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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SERVICE ANIMALS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a growing  
2 problem with people fraudulently representing untrained animals  
3 as service dogs. This has resulted in legitimate service dogs  
4 being needlessly distracted or even attacked by untrained dogs  
5 or other animals, as well as in violations of the food and  
6 sanitation code. Currently, there is no legal consequence for  
7 misrepresenting a pet dog or other animal as a service animal.

8           The legislature further finds that, generally, a service  
9 animal is a dog that is individually trained to work or perform  
10 tasks for people with disabilities. The work or task that a  
11 service animal has been trained to provide must be directly  
12 related to a person's disability. The legislature affirms that  
13 a dog or other animal whose sole function is to provide  
14 companionship, comfort, or emotional support does not qualify as  
15 a service dog under chapter 347, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or the  
16 Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA).



1           The legislature additionally finds that a penalty for  
2 misrepresentation of a dog or other animal as a service animal  
3 will discourage people from fraudulently representing their pets  
4 as service animals in order to bring the animals into  
5 restaurants, supermarkets, and other inappropriate locations.  
6 The legislature also finds that statutory penalties will also  
7 discourage persons from fraudulently misrepresenting a pet  
8 animal as a service animal in order to gain housing amenities  
9 which, but for otherwise lawful restrictions on pet ownership,  
10 would not be available to residents of a dwelling or building.  
11 The legislature finds that such penalties are not inconsistent  
12 with the spirit of the ADA. The legislature also finds that an  
13 appropriate definition of "service animal" will help businesses  
14 and other organizations to comply with the law.

15           It is not the legislature's intent to undermine the  
16 valuable purpose and goals of the ADA or other applicable state  
17 or federal laws. The United States Department of Justice has  
18 issued guidance on the questions that can be asked of a person  
19 to determine if a dog is a bona fide service dog, suggesting  
20 that it does not violate the ADA to ask questions concerning the  
21 specific and appropriate training of a particular dog being



1 presented as a service animal. The legislature further  
2 recognizes that more than fifteen states currently prohibit  
3 misrepresentation of a service animal by means of civil or  
4 criminal penalties, or both.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 6 (1) Establish a civil penalty for fraudulently  
7 representing an animal as a service animal; and  
8 (2) Establish a definition of "service animal" that more  
9 closely conforms with the Americans with Disabilities  
10 Act of 1990, as amended.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 347, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§347- Misrepresentation of a service animal; civil  
15 penalty. (a) It shall be unlawful for a person to knowingly  
16 misrepresent as a service animal any animal that does not meet  
17 the requirements of a service animal as defined in section  
18 347-2.5.

19 (b) Upon a finding of clear and convincing evidence, a  
20 person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined not less than  
21 \$ and not more than \$ for the first violation,



1 and not less than \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for a second violation and each  
2 violation thereafter.

3 (c) Nothing in this section shall preclude any other civil  
4 remedies available to a person, entity, or other organization  
5 arising from misrepresentation by another person of a service  
6 animal."

7 SECTION 3. Section 142-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended to read as follows:

9 "~~§142-5.5 Service [~~dogs-~~] animals.~~ Any person with a  
10 disability who uses the services of a service [~~dog-~~] animal, as  
11 defined in section 347-2.5, shall be permitted to reside on site  
12 for the duration of quarantine, if housing is available."

13 SECTION 4. Section 347-2.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "~~[+] §347-2.5 [+] Service [~~dog-~~] animal,~~ defined. As used  
16 in this chapter, "service [~~dog-~~] animal" means any dog that is  
17 individually trained to do work or perform tasks for the benefit  
18 of an individual with a disability, including a physical,  
19 sensory, psychiatric, intellectual, or other mental disability.  
20 ~~[A companion or comfort animal is not a service dog unless it~~  
21 ~~meets the requirements of this definition and it accompanies a~~



1 ~~person for the purpose of performing the work or tasks for which~~  
 2 ~~it has been trained.]~~ Other species of animals, whether wild or  
 3 domestic, trained or untrained, are not service animals for the  
 4 purposes of this definition. The work or tasks performed by a  
 5 service animal must relate directly to the individual's  
 6 disability. Neither the potential crime deterrent effects of an  
 7 animal's presence nor the provision of emotional support,  
 8 comfort, or companionship by an animal constitutes work or tasks  
 9 for the purposes of this definition."

10 SECTION 5. Section 347-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 11 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

12 "(b) Every person who is blind, deaf, visually  
 13 handicapped, or otherwise disabled shall have the right to be  
 14 accompanied by a service [~~dog,~~] animal, especially trained for  
 15 the purpose of assisting the person in any of the places listed  
 16 in subsection (a) without being required to pay an extra charge  
 17 for the service [~~dog,~~] animal; provided that the person shall be  
 18 liable for any damage done to the premises or facilities by the  
 19 service [~~dog,~~] animal. No service [~~dog,~~] animal shall be  
 20 considered dangerous merely because it is unmuzzled."



1 SECTION 6. Section 347-19, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§347-19 Rights of blind; partially blind. A blind or  
4 visually handicapped person not carrying a cane or using a  
5 service [~~dog~~] animal in any of the places, accommodations or  
6 conveyances listed in section 347-13, shall have all of the  
7 rights and privileges conferred by law upon other persons, and  
8 the failure of a blind or visually handicapped person to carry a  
9 cane or to use a service [~~dog~~] animal in any such places,  
10 accommodations, or conveyances shall not constitute nor be  
11 evidence of negligence."

12 SECTION 7. Section 489-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted  
14 and to read as follows:

15 ""Service animal" means the same as defined in section  
16 347-2.5."

17 SECTION 8. Section 489-3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended to read as follows:

19 "§489-3 Discriminatory practices prohibition. Unfair  
20 discriminatory practices that deny, or attempt to deny, a person  
21 the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities,



1 privileges, advantages, and accommodations of a place of public  
2 accommodation on the basis of race[7]; sex, including gender  
3 identity or expression[7]; sexual orientation[7]; color[7];  
4 religion[7]; ancestry[7]; or disability, including the use of a  
5 service animal, are prohibited."

6 SECTION 9. Section 711-1109.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
7 amended as follows:

8 1. By amending its title and subsection (1) to read:

9 "§711-1109.4 **Causing injury or death to a service [dog]**  
10 **animal or law enforcement animal.** (1) A person commits the  
11 offense of causing injury or death to a service [dog] animal or  
12 law enforcement animal if:

13 (a) The person recklessly causes substantial bodily injury  
14 to or the death of any service [dog] animal or law  
15 enforcement animal while the service [dog] animal or  
16 law enforcement animal is in the discharge of its  
17 duties; or

18 (b) The person is the owner of a dog and recklessly  
19 permits that dog to attack a service [dog] animal or  
20 law enforcement animal while the service [dog] animal  
21 or law enforcement animal is in the discharge of its



1 duties, resulting in the substantial bodily injury or  
2 death of the service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement  
3 animal."

4 2. By amending subsections (3) to (5) to read:

5 "(3) Any person who commits the offense of causing injury  
6 or death to a service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal  
7 shall be guilty of a class C felony.

8 (4) In addition to any other penalties, any person who is  
9 convicted of a violation of this section shall be ordered to  
10 make restitution to:

11 (a) The owner of the service [~~dog~~] animal or law  
12 enforcement animal for any veterinary bills and out-  
13 of-pocket costs incurred as a result of the injury to  
14 the service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal;  
15 and

16 (b) The person, entity, or organization that incurs the  
17 cost of retraining or replacing the service [~~dog~~]  
18 animal or law enforcement animal for the cost of  
19 retraining or replacing the service [~~dog~~] animal or  
20 law enforcement animal if it is disabled or killed.



1 (5) As used in this section "service [~~dog~~] animal" shall  
2 have the same meaning as in section 347-2.5."

3 SECTION 10. Section 711-1109.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
4 is amended as follows:

5 1. By amending its title and subsection (1) to read:

6 "§711-1109.5 Intentional interference with the use of a  
7 service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal. (1) A person  
8 commits the offense of intentional interference with the use of  
9 a service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal if the person,  
10 with no legal justification, intentionally or knowingly strikes,  
11 beats, kicks, cuts, stabs, shoots, or administers any type of  
12 harmful substance or poison to a service [~~dog~~] animal or law  
13 enforcement animal while the service [~~dog~~] animal or law  
14 enforcement animal is in the discharge of its duties."

15 2. By amending subsections (3) and (4) to read:

16 "(3) Intentional interference with the use of a service  
17 [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal is a misdemeanor.

18 (4) In addition to any other penalties, any person who is  
19 convicted of a violation of this section shall be ordered to  
20 make restitution to:



1 (a) The owner of the service [~~dog~~] animal or law  
 2 enforcement animal for any veterinary bills and out-  
 3 of-pocket costs incurred as a result of the injury to  
 4 the service [~~dog~~] animal or law enforcement animal;  
 5 and

6 (b) The person, entity, or organization that incurs the  
 7 cost of retraining or replacing the service [~~dog~~]  
 8 animal or law enforcement animal for the cost of  
 9 retraining or replacing the service [~~dog~~] animal or  
 10 law enforcement animal, if it is disabled or killed."

11 3. By amending subsection (6) to read:

12 "(6) As used in this section, "service [~~dog~~] animal"  
 13 shall have the same meaning as in section 347-2.5."

14 SECTION 11. This Act does not affect rights and duties  
 15 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that  
 16 were begun before its effective date.

17 SECTION 12. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

19 SECTION 13. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2035.



**Report Title:**

Service Animals; Misrepresentation; Americans with Disabilities Act

**Description:**

Establishes a civil penalty for knowingly misrepresenting an animal as a service animal. Conforms Hawaii law with the definition of "service animal" under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. (SB2461 HD1)

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

