
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ANIMAL IMPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's geographic
2 isolation and rabies-free status necessitate stringent
3 regulation of animal importation to protect public health and
4 safety. At the same time, the State continues to experience
5 significant challenges associated with pet overpopulation and
6 the adverse impacts of free-roaming animals on animal welfare,
7 community well-being, and native ecosystems.

8 The legislature further finds that the State's animal
9 quarantine program serves as the primary gateway for dogs and
10 cats entering Hawaii and provides an efficient administrative
11 mechanism to promote responsible pet ownership without imposing
12 additional burdens on existing veterinary resources.

13 The purpose of this Act is to decrease the number of
14 fertile, unaltered dogs and cats imported into the State by
15 requiring proof of sterilization prior to embarkation, subject
16 to reasonable exemptions for medical necessity, temporary stays,
17 and registered breeders.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 142, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 **§142- Proof of sterilization required for importation**

5 **of dogs and cats.** (a) As a condition of entry into the State
6 under this part, the department of agriculture and biosecurity
7 shall require submission of documentation verifying that any dog
8 or cat imported into the State has been surgically sterilized,
9 except as provided in subsection (b).

10 (b) The requirements pursuant to subsection (a) shall not
11 apply if:

12 (1) The animal is being imported for a period of less than
13 ninety days and will not be sold or transferred, or
14 otherwise remain in the State, beyond the ninety day
15 period;

16 (2) A licensed veterinarian certifies that sterilization
17 would jeopardize the animal's health or life; or

18 (3) The owner or importer is registered with the
19 department as a breeder pursuant to subsection (c).

20 (c) The department shall establish and maintain a breeder
21 registry for individuals or entities importing intact dogs or



1 cats. The registry shall include, at a minimum, the breeder's
2 name, business address, and species or breeds maintained.

3 (d) The department may assess reasonable fees to offset
4 the costs of administering this section, including expenses
5 related to verifying documentation and maintaining the breeder
6 registry.

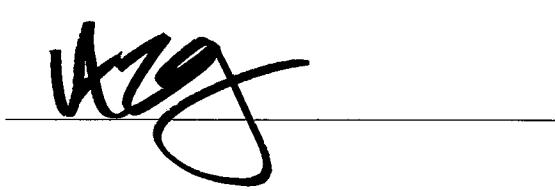
7 (e) The department shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter
8 91 to implement this section. The rules shall address, at a
9 minimum, documentation requirements, acceptable forms of proof
10 of sterilization, and verification procedures in coordination
11 with airlines and other carriers.

12 (f) For the purposes of this section, "sterilization"
13 means surgical spaying or neutering performed by a licensed
14 veterinarian."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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

17

INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 16 2026



H.B. NO. 1594

Report Title:

Animal Importation; Proof of Sterilization; Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity; Documentation; Breeder Registry

Description:

Requires, as a condition of entry into the State, documentation verifying that any dog or cat imported into the State has been surgically sterilized, subject to certain exemptions. Requires the Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity to establish a breeder registry and adopt rules.

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