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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RESTAURANTS.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that unauthorized  
2 restaurant reservation listings by third-party restaurant  
3 reservation services are misleading to consumers and detrimental  
4 to restaurant businesses in the State. The legislature also  
5 finds that the State has an interest in preventing this  
6 substantial misconduct. This Act advances the State's interest  
7 by prohibiting third-parties from listing restaurant reservation  
8 services without the restaurant's knowledge or prior written  
9 consent. The legislature further finds that avoiding these  
10 harmful effects justify the restrictions imposed by this Act.

11       Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12       (1) Prohibit third-party restaurant reservation services  
13           from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling  
14           restaurant reservation services without first  
15           obtaining a written agreement from the applicable  
16           restaurant authorizing the action; and  
17       (2) Establish civil penalties.



SECTION 2. Chapter 489J, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"§489J- Unauthorized restaurant reservations; prohibited.** (a) No third-party restaurant reservation service shall list, advertise, promote, or sell reservations for a restaurant through the third-party restaurant reservation service's website, mobile application, or other digital platform unless the applicable restaurant or a contractual designee of the restaurant expressly authorized by the restaurant to distribute reservations to a third party agrees in writing for the third-party restaurant reservation service to list, advertise, promote, or sell reservations for that restaurant.

(b) No agreement executed pursuant to subsection (a) shall include a provision, clause, or covenant requiring the restaurant to indemnify the third-party restaurant reservation service, any independent contractor acting on behalf of the third-party restaurant reservation service, or any registered agent of the third-party restaurant reservation service for any harm arising from an act or omission initiated by the third-party restaurant reservation service; provided that any



1 provision, clause, or covenant in violation of this subsection  
2 shall be held invalid.

3 (c) Any person who is charged a fee or price by or through  
4 a third-party restaurant reservation service for a reservation  
5 that is listed, advertised, promoted, or sold in violation of  
6 this section; or any restaurant for which a third-party  
7 restaurant reservation service has listed, advertised, promoted,  
8 or sold a reservation in violation of this section may bring a  
9 civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction for the  
10 following:

11 (1) Injunctive relief to restrain or enjoin any activity  
12 in violation of this section;

13 (2) Actual damages; provided that the actual damages shall  
14 not exceed the total fees collected by the third-party  
15 restaurant reservation service for the subject  
16 violation; and

17 (3) Attorneys' fees and costs and any other remedies that  
18 the court deems appropriate.

19 (d) Any action alleging a violation of this section shall  
20 be brought within one year of the occurrence of the acts alleged  
21 to have violated this section.



1       (e) For the purposes of this section:

2       "Restaurant" means a food establishment in which food is  
3 provided free of charge or sold to consumers for consumption on  
4 or off the premises. "Restaurant" includes dine-in  
5 establishments, pushcarts, food stands, and vehicles.

6       "Third-party restaurant reservation service" means any  
7 website, mobile application, or other digital platform that:

8       (1) Offers or arranges for reserving on-premises service  
9       for a customer at a restaurant; and

10       (2) Is owned and operated by an entity other than the  
11 entity that owns the applicable restaurant."

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

15       SECTION 4. This Act shall not be applied so as to impair  
16 any contracts existing as of the effective date of this Act in a  
17 manner violative of the Contract Clause under article I,  
18 section 10, of the United States Constitution or the Hawaii  
19 State Constitution.

20       SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

21       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Restaurants; Reservations; Third-Party Restaurant Reservation Services; Unauthorized; Prohibition; Penalties

**Description:**

Prohibits third-party restaurant reservation services from listing, advertising, promoting, or selling restaurant reservations without first obtaining a written agreement from the applicable restaurant authorizing the action. Establishes civil penalties. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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

