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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 711-1108.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§711-1108.5 Cruelty to animals in the first degree. (1)**

4 A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals in the first  
5 degree if the person intentionally or knowingly:

6 (a) Tortures, mutilates, or poisons or causes the torture,  
7 mutilation, or poisoning of any pet animal or equine  
8 animal resulting in serious bodily injury or death of  
9 the pet animal or equine animal; or

10 (b) Kills or attempts to kill any pet animal belonging to  
11 another person, without first obtaining legal  
12 authority or the consent of the pet animal's owner.

13 (2) Subsection (1) (a) shall not apply to:

14 (a) Accepted veterinary practices when the practices are  
15 performed by a veterinarian licensed under chapter  
16 471; and





1        (4) Subsection (1) shall not apply to predator control or  
2        trapping conducted for the purpose of protecting property or  
3        native biodiversity.

4        [+4] (5) Whenever any pet animal or equine animal is so  
5        severely injured that there is no reasonable probability that  
6        its life can be saved, the animal may be immediately destroyed  
7        without creating any offense under this section.

8        [+5] (6) Cruelty to animals in the first degree is a  
9        class C felony. In addition to any fines and imprisonment  
10       imposed under this section, any person convicted under this  
11       section shall be prohibited from possessing or owning any pet  
12       animal or equine animal for a minimum of five years from the  
13       date of conviction.

14       [+6] (7) For the purposes of this section, "person" means  
15       any individual; any firm, partnership, joint venture,  
16       association, limited liability company, corporation, estate,  
17       trust, receiver, or syndicate; or any other legal entity."

18       SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
19       matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
20       begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

4

INTRODUCED BY:

24C

JAN 20 2026



H.B. NO. 1735

**Report Title:**

Animal Cruelty; Predator Control; Trapping; Exemption

**Description:**

Exempts predator control and trapping for the purpose of protecting property or native biodiversity from the offense of cruelty to animals in the first degree.

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

