
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 the 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 before embarkation, subject to
16 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 declares to the department of
19 agriculture and biosecurity the intent to import an
20 intact animal for breeding or show purposes pursuant
21 to subsection (c).



1 (c) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall
2 forward the declarations collected from individuals or entities
3 importing intact dogs or cats, pursuant to subsection (b) (3), to
4 the animal control agency or contractor in the county where the
5 animal will be housed. The declaration shall include, at a
6 minimum, the intact animal owner's name, residential or business
7 address, the animal's microchip information, and species or
8 breed of the intact animal maintained.

9 (d) The department of agriculture and biosecurity may
10 assess reasonable fees to offset the costs of administering this
11 section, including expenses related to verifying documentation.

12 (e) The department of agriculture and biosecurity shall
13 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement this section.
14 The rules shall address, at a minimum, documentation
15 requirements, acceptable forms of proof of sterilization, and
16 verification procedures in coordination with airlines and other
17 carriers.

18 (f) For the purposes of this section, "sterilization" and
19 "sterilized" means surgical spaying or neutering performed by a
20 licensed veterinarian."

21 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DAB; Counties; Animal Importation; Proof of Sterilization;
Documentation

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 forward declarations of intact animal importation to appropriate county animal control agencies or contractors. Effective 7/1/2050.
(SD1)

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

