
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DOGS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii does not
2 currently regulate the large-scale breeding of dogs. This lack
3 of regulation may result in the breeding of dogs in a cruel and
4 inhumane manner under conditions that can inflict long-term
5 suffering on dogs and may also lead to the sale of unhealthy
6 dogs to unsuspecting consumers.

7 The legislature further finds that there is a need to
8 regulate large-scale dog breeding operations and facilities to
9 protect the public as well as prevent the cruel treatment of
10 dogs. The purpose of regulation is to ensure that:

11 (1) All dogs that are handled by large-scale breeders are
12 provided with humane care and treatment in their
13 transportation, sale, purchase, housing, care, and
14 handling by persons or organizations engaged in
15 breeding dogs;

16 (2) The public is protected from purchasing dogs that have
17 been raised in an inhumane manner and may be
18 unhealthy; and



1 (3) Each dog bred commercially is provided with sufficient
2 food and clean water, sufficient shelter from the
3 elements, necessary veterinary care, sufficient space,
4 and regular exercise, among other things.

5 The purpose of this Act is to require the licensing of
6 large-scale breeders to ensure that every dog under their care
7 is provided with sufficient food and water, sufficient shelter
8 from the elements, necessary veterinarian care, sufficient
9 space, and regular exercise, among other things.

10 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
11 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
12 as follows:

13 **"CHAPTER**

14 **LARGE-SCALE DOG BREEDER REGULATION**

15 **§ -1 Definitions.** As used in this chapter:

16 "Adequate rest between breeding cycles" means ensuring, at
17 a minimum, that intact female dogs are not bred to produce more
18 than two litters in any eighteen-month period.

19 "Department" means the department of commerce and consumer
20 affairs.

21 "Director" means the director of commerce and consumer
22 affairs.



1 "Dog" means any animal that is wholly or in part of the
2 species canis familiaris.

3 "Large-scale dog breeder" means a person who: for
4 compensation or profit, sells or offers for sale, exchange, or
5 lease, via any means of communication including the Internet,
6 newspaper, or telephone, twenty-five or more of the offspring of
7 breeding female dogs in any one-year period and is engaged in
8 the business of breeding intact female dogs; owns or harbors
9 twenty or more intact female dogs over six months of age that
10 are intended for breeding; or owns or harbors a total of thirty
11 intact dogs over the age of six months that are intended for
12 breeding on the premises.

13 "License" means a large-scale dog breeder license issued
14 under this chapter.

15 "Licensee" means a person licensed under this chapter.

16 "Necessary veterinary care" means, as applicable, an
17 examination at least once yearly, prompt treatment of any
18 illness or injury, or humane euthanasia by a veterinarian
19 licensed under chapter 471 using lawful techniques deemed
20 acceptable by the American Veterinary Medical Association.

21 "Premises" means property, whether private or public, upon
22 which buildings, yards, kennels, pens, and cages used by the



1 owner of a dog breeding operation in the usual course of
2 business are located.

3 "Regular exercise" means constant and unfettered access to
4 an outdoor exercise area that is composed of a solid, ground-
5 level surface with adequate drainage; provides some protection
6 against sun, wind, and rain; and provides each dog with at least
7 twice the square footage of the indoor floor space provided to
8 that dog.

9 "Sufficient food and clean water" means access at least
10 once a day to appropriate nutritious food sufficient to maintain
11 good health and continuous access to potable water that is free
12 of debris, feces, algae, and other contaminants.

13 "Sufficient housing, including protection from the
14 elements" means constant and unfettered access to an indoor
15 enclosure that has a solid floor and that is not stacked or
16 otherwise placed on top of or below another animal's enclosure;
17 is cleaned of waste at least once a day while the dog is outside
18 the enclosure; and does not rise above eighty-five degrees
19 Fahrenheit indoors.

20 "Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down, and
21 fully extend its limbs" means having:



- 1 (1) Sufficient indoor space for each dog to turn in a
2 complete circle without any impediment, including a
3 tether;
- 4 (2) Enough indoor space for each dog to lie down and fully
5 extend its limbs and stretch freely without touching
6 the side of an enclosure or another dog;
- 7 (3) At least one foot of headroom above the head of the
8 tallest dog in the enclosure; and
- 9 (4) At least:
- 10 (A) Twelve square feet of indoor floor space per dog
11 measuring up to twenty-five inches long;
- 12 (B) Twenty square feet of indoor floor space per dog
13 measuring between twenty-five and thirty-five
14 inches long; and
- 15 (C) Thirty square feet of indoor floor space per dog
16 measuring thirty-five inches and longer;
- 17 provided that the length of the dog shall be measured from the
18 tip of the nose to the base of the tail.

19 **§ -2 License required.** No person shall operate as a
20 large-scale dog breeder unless the person obtains a valid
21 license as a large-scale dog breeder and obtains prior approval
22 of the appropriate county department of planning and permitting.



1 **§ -3 License requirements; fees; renewal; premises**

2 **available for inspection.** (a) An applicant for a large-scale
3 dog breeder license shall submit an application to the
4 department on a form prescribed by the department, together with
5 the annual license fee as established by a fee schedule adopted
6 by the department by rule pursuant to chapter 91. Upon receipt
7 of the application and annual license fee and upon satisfactory
8 completion of a license-qualifying inspection under section
9 -4, the department shall issue a license. A license shall
10 not be transferable to another person or location.

11 (b) A license shall be renewable by filing with the
12 department on or before December 31 of each year a renewal
13 application on forms prescribed by the department and submitting
14 the annual license fee.

15 (c) A licensee shall make its premises available for
16 unannounced inspection by the director or the director's
17 designee during regular business hours.

18 **§ -4 Inspections; investigations; access.** (a) The
19 director may undertake any investigation necessary to ensure
20 compliance with this chapter, including a license-qualifying
21 inspection. At any time during regular business hours, the
22 director or any enforcement officer employed by the department



1 shall have free and unimpeded access for the purpose of carrying
2 out any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant
3 to this chapter:

4 (1) To those portions of all buildings, yards, pens, and
5 other areas in which any dogs are kept, handled, or
6 transported; and

7 (2) To all records required to be kept by this chapter,
8 including copies of records.

9 (b) After the denial, suspension, or revocation of a
10 license, the director shall have free and unimpeded access to
11 the premises and other areas in which dogs are suspected of
12 being kept, handled, or transported without the valid license
13 and to all records that are reasonably necessary to verify that
14 the operation of a large-scale dog breeding operation has
15 ceased.

16 (c) The director shall have authority to administer oaths
17 and take statements, issue subpoenas requiring the attendance of
18 witnesses, and require the production of all books, memoranda,
19 papers, and other documents, articles, or instruments, and to
20 compel the disclosure by a witness of all facts known to the
21 witness relative to any matters under investigation. Upon the
22 failure or refusal of any witness to obey a subpoena issued by



1 the director, the attorney general may petition the district
2 court and, upon a proper showing, the court may enter an order
3 compelling the witness to appear and testify or produce
4 documentary evidence. Failure to obey an order of the court
5 shall be punishable as contempt of court.

6 **§ -5 Requirements for humane breeding.** (a) A licensee
7 shall ensure that every dog under the licensee's care is
8 provided with:

- 9 (1) Adequate rest between breeding cycles;
- 10 (2) Necessary veterinary care;
- 11 (3) Regular exercise;
- 12 (4) Sufficient food and clean water;
- 13 (5) Sufficient housing, including protection from the
14 elements; and
- 15 (6) Sufficient space to turn and stretch freely, lie down,
16 and fully extend its limbs,
- 17 as defined in section -1.

18 (b) A licensee shall be subject to a citation issued by
19 the director for a violation of this section for each affected
20 dog.

21 **§ -6 Enforcement.** (a) The director or the director's
22 designee shall enforce the provisions of this chapter. Whenever

1 the director has reasonable cause to believe that a violation of
2 any provision of this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to
3 this chapter has occurred and immediate enforcement is deemed
4 necessary, the director may issue a cease-and-desist order,
5 requiring any person to cease violating any provision of this
6 chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter. A
7 cease-and-desist order issued pursuant to this subsection shall
8 set forth the provisions alleged to have been violated, the
9 facts alleged to have constituted the violation, and the
10 requirement that all unlawful actions cease. At any time after
11 service of the order to cease and desist, the person subject to
12 the order may request a prompt hearing to determine whether or
13 not a violation has occurred.

14 (b) If any person fails to comply with a cease-and-desist
15 order within twenty-four hours, the director may bring a suit
16 for a temporary restraining order and for injunctive relief to
17 prevent any further or continued violation of this chapter.

18 (c) No stay of a cease-and-desist order shall be issued
19 without a hearing on the order involving both parties.

20 (d) Whenever the director possesses sufficient evidence to
21 indicate that a person has engaged in or is about to engage in
22 any act or practice constituting a violation of any provision of



1 this chapter or any rule adopted pursuant to this chapter, the
2 director may apply to any court of competent jurisdiction to
3 temporarily or permanently restrain or enjoin the act or
4 practice in question and to enforce compliance with this chapter
5 or any rule or order issued pursuant to this chapter. In an
6 action pursuant to this subsection, the director shall not be
7 required to plead or prove irreparable injury or the inadequacy
8 of the remedy at law. Under no circumstances shall the court
9 require the director to post a bond.

10 **§ -7 Rules.** The director shall adopt rules pursuant to
11 chapter 91 necessary for the purposes of this chapter.

12 **§ -8 Civil penalties.** (a) Any person who operates as a
13 large-scale dog breeder without a license shall be subject to a
14 civil penalty of up to \$1,000; provided that each day of a
15 violation shall be considered a separate offense. Any person
16 who violates section -5 shall be subject to a civil penalty
17 of up to \$1,000 for each citation.

18 (b) No civil penalty shall be imposed unless the person
19 charged is given notice and an opportunity for a hearing.

20 (c) If the director is unable to collect a civil penalty
21 or if any person fails to pay all or a set portion of the civil
22 penalty imposed by the director, the director may:



1 (1) Bring suit to recover the amount of the civil penalty
2 plus costs and attorney fees by action in any court of
3 competent jurisdiction; or

4 (2) Refuse to renew the person's license.

5 **§ -9 Criminal penalties.** In addition to the civil
6 penalties provided under section -8, any person who operates
7 as a large-scale dog breeder without a license or who violates
8 section -5 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

9 **§ -10 Prohibited acts.** (a) Unless otherwise authorized
10 by law, it shall be a violation of this chapter for any person
11 or entity:

12 (1) To perform any of the acts of a large-scale dog
13 breeder for which licensure is required without
14 possessing a valid license;

15 (2) To solicit, advertise, or offer to perform any of the
16 acts for which licensure as a large-scale dog breeder
17 is required without possessing a valid license;

18 (3) To refuse to comply with a cease-and-desist order
19 issued pursuant to section -6;

20 (4) To refuse or fail to comply with the provisions of
21 this chapter;



- 1 (5) To make a material misstatement in a license
2 application, a license renewal application, or to the
3 department during an official investigation;
- 4 (6) To impersonate any state or county official or
5 inspector;
- 6 (7) To refuse or fail to comply with any rules adopted by
7 the department pursuant to this chapter or any lawful
8 order issued by the director;
- 9 (8) To aid or abet another in any violation of this
10 chapter or any rule adopted by the director pursuant
11 to this chapter; or
- 12 (9) To alter or falsify a certificate of veterinary
13 inspection or any other certificate of veterinary
14 health.
- 15 (b) It shall be a violation of this chapter for any large-
16 scale dog breeder:
- 17 (1) To refuse to permit entry or inspection in accordance
18 with section -4;
- 19 (2) To allow a license issued pursuant to this chapter to
20 be used by an unlicensed person;
- 21 (3) To make any misrepresentation or false promise through
22 advertisements, employees, agents, or otherwise in



1 connection with the business operations licensed
2 pursuant to this chapter or for which an application
3 for a license is pending;

4 (4) To fail to take reasonable care to release for sale,
5 trade, or adoption only those dogs that are free of
6 undisclosed disease, injury, or abnormality; or

7 (5) To own or harbor more than fifty intact dogs on a
8 premises subject to this chapter.

9 (c) Any person who violates this section shall be subject
10 to a fine of \$2,000 per animal."

11 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
12 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
13 begun before its effective date.

14 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



Report Title:

Dogs; Large-scale Dog Breeding; Regulation

Description:

Establishes requirements for licensure and regulation of large-scale dog breeders. Effective July 1, 2112. (SB1522 HD1)

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

