
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE GOVERNOR TO ESTABLISH A TASK FORCE TO REVIEW AND
EXAMINE HAWAII'S ANIMAL CRUELTY LAWS.

1 WHEREAS, the humane treatment of animals is a reflection of
2 a civilized society; and

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4 WHEREAS, each legislative session, concerned individuals
5 come forward to seek the introduction of legislation prohibiting
6 acts of cruelty and neglect toward animals to address situations
7 that have arisen in their communities; and

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9 WHEREAS, despite the enactment of several animal cruelty
10 offenses, local humane societies, law enforcement agencies, and
11 animal protection groups continue to receive alarming reports of
12 acts of cruelty to animals; and

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14 WHEREAS, in the Regular Sessions of 2013 and 2014, a number
15 of animal cruelty measures were introduced, including:

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17 (1) S.B. No. 8 (2013): proposed prohibiting pet animal
18 owners and the owners' employees from performing
19 surgical procedures like cropping or docking on pet
20 animals, with certain exceptions;
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22 (2) S.B. No. 277 (2013): proposed creating a mandatory
23 state registry for persons convicted of felony animal
24 abuse and community notification of animal abusers
25 physically present in the State for a period in excess
26 of 21 days;
27
28 (3) S.B. No. 414 (2013): proposed the following
29
30 (A) Defining the term "dog breeder";



- 1 (B) Requiring dog breeders to meet minimum standards
2 of care and not place certain types of dogs in
3 the same enclosure to ensure the proper treatment
4 and care of dogs and the dogs' offspring;
5
- 6 (C) Prohibiting any person from owning or having
7 custody of more than 30 dogs over the age of one
8 year with intact sexual organs; and
9
- 10 (D) Requiring dog breeders to maintain specific
11 written records for each dog for a specified
12 period;
13
- 14 (4) H.B. No. 1186 (2013): proposed prohibiting persons
15 convicted of cruelty to animals in the first degree
16 and second degree from possessing, owning, or residing
17 with any pet animal for a minimum of five years and
18 one year, respectively, from the date of conviction;
19
- 20 (5) S.B. No. 2026 and H.B. No. 2368 (2014): proposed
21 prohibiting the slaughter or trafficking of dogs or
22 cats for human consumption; and
23
- 24 (6) H.B. No. 2599 (2014): proposed the following:
25
- 26 (A) Requiring a person holding a dog license to
27 notify the Director of Finance if the dog is
28 transferred;
29
- 30 (B) Establishing vicarious criminal liability where
31 the original licensee fails to notify the
32 Director of Finance for harm to the dog after
33 transfer;
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- 35 (C) Requiring a dog license holder for a dog with a
36 microchip to provide the microchip number to the
37 Director of Finance; and
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- 39 (D) Requiring the Director of Finance to establish a
40 database for microchip numbers and other
41 identifying information; and



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2 WHEREAS, the introduction of measures like these and the
3 continued reports of abuse against animals demonstrates that a
4 review of current state laws on animal cruelty is timely and
5 appropriate and that there is a need for comprehensive
6 legislation regarding animal cruelty to address the concerns of
7 the community; now, therefore,

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9 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
10 Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular
11 Session of 2014, that the Governor is requested to establish the
12 Task Force on the Humane Treatment of Animals (Task Force) to
13 review and examine Hawaii's animal cruelty laws; and
14

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the membership of the Task
16 Force consist of the following members to serve at the request
17 of the Governor:

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19 (1) Individuals recommended by the prosecutor's office of
20 each county;
21
22 (2) One member with law enforcement experience
23 specifically dealing with animal cruelty cases;
24
25 (3) One member from the Office of the Public Defender;
26
27 (4) One member from the field of veterinary medicine;
28
29 (5) One member from a national animal advocacy
30 organization;
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32 (6) One member from an animal advocacy organization that
33 provides emergency response to cases of animal cruelty
34 involving dogs, such as K9 Kokua;
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36 (7) One member from an animal advocacy organization that
37 provides emergency response to animal cruelty cases
38 involving cats;
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- 1 (8) One member from an animal advocacy organization that
2 provides emergency response to animal cruelty cases
3 involving horses and livestock;
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- 5 (9) One member from an animal advocacy organization that
6 provides emergency response to animal cruelty cases
7 involving monk seals;
- 8 (10) One member from an animal advocacy organization that
9 provides emergency response to animal cruelty cases
10 involving birds; and
- 11
- 12 (11) Two members of the public; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force submit a report
15 of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed
16 legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to
17 the convening of the Regular Session of 2015; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force include in its
20 report:
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- 22 (1) An examination of current animal cruelty laws,
23 particularly as they relate to animal abandonment, the
24 establishment of a registry of persons convicted of
25 felony animal abuse, and the treatment of dead
26 companion animals;
27
- 28 (2) Issues identified and solutions proposed for the
29 enforcement of any proposed legislation; and
30
- 31 (3) Any dissenting opinions among Task Force members to
32 any proposed legislation; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Judiciary provide
35 administrative assistance to the Task Force; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Administrative
3 Director of the Courts, Prosecutor of each county, and Public
4 Defender.

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OFFERED BY: _____

MAR 07 2014

