

JAN 23 2025

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 a combat sports commission must be established.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to replace the
14 existing mixed martial arts program with a new regulatory
15 framework under the authority of a combat sports commission of
16 Hawaii.



SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"CHAPTER

COMBAT SPORTS CONTESTS

§ -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter:

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

"Combat sports contest" means a contest or exhibition in which a combat sports contestant competes with another combat sports contestant, using combat sports, for money, prize, purse, or other forms of compensation.

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

"Commission" means the combat sports commission of Hawaii established in section -2.



1 "Department" means the department of commerce and consumer
2 affairs.

3 "Director" means the director of commerce and consumer
4 affairs.

5 "Executive officer" means the executive officer assigned to
6 the commission.

7 "Manager" means any person who:

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

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

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

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

20 (1) Are permitted to use, with few or no rules or
21 restrictions, a combination of combative contact



1 techniques, including punches, kicks, chokes, joint
2 locks, and other maneuvers, with or without the use of
3 weapons, that place contestants at an unreasonably
4 high risk of bodily injury or death; and

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

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

12 "Promoter" means an individual, corporation, joint venture,
13 partnership, limited liability corporation, limited liability
14 partnership, or any other type of business entity that promotes,
15 conducts, holds, or gives a combat sports contest.

16 § -2 **Commission established.** There shall be established
17 the combat sports commission of Hawaii. The commission shall
18 consist of five members appointed by the governor for staggered
19 terms as determined by the governor, pursuant to section 26-34;
20 provided that at least one member shall have experience as a
21 combat sports contestant and all members shall have experience



1 in combat sports contests as a contestant or in the promotion or
2 administration of combat sports contests. The governor shall
3 designate one member as chairperson of the commission.

4 § -3 **Executive officer.** The director shall assign an
5 executive officer to the commission to carry out the
6 commission's activities, duties, and other obligations under
7 this chapter.

8 § -4 **Deputy commissioners.** The director may appoint
9 deputy commissioners; provided that the director shall have the
10 approval of the commission before any appointment. The director
11 may remove deputy commissioners after consultation with the
12 commission. The commission may direct one or more deputy
13 commissioners to be present at any combat sports contest and, in
14 the absence of the commission or a member thereof, to supervise
15 and control the combat sports contest, in accordance with this
16 chapter and the rules adopted by the commission pursuant to this
17 chapter. The deputy commissioners shall submit a written report
18 to the executive officer in the manner and form prescribed by
19 the commission detailing the conditions prevailing at every
20 combat sports contest.



1 § -5 **Other employees.** Subject to chapter 76, the
2 department may employ clerks, inspectors, and other employees as
3 it deems necessary for the purposes of this chapter.

4 § -6 **Authority to subpoena witnesses and administer**
5 **oaths and penalties.** The chairperson of the commission or the
6 executive officer may issue subpoenas for the attendance of
7 witnesses before the commission, with the same effect as if the
8 subpoenas were issued in an action in the circuit court, and may
9 administer oaths in all matters connected with the
10 administration of the affairs of the commission. Disobedience
11 of a subpoena and false swearing before the executive officer or
12 the commission shall be attended by the same consequences and be
13 subject to the same penalties as if disobedience or false
14 swearing occurred in an action in the circuit court.

15 § -7 **Powers and duties of the commission.** The
16 commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 necessary or
17 expedient for the conduct of its business and the regulation of
18 the matters in this chapter committed to its charge, including:

- 19 (1) An appropriate method of ensuring that all financial
20 obligations are met by a promoter who conducts, holds,
21 or gives a combat sports contest;



1 (2) A public record accounting for the distribution of all
2 tickets provided to the commission by a promoter and
3 anything else of value that is provided to the
4 commission;

5 (3) Clinics or seminars on health and safety for licensees
6 deemed necessary by the commission;

7 (4) A mandatory neurological examination for any combat
8 sports contestant who is knocked out in a combat
9 sports contest, and an eye examination as part of a
10 combat sports contestant's annual medical examination;

11 (5) An automatic medical suspension from combat sports
12 contests for a period of time to be determined by the
13 commission for any combat sports contestant who is
14 knocked out from head blows or who has received a
15 severe beating about the head. The period of time of
16 the automatic medical suspension shall be based upon
17 the severity of the beating received by the combat
18 sports contestant;

19 (6) Procedures to evaluate the professional records and
20 physician's certification of each combat sports
21 contestant participating in a combat sports contest in



1 the State and to deny authorization to a combat sports
2 contestant to fight when the requirements of this
3 paragraph are not met;

4 (7) Procedures to ensure that no combat sports contestant
5 shall be permitted to compete while under suspension
6 from any government entity that regulates combat
7 sports due to:

8 (A) A recent knockout or series of consecutive
9 losses;

10 (B) An injury, any required medical procedure, or a
11 physician's denial of certification to compete;

12 (C) Failure of any drug test; or

13 (D) The use of false aliases or falsifying or
14 attempting to falsify official identification
15 cards or documents relating to combat sports
16 contests;

17 (8) Procedures to review a suspension if appealed by a
18 combat sports contestant, including an opportunity for
19 the contestant to present contradictory evidence;

20 (9) Procedures to revoke a suspension if a combat sports
21 contestant furnishes proof of sufficiently improved



1 medical or physical condition or furnishes proof that
2 the suspension was not, or is no longer, warranted by
3 the facts; and

4 (10) Establishing a combat sports registry and the issuance
5 of an identification card to combat sports
6 contestants.

7 § -8 **Jurisdiction of commission.** (a) The commission is
8 vested with the sole jurisdiction, direction, management, and
9 control over all combat sports contests to be conducted, held,
10 or given within the State. No combat sports contest shall be
11 conducted, held, or given within the State except in accordance
12 with this chapter and the rules adopted by the commission
13 pursuant to this chapter.

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

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



1 (2) Each contestant is at least eighteen years of age and
2 is not disqualified from competing in a similar combat
3 sports contest in another jurisdiction at the time of
4 the combat sports contest;

5 (3) One hour before the combat sports contest, each combat
6 sports contestant is examined by at least one
7 physician licensed under chapter 453 who shall certify
8 in writing to the referee of the combat sports contest
9 that the contestant is physically fit to engage in the
10 combat sports contest;

11 (4) The combat sports contest is under the control of a
12 licensed referee in the ring who has at least one
13 year's experience in refereeing a match or exhibition
14 involving combat sports and who has passed a physical
15 examination by a physician licensed under chapter 453,
16 including an eye examination, within two years before
17 the combat sports contest;

18 (5) At least thirty days before a combat sports contest, a
19 promoter of the combat sports contest provides to the
20 commission information and documents, as prescribed by
21 the commission, together with a review and enforcement



1 fee of \$500, to establish that the combat sports
2 contest is not prohibited under this chapter; provided
3 that if the commission determines that the combat
4 sports contest is prohibited by this chapter, the
5 commission shall refund the \$500 review and
6 enforcement fee to the promoter;

7 (6) The promoter has complied with sections -9
8 and -10; and

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

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



1 § -9 **Licenses; promoters.** (a) A promoter may apply to
2 the commission for a license that shall be required to conduct,
3 hold, or give combat sports contests. The application shall be
4 in writing, addressed to the commission, and signed by the
5 applicant, and shall include the following:

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

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

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

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



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

4 (1) Has complied with the conditions of this chapter;

5 (2) Possesses the necessary qualifications for a license;

6 (3) Is the real party in interest; and

7 (4) Intends to conduct, hold, or give the combat sports
8 contest itself.

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

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

16 (1) The licensee is not the real party in interest or has
17 not complied with this chapter or the rules of the
18 commission; or

19 (2) The licensee or any of the licensee's officers,
20 partners, members, or associates have been convicted
21 of any crime related to gambling or a crime that is



1 directly related to a person's performance in the
2 sport of combat sports.

3 (f) Every license shall be subject to this chapter and the
4 rules of the commission.

5 § -10 Requirements to hold a combat sports contest. (a)

6 For approval to conduct, hold, or give a combat sports contest,
7 a promoter shall provide proof of medical insurance for combat
8 sports contestants in accordance with rules adopted by the
9 commission. All promoters shall be responsible for paying any
10 deductible amount of the medical insurance policy.

11 (b) Before each combat sports contest, a promoter shall
12 provide a bond, in an amount determined by the commission, to
13 adequately cover the promoter's obligations in conducting,
14 holding, or giving a combat sports contest. The bond shall be
15 executed by the promoter as principal and by a surety company
16 authorized to do business in the State as the surety. If the
17 promoter fails to pay any obligations covered by the bond, any
18 aggrieved person may file an action against the bond to recover
19 the amount owed, in the circuit court in the circuit in which
20 the combat sports contest was conducted, held, or given;
21 provided that the aggregate liability of the surety to all



1 aggrieved persons shall not exceed the amount of the bond. Any
2 action against the bond shall be commenced within ninety days
3 after the combat sports contest was conducted, held, or given.

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

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

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

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



1 resources will be present in sufficient number and force to
2 exercise crowd control and to protect spectators at the combat
3 sports contest.

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

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

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

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

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

- 18 (1) A license fee of three per cent of the first \$50,000
19 of the total gross receipts from admission fees to a
20 combat sports contest, exclusive of federal, state,
21 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 commission, brokerage fee, 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 chapter.



1 (1) 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 § -11 **Licenses, participants.** (a) Any person may apply
8 to the commission for a license to act as a physician, referee,
9 judge, matchmaker, manager, timekeeper, second, or combat sports
10 contestant to participate, either directly or indirectly, in any
11 combat sports contest. The application shall be in writing,
12 addressed to the commission, and signed by the applicant. The
13 application shall contain a recital of facts, as may be
14 specified by the commission, for the commission to determine
15 whether the applicant possesses the necessary licensure and
16 physical, mental, and moral qualifications to entitle the
17 applicant to a license. The commission shall adopt rules for
18 licensure in accordance with chapter 91.

19 (b) In addition, the applicant for a referee, judge,
20 manager, or second license shall take and pass a written
21 examination as provided by the commission. The commission may



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

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

10 § -12 **License fees.** License fees shall be paid annually
11 to the State by every applicant to whom a license is issued to
12 participate in the conduct of combat sports in any of the
13 capacities set forth in this chapter: promoter, physician,
14 referee, judge, matchmaker, manager, timekeeper, second, and
15 combat sports contestant. The charge for a duplicate of a
16 license and all fees required by this chapter shall be as
17 provided in rules adopted by the director pursuant to chapter 91
18 and shall be deposited with the director to the credit of the
19 compliance resolution fund.

20 § -13 **Licenses, limitations, renewals.** (a) No combat
21 sports contest shall be conducted, held, or given unless all the



1 parties participating, as designated herein, are licensed by the
2 commission, and it shall be unlawful for any individual or
3 promoter to participate in a combat sports contest in any
4 capacity designated herein unless the person is licensed to do
5 so.

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

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

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

20 (e) Every individual or promoter licensed under this
21 chapter shall be subject to the rules adopted by the commission.



1 § **-14 Receipts and reports.** (a) Every promoter holding
2 a license to conduct, hold, or give combat sports contests,
3 within seventy-two hours after the determination of every combat
4 sports contest for which admission fees were charged and
5 received, shall furnish to the commission a written report, duly
6 verified, showing the number of tickets sold for the combat
7 sports contest, the amount of the gross receipts or proceeds
8 thereof, and other matters as the commission prescribes.

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

12 § **-15 Failure to report receipts.** Whenever any promoter
13 holding a license to conduct, hold, or give combat sports
14 contests fails to make a report of any combat sports contest at
15 the time and in the manner prescribed by this chapter, or
16 whenever the report is unsatisfactory to the commission, the
17 executive officer, at the promoter's expense, may examine, or
18 cause to be examined, the books and records of the promoter.

19 § **-16 Admission tickets.** All tickets of admission to
20 any combat sports contest for which admission fees are charged
21 and received shall have printed clearly upon the face of the



1 ticket the purchase price of the ticket, and no ticket shall be
2 sold for more than the printed price.

3 § **-17 Inspectors; duties.** The commission may appoint
4 official representatives designated as inspectors, each of whom
5 shall receive from the commission a card or badge authorizing
6 the person to act as inspector whenever the commission may
7 designate the person to so act. An inspector, the executive
8 officer, or a deputy commissioner shall be present at all combat
9 sports contests and see that this chapter and the rules are
10 strictly observed.

11 § **-18 Judges; duties.** The commission, in the
12 commission's discretion, may appoint two judges to act with the
13 referee in rendering a decision, or three judges to act with a
14 nonvoting referee in rendering a decision.

15 § **-19 Physician; duties.** Every promoter holding a
16 license to conduct, hold, or give combat sports contests shall
17 have in attendance at every combat sports contest at least two
18 physicians who are licensed to practice medicine in the State
19 under chapter 453, and licensed pursuant to this chapter, who
20 shall observe the physical condition of the combat sports
21 contestants and advise the referee with regard thereto and, one



1 hour before each contestant enters the ring, certify in writing
2 as to the physical condition of the contestant to engage in the
3 combat sports contest. A report of the medical examination
4 shall be filed with the commission not less than forty-eight
5 hours after the termination of the combat sports contest. In
6 addition, at least one physician shall immediately examine every
7 contestant who was knocked down or who sustained a severe
8 beating about the head during the combat sports contest and
9 shall file a written medical opinion within forty-eight hours of
10 the combat sports contest to the executive officer.

11 § -20 Referees; duties. (a) At each combat sports
12 contest there shall be in attendance a duly licensed referee
13 designated by the commission, who shall direct and control the
14 combat sports contest. The referee shall render a decision for
15 each combat sports contest, except as otherwise provided under
16 section -18.

17 (b) The referee may recommend and the commission may
18 declare the forfeiture of any prize, reward, purse, or other
19 compensation, or any part thereof, to which one or both of the
20 combat sports contestants may be entitled, or any part of the
21 gate receipts for which the contestants are competing, if in the



1 commission's judgment one or both of the contestants are not
2 honestly competing.

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

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



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

4 § -21 **Timekeeper; duties.** (a) At each combat sports
5 contest there shall be in attendance at least one timekeeper
6 licensed pursuant to this chapter and designated to act as the
7 official timekeeper of the combat sports contest.

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

14 § -22 **Drug test; withholding of wages; penalty.** (a) On
15 the advice of one or both of the physicians in attendance at
16 every combat sports contest, a post-contest drug test may be
17 administered to any contestant, at the sole expense of the
18 promoter, to determine whether the contestant has consumed any
19 illegal drugs or drugs banned by the commission.

20 (b) Any wages due to a contestant shall be withheld by the
21 commission until the commission, in consultation with the two



1 attending physicians, is satisfied that the contestant did not
2 have the presence of any illegal or banned drugs in the
3 contestant's person.

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

9 § -23 Sham or false combat sports contest; forfeiture of
10 license. Any promoter who knowingly conducts, holds, gives, or
11 participates in any sham or false combat sports contest shall
12 forfeit the license issued in accordance with this chapter, and
13 the license shall be canceled and declared void by the
14 commission. The promoter and any officers, partners, or members
15 of the promoter shall not thereafter be entitled to receive and
16 shall not be given another license.

17 § -24 Sham or false combat sports contest; penalty
18 against contestant. Any combat sports contestant who knowingly
19 participates in any sham or false combat sports contest shall be
20 suspended by the commission for not less than twelve months from
21 the date of the offense from further participation in any



1 contest held or given under this chapter and may be permanently
2 disqualified from further participation in any combat sports
3 contest held or given under this chapter.

4 **§ -25 Financial interest in combat sports contestant**

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

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

18 **§ -26 Wages of contestant; prepayment prohibited.** All
19 moneys paid to a combat sports contestant for services, as money
20 prize, reward, compensation, or otherwise, shall be considered
21 wages. No contestant shall be paid for services before a combat



1 sports contest; provided that with the approval of the
2 commission, a promoter may advance sums of money for training
3 purposes.

4 § -27 **Disposition of receipts.** Except as otherwise
5 provided for in this chapter, all fees and other moneys received
6 by the commission shall be deposited into the compliance
7 resolution fund.

8 § -28 **Summary disciplinary action.** The commission may
9 fine, withhold purse money or fees, and issue immediate
10 temporary suspensions of not more than sixty days against a
11 licensee for violations of this chapter or commission rules.
12 The commission shall notify the licensee in writing of any
13 temporary suspension, fine, or withholding of purse money within
14 five days of the commission's action. The licensee shall have a
15 right to a hearing in accordance with chapter 91; provided that
16 the licensee notifies the commission in writing of the request
17 for a hearing within thirty days after the commission notifies
18 the licensee in writing, by mail or personal service, of the
19 commission's order.

20 § -29 **Inapplicability to active duty armed forces, armed**
21 **forces reserves, national guard, or Police Activities League.**



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

8 § -30 **Revocation; suspension.** (a) In addition to any
9 other actions authorized by law, the commission shall have the
10 power to revoke or suspend the license of any person licensed
11 under any of the classifications designated in this chapter, or
12 fine the licensee, or both, for any cause authorized by law,
13 including but not limited to the following:

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

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

20 (3) Making any false representations or promises through
21 advertising or other dissemination of information;



1 (4) Any fraudulent, dishonest, or deceitful act in
2 connection with the licensing of any promoter under
3 this chapter or in connection with any combat sports
4 contest;

5 (5) Making any false or misleading statement in any
6 application or document submitted or required to be
7 filed under this chapter;

8 (6) Revocation or suspension of a license or other
9 disciplinary action against the licensee by another
10 combat sports commission, or similar commission;

11 (7) Failure to report any disciplinary action, including
12 medical and mandatory suspensions, or revocation or
13 suspension of a license in another jurisdiction within
14 fifteen days preceding any combat sports contest in
15 which the licensee participates; or

16 (8) Participation in any sham or false combat sports
17 contest.

18 (b) A manager may be held responsible for all violations
19 of this chapter by a combat sports contestant whom the manager
20 manages and may be subject to license revocation or suspension,
21 or a fine, or any combination thereof, irrespective of whether



1 any disciplinary action is taken against the combat sports
2 contestant.

3 § **-31 Penalties.** (a) Any person in violation of this
4 chapter or the rules of the commission shall be fined not more
5 than \$5,000 for each violation. Each day's violation or failure
6 to comply shall be deemed a separate offense.

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

11 § **-32 Cumulative penalties.** Unless otherwise expressly
12 provided, the remedies or penalties provided by this chapter
13 shall be cumulative to each other and to the remedies or
14 penalties available under all other laws of this State.

15 § **-33 Injunctive relief.** The commission, in addition to
16 any other remedies available, may bring an action in any court
17 of this State to enjoin a person from continuing any violation
18 of this chapter or doing any acts in furtherance thereof, and
19 for any other relief that the court deems appropriate."

20 SECTION 3. Section 26-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:



1 "(c) The board of acupuncture, board of public
2 accountancy, board of barbering and cosmetology, boxing
3 commission, Hawaii board of chiropractic, combat sports
4 commission of Hawaii, contractors license board, board of
5 dentistry, board of electricians and plumbers, elevator
6 mechanics licensing board, board of professional engineers,
7 architects, surveyors, and landscape architects, board of
8 massage therapy, Hawaii medical board, motor vehicle industry
9 licensing board, motor vehicle repair industry board, board of
10 naturopathic medicine, board of nursing, Hawaii board of
11 optometry, pest control board, board of pharmacy, board of
12 physical therapy, board of psychology, board of private
13 detectives and guards, real estate commission, Hawaii board of
14 veterinary medicine, board of speech pathology and audiology,
15 and any board, commission, program, or entity created pursuant
16 to or specified by statute in furtherance of the purpose of this
17 section including but not limited to section 26H-4, or
18 chapters 484, 514B, and 514E shall be placed within the
19 department of commerce and consumer affairs for administrative
20 purposes.



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

9 SECTION 4. Section 92-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 **"§92-28 State service fees; increase or decrease of.** Any
12 law to the contrary notwithstanding, the fees or other nontax
13 revenues assessed or charged by any board, commission, or other
14 governmental agency may be increased or decreased by the body in
15 an amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the statutorily
16 assessed fee or nontax revenue, to maintain a reasonable
17 relation between the revenues derived from ~~[such]~~ the fee or
18 nontax revenue and the cost or value of services rendered,
19 comparability among fees imposed by the State, or any other
20 purpose ~~[which]~~ that it may deem necessary and reasonable;
21 provided that:



- (1) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax revenues shall be subject to the approval of the governor and extend only to the following: chapters 36, 92, 94, 142, 144, 145, 147, 150, 171, 188, 189, 231, 269, 271, 321, 338, 373, 412, 414, 414D, 415A, 417E, 419, 421, 421C, 421H, 421I, 425, 425E, 428, 431, 436E, 436H, 437, 437B, 440, [~~440E,~~] _____, 441, 442, 443B, 444, 447, 448, 448E, 448F, 448H, 451A, 451J, 452, 453, 453D, 455, 456, 457, 457A, 457B, 457G, 458, 459, 460J, 461, 461J, 462A, 463, 463E, 464, 465, 465D, 466, 466D, 466K, 467, 467E, 468E, 468L, 468M, 469, 471, 472, 482, 482E, 484, 485A, 501, 502, 505, 514B, 514E, 572, 574, and 846 (part II) and any board, commission, program, or entity created pursuant to title 25 and assigned to the department of commerce and consumer affairs or placed within the department for administrative purposes;
- (2) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax revenues under the chapters listed in paragraph (1) that are established by the department of commerce and



1 consumer affairs shall apply to fees or nontax
2 revenues established by statute or rule;

3 (3) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
4 revenues established by the University of Hawaii under
5 chapter 304A shall be subject to the approval of the
6 board of regents; provided that the board's approval
7 of any increase or decrease in tuition for regular
8 credit courses shall be preceded by an open public
9 meeting held during or before the semester preceding
10 the semester to which the tuition applies;

11 (4) This section shall not apply to judicial fees as may
12 be set by any chapter cited in this section;

13 (5) The authority to increase or decrease fees or nontax
14 revenues pursuant to this section shall be exempt from
15 the public notice and public hearing requirements of
16 chapter 91; and

17 (6) Fees for copies of proposed and final rules and public
18 notices of proposed rulemaking actions under
19 chapter 91 shall not exceed 10 cents a page, as
20 required by section 91-2.5."



1 SECTION 5. Chapter 440E, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 repealed.

3 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and
6 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
7 year 2026-2027 to establish and fund full-time equivalent
8 (FTE) positions within the department of commerce and
9 consumer affairs for the combat sports commission of Hawaii.

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

12 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025;
15 provided that sections 3 and 4 of this Act shall take effect
16 upon the adoption of rules by the combat sports commission of
17 Hawaii pursuant to section -7 of section 2 of this Act.

18
INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 1270

Report Title:

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

Description:

Establishes the Combat Sports Commission of Hawaii. Provides for regulation of combat sports. Prohibits no rules combat or similar contests. Repeals chapter 440E, HRS, relating to Mixed Martial Arts Contests. Appropriates funds.

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

