
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HUNTING.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the welfare of both
2 wildlife and hunting dogs is being severely compromised under
3 certain hunting practices currently occurring in the State.
4 Disturbing incidents have been documented in which wild pigs are
5 subjected to prolonged torment, mutilation, and suffering at the
6 hands of hunters who permit dog packs to attack and injure the
7 animals for extended periods before dispatch. Numerous videos
8 circulating on social media platforms show pigs being tied,
9 immobilized, and attacked by multiple dogs while hunters look on
10 without intervening to end the animals' suffering. These
11 practices exceed any reasonable understanding of humane hunting
12 and constitute cruelty.

13 The legislature further finds that the welfare of hunting
14 dogs themselves is frequently neglected. Reports from
15 veterinarians, animal shelters, rescue groups, and community
16 witnesses indicate that dogs are often kept in substandard
17 conditions, denied veterinary care, deprived of adequate



1 nutrition, and abandoned in remote areas when injured or deemed
2 no longer useful for hunting. This cycle contributes
3 substantially to shelter overcrowding and increases the burden
4 on public and nonprofit animal welfare organizations. For
5 example, the Kauai Humane Society was recently at risk of
6 reverting to a kill-shelter model due in significant part to the
7 increasing influx of abandoned and injured hunting dogs, further
8 demonstrating the urgent need for improved regulations and
9 welfare protections.

10 While the legislature recognizes the cultural, subsistence,
11 and land-management roles of hunting in the State being
12 performed by many responsible parties using regular and
13 traditional practices, it also finds that illegal or egregious
14 acts performed intentionally and knowingly by bad actors are
15 neither culturally justified nor environmentally necessary.
16 State agencies, responsible hunters, and animal welfare experts
17 agree that clearer standards are needed to prevent animal
18 cruelty, reduce unnecessary suffering, and promote responsible
19 wildlife management.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to direct the
21 department of land and natural resources to adopt rules that:



- 1 (1) Establish humane dispatch requirements for the taking
- 2 of feral pigs;
- 3 (2) Prohibit practices that constitute torture or torment;
- 4 (3) Regulate the safe and humane use of dogs in feral pig
- 5 hunting, including limits on pack size;
- 6 (4) Require minimum health and welfare standards for
- 7 hunting dogs;
- 8 (5) Update hunter education requirements to include humane
- 9 methods and animal welfare protections; and
- 10 (6) Designate the torture of wildlife, game mammals, and
- 11 feral pigs as cruelty to animals in the second degree.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 183D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§183D- Humane dispatch of feral pigs; rules. (a) No
16 later than July 1, 2027, the department shall adopt rules
17 pursuant to chapter 91 establishing standards for the humane
18 dispatch of feral pigs during hunting activities.

19 (b) Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall include
20 but not be limited to:

- 21 (1) Acceptable humane methods of dispatch;



1 (2) Prohibited practices, including torture, torment,
2 mutilation, prolonged suffering, or unnecessary delay
3 in killing the animal;

4 (3) A prohibition on catch-and-release hunting;

5 (4) Standards on the permissible involvement of dogs in
6 dispatch;

7 (5) A definition of "limited contact" between dogs and
8 feral pigs; and

9 (6) Requirements ensuring any restraint is brief and
10 solely for the purpose of swift, humane dispatch.

11 (c) In adopting rules pursuant to this section, the
12 department shall consult with licensed veterinarians, local
13 animal shelters, and responsible hunting stakeholders, and may
14 consult with national nonprofit organizations incorporated for
15 the purpose of providing or furthering the welfare, protection,
16 and humane treatment of animals.

17 **§183D- Hunting dog welfare standards; rules.** (a) No
18 later than July 1, 2027, the department shall adopt rules
19 pursuant to chapter 91 establishing minimum health, safety, and
20 welfare standards for dogs used in feral pig hunting.



1 (b) Rules adopted pursuant to this section shall include
2 but not be limited to:

- 3 (1) Kenneling and housing standards;
4 (2) Nutrition and clean drinking water requirements;
5 (3) Veterinary care requirements;
6 (4) Protective equipment standards;
7 (5) Mandatory use of tracking devices labeled with owner
8 information;
9 (6) A prohibition on abandonment of hunting dogs;
10 (7) Limits on the number of dogs used in a single hunt, as
11 determined appropriate by the department to protect
12 animal welfare and promote humane dispatch; and
13 (8) Any additional measures necessary to ensure humane
14 treatment of dogs used for feral pig hunting.

15 (c) In adopting rules pursuant to this section, the
16 department shall consult with licensed veterinarians, local
17 animal shelters, and responsible hunting stakeholders, and may
18 consult with national nonprofit organizations incorporated for
19 the purpose of providing or furthering the welfare, protection,
20 and humane treatment of animals."



1 SECTION 3. Section 183D-28, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§183D-28 Hunter education program.** (a) The department
4 shall establish a hunter education program to provide
5 instruction in hunter safety, principles of conservation, and
6 sportsmanship. Upon successful completion of the program, the
7 department shall issue to the graduate a hunter education
8 certificate which shall be valid for the life of the person.
9 This certification shall be rescinded by judicial action upon
10 the conviction of a wildlife [~~and/or~~] or firearms violation. No
11 person shall be eligible for a hunting license unless the person
12 possesses a valid hunter education certificate or meets the
13 requirements for exemption provided in subsection (b)(2), and is
14 either:

15 (1) Born after December 31, 1971; or
16 (2) Born before January 1, 1972, and has never been issued
17 a hunting license in the State.

18 (b) A person who meets the minimum age requirements
19 adopted pursuant to subsection (c) shall be exempt from the
20 requirements of subsection (a) if the person:



- 1 (1) Was born before January 1, 1972, and at one time
2 possessed a hunting license issued by the State;
3 provided that the person shows satisfactory proof to
4 the department that the person had possessed the
5 hunting license;
- 6 (2) Has successfully completed a course or program of
7 hunter education and safety that is approved by the
8 International Hunter Education Association and meets
9 the requirements of [~~Chapter 12 of~~] the United States
10 Fish and Wildlife Service [~~Federal Aid Manual, as~~
11 ~~revised~~]; provided that the person shows satisfactory
12 proof in the form of a certificate, wallet card, or
13 other document issued by a state, province, or country
14 evidencing successful completion of the course or
15 program; or
- 16 (3) Obtains a three-day or a seven-day hunting license
17 pursuant to section 183D-22(b)(3) to hunt on a private
18 and commercial shooting preserve, accompanied by a
19 hunting guide licensed pursuant to section 183D-25.5;
20 provided that:



- 1 (A) All hunting shall be conducted on a licensed
2 private and commercial shooting preserve and
3 under the direction of a hunting guide who has
4 successfully completed a Hawaii hunter education
5 certification course and meets the requirements
6 of section 183D-25.5;
- 7 (B) [~~Prior to~~] Before licensing, a hunter safety
8 class and field training session shall be
9 provided to the licensee that includes hunter
10 safety and hunting equipment use and safe
11 discharge;
- 12 (C) While hunting under these provisions, a hunting
13 guide shall guide not more than two unaccompanied
14 clients at any time while hunting;
- 15 (D) All hunting guides and clients shall wear a
16 hunter safety blaze-orange outer garment while
17 hunting;
- 18 (E) The private and commercial shooting preserve
19 operator, hunting guides, and clients agree to be
20 subject to inspection while engaged in hunting



1 activities by department representatives or
2 authorized law enforcement officers; and
3 (F) The private and commercial shooting preserve
4 owner and operator assume responsibility and
5 liability for public and hunter safety while
6 operating under these provisions and agree to
7 report any injuries to the department.

8 Upon application and satisfaction of the requirements of
9 paragraph (1), the department shall issue a written exemption
10 that shall be valid for the life of the person. The department
11 shall develop and maintain a list of approved hunter education
12 courses described in paragraph (2) for reference by the public
13 and license agents.

14 (c) The department, by rules adopted pursuant to
15 chapter 91, shall establish minimum age requirements for
16 issuance of the hunter education certificate, or the exemption
17 therefrom, required to obtain a hunting license pursuant to
18 section 183D-22(a)(3).

19 (d) The department may establish a hunter education
20 officer position to administer the program, outline all phases
21 of instruction, conduct general supervision of individual



1 programs, and distribute information on the program, or may
2 contract the program to a qualified organization.

3 (e) The department may construct, operate, and maintain
4 public outdoor and indoor target ranges for the program.

5 (f) The department shall prepare reports as may be
6 necessary to seek approval under Public Law 91-503 for federal
7 assistance [~~in this~~] for the hunter education program [~~of hunter~~
8 ~~safety, conservation, and sportsmanship~~].

9 (g) The hunter education program shall include:

10 (1) Instruction on humane dispatch methods for feral pigs,
11 including proper shot placement and humane knife
12 application;

13 (2) Education on animal cruelty laws, including conduct
14 that constitutes torment, torture, or unnecessary
15 suffering;

16 (3) Instruction on the humane and responsible use of dogs,
17 including the definition of "limited contact";

18 (4) Examples of conduct that violates humane dispatch or
19 dog welfare standards;

20 (5) Instruction on recognizing signs of distress in
21 animals and avoiding prolonged suffering; and



1 (6) Any additional training required by rules adopted by
2 the department pursuant to this chapter."

3 SECTION 4. Section 711-1109, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by amending subsection (1) to read as follows:

5 "(1) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals in
6 the second degree if the person intentionally, knowingly, or
7 recklessly:

8 (a) Overdrives, overloads, tortures, torments, beats,
9 causes substantial bodily injury to, or starves any
10 animal, or causes the overdriving, overloading,
11 torture, torment, beating, or starving of any animal;

12 (b) Deprives a pet animal of necessary sustenance or
13 causes that deprivation;

14 (c) Mutilates, poisons, or kills without need any animal
15 other than insects, vermin, or other pests; provided
16 that the handling or extermination of any insect,
17 vermin, or other pest is conducted in accordance with
18 standard and acceptable pest control practices and all
19 applicable laws and regulations;

20 (d) Keeps, uses, or in any way is connected with or
21 interested in the management of, or receives money for



- 1 the admission of any person to, any place kept or used
2 for the purpose of fighting or baiting any bull, bear,
3 cock, or other animal, and includes every person who
4 encourages, aids, or assists therein, or who permits
5 or suffers any place to be so kept or used;
- 6 (e) Carries or causes to be carried, in or upon any
7 vehicle or other conveyance, any animal in a cruel or
8 inhumane manner;
- 9 (f) Confines or causes to be confined, in a kennel or
10 cage, any pet animal in a cruel or inhumane manner;
- 11 (g) Tethers, fastens, ties, or restrains a dog to a
12 doghouse, tree, fence, or any other stationary object,
13 or uses a trolley, trolley with swivels, pulley,
14 cable, running line, or trolley lacking swivels at
15 each end that is designed to attach a dog to two
16 stationary objects in a configuration that endangers
17 the dog, including preventing the dog from obtaining
18 necessary sustenance;
- 19 (h) Tethers or restrains a dog under the age of six months
20 unless the dog is engaged in an activity supervised by
21 its owner or an agent of its owner;



- 1 (i) Tethers or restrains a dog by a tow or log chain;
- 2 (j) Tethers or restrains a dog by means of a choke collar,
- 3 pinch collar, or prong collar unless the dog is
- 4 engaged in an activity supervised by its owner or an
- 5 agent of its owner; [~~o~~]
- 6 (k) Uses one or more dogs to torture, torment, or
- 7 knowingly cause prolonged suffering to wildlife or
- 8 game mammals, as defined by section 183D-51, including
- 9 feral pigs, during or in preparation for hunting
- 10 activities; or
- 11 [~~(k)~~] (l) Assists another in the commission of any act
- 12 specified in paragraphs (a) through [~~(j)~~] (k)."

13 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



Report Title:

DLNR; Hunting; Feral Pigs; Game Mammals; Animal Cruelty; Dog Welfare Standards

Description:

Requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to adopt rules regarding safe and humane hunting practices of feral pigs and hunting dog welfare standards. Establishes requirements for the hunter education program instruction. Includes the use of dogs to torture wildlife or game mammals as torture in the second degree. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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