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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LITTER CONTROL.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the release of  
2 balloons inflated with lighter-than-air gases poses a danger and  
3 nuisance to the environment, particularly to wildlife and marine  
4 animals. Many animals are attracted to the bright colors of  
5 balloons and mistake them for food, which can cause an animal  
6 severe injury or death. Animals are often found entangled in  
7 balloon strings and, as a result, are injured or strangled to  
8 death. The legislature further finds that several states,  
9 including California, Connecticut, Florida, New Jersey,  
10 Tennessee, and Virginia, as well as numerous counties in other  
11 states, have prohibited the release of balloons inflated with  
12 lighter-than-air gases.

13           The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the intentional  
14 release of balloons inflated with gas that is lighter than air.

15           SECTION 2. Chapter 339, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
17 and to read as follows:



1           "§339-           Intentional release of balloons; prohibition.

2           (a) No person or entity shall intentionally release, organize  
3           the release of, or otherwise cause the release of a balloon  
4           inflated with a gas that is lighter than air, except for:

5           (1) A balloon released for scientific or meteorological  
6           purposes, on behalf of a governmental agency or  
7           pursuant to a governmental contract;

8           (2) A hot air balloon that is recovered after launching;  
9           or

10          (3) A balloon that is released and remains indoors.

11          (b) Any person or entity who violates this section shall  
12          be subject to a civil penalty of no more than \$500 for each  
13          offense. For the purposes of this section, the release of  
14          multiple balloons at one time shall be considered a single  
15          offense."

16          SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

17          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2023.



**Report Title:**

Balloons; Intentional Release; Prohibition

**Description:**

Prohibits the intentional release of balloons inflated with a gas that is lighter than air. Effective 1/1/2023. (SD2)

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

