B. NO. 1025

Report Title:

Mass Transit; Service Animals; Non-Service Pet Animals

Description:

Allows service and non-service pet animals on mass transit vehicles under certain conditions.

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

