HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

ORDINANCE _____

BILL **16 (2026), CD2**

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE

RELATING TO THE REGULATION OF DOGS.

BE IT ORDAINED by the People of the City and County of Honolulu:

SECTION 1. Purpose. The purpose of this ordinance is to amend provisions related to the regulation of dogs.

SECTION 2. Section 12-4.1, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Definitions"), as amended by Ordinance 26-9, is amended by adding a new definition of "Director" to be appropriately inserted and to read as follows:

"***Director.*** The director of customer services, or the head of the city agency designated by the mayor to contract with the animal control contractor."

SECTION 3. Section 12-4.2, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.2 Strays prohibited.**

It is unlawful for the owner of any dog to [~~permit~~] allow the dog to become, or fail to reasonably prevent the dog [~~to become~~] from becoming, a stray."

SECTION 4. Section 12-4.5, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.5** [~~Enforcement.~~] **Criminal enforcement.**

For any violation of this article or of HRS Chapter 143, [~~it is the duty of~~] any police officer and any other officer authorized to seize and impound any dog running at large within the meaning of this article [~~to~~] may issue a summons to the owner or other person charged with the responsibility of complying with this article or with HRS Chapter 143. The summons [~~shall~~] must instruct [~~such~~] the owner or person to report [~~at the violations bureau of the respective~~] to the district [~~courts of the City and County of Honolulu.~~] court. [~~Each such owner or person may, within seven days after the receipt of such summons, appear at such violations bureau and post a bail bond, in such amounts as may be set by the administrative judge of the district courts, for appearance on the date as may be set for such person to appear before the district court. Upon failure to appear upon such date, the bail bond shall be deemed forfeited.~~]"

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SECTION 5. Section 12-4.6, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended by amending its title to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.6** [~~Summons.~~] **Criminal summons.**"

SECTION 6. Section 12-4.8, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.8 Issuance of complaint.**

In the event any person fails to comply with a summons given to such person, [~~or if any person fails or refuses to deposit bail as required and within the time permitted,~~] the [~~violations bureau~~] district court shall have a complaint entered against [~~such~~] the person and secure the issuance of a warrant for [~~such~~] the person's arrest."

SECTION 7. Section 12-4.9, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, as amended by Ordinance 26-9, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.9** [~~Violation—Penalty.~~] **Criminal penalties.**

(a) The owner of a dog that has become a stray or any other person convicted of [~~a violation of this article shall be punished for the~~] an offense [~~as follows:~~] will be subject to the following:

(1) A fine of [~~$50~~] $250 if the offense did not occur within two years of the occurrence of a previous offense under this article;

(2) A fine of [~~$100~~] $500 if the offense occurred within two years of the occurrence of one previous offense under this article; or

(3) A fine of [~~not less than $500 nor more than~~] $1,000, imprisonment not exceeding 30 days, or both, if the offense occurred within two years of the occurrence of two or more previous offenses under this article[~~.~~] or if the person convicted has a previous conviction under HRS Chapter 711, Part III, involving the same dog.

(b) For the purposes of this section:

(1) An offense shall be deemed to have occurred on the date of the summons or citation identifying the offense; and

(2) A person who commits an offense within two years of the occurrence of a previous offense shall be subject to the escalating fine of subsection (a), even if the dogs involved in the offenses differed."

SECTION 8. Section 12-4.10, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, is amended to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.10 Disposition of fines** [~~and forfeitures~~]**.**

All fines [~~and forfeitures~~] collected [~~upon conviction or upon the forfeiture of bail of any person charged with a violation of~~] pursuant to this article [~~shall~~] must be paid into the city treasury and deposited in the general fund [~~of the city~~]."

SECTION 9. Chapter 12, Article 4, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("Regulation of Dogs"), as amended by Ordinance 26-9, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately designated by the Revisor of Ordinances and to read as follows:

"**§ 12-4.A Civil enforcement.**

(a) The director shall, through a provision in the city's contract with the animal control contractor, require the animal control contractor to enforce the provisions of this article.

(b) In accordance with this section, the director shall conduct periodic reviews of the animal control contractor to determine compliance with the provisions of this article.

(c) The director shall establish rules for any person issued a notice of violation under this article who desires to appeal the civil fines imposed for the violation. The hearing procedures must conform to the requirements of HRS Chapter 91, related to contested case hearings.

§ 12-4.B Notice of violation—Civil penalties.

(a) *Notice of violation.* Whenever any owner violates this article, any officer of the animal control contractor who has been authorized by the director to enforce this article shall serve a notice of violation upon the owner. The notice of violation must require that the owner bring the stray dog, or any noncompliant matter relating to the same, into compliance with the requirements of this article.

Notices of violation must be served upon an owner either personally or by certified mail.

(1) In the case:

(A) The whereabouts of the owner are unknown;

(B) The same cannot be ascertained by the animal control contractor in the exercise of reasonable diligence; and

(C) The animal control contractor provides an affidavit to that effect;

then a notice of violation may be issued by publishing the same in accordance with HRS § 1-28.5, or if that provision no longer applies, by publication once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the city.

(2) Notices of violation must include at least the following information:

(A) The date of the notice;

(B) The name and address of the owner noticed and the location of the violation;

(C) The section number of the ordinance, code, or rule that has been violated;

(D) The nature of the violation or a description of the same; and

(E) The deadline for compliance with the notice.

(b) *Civil fine*. An owner found, after opportunity for a hearing in accordance with HRS Chapter 91, to have violated this article will be fined as follows:

(1) A fine of $250 if the violation did not occur within two years of the occurrence of a previous violation involving the same provision;

(2) A fine of $500 if the violation occurred within two years of the occurrence of one previous violation involving the same provision; or

(3) A fine of $1,000 if the violation occurred within two years of the occurrence of two or more previous violations involving the same provision."

SECTION 10. Ordinance material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New material is underscored. When revising, compiling, or printing this ordinance for inclusion in the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, the Revisor of Ordinances need not include the brackets, the material that has been bracketed and stricken, or the underscoring. In SECTION 9 of this ordinance, the Revisor of Ordinances shall, pursuant to the Revisor's authority under Section 1-16.3(b) of the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021, substitute appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating the new sections enacted in SECTION 9.

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SECTION 11. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval; provided that Sections 12-4.A(a), 12-4.A(b), and 12-4.B, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu 2021 ("ROH"), as enacted in SECTION 9 of this ordinance, take effect upon the Department of Customer Services' adoption of rules pursuant to ROH Section 12-4.A(c) ("Civil enforcement"), and when such rules have taken effect.

INTRODUCED BY:

Val Okimoto

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

January 22, 2026
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

Councilmembers

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Deputy Corporation Counsel

APPROVED this _____day of _____, 20 ___.

RICK BLANGIARDI, Mayor
City and County of Honolulu

Report Title:
Department of Customer Services ("CSD"); Regulation of Dogs; Stray Dogs; Animal Control Contractor; Contract Enforcement; Penalties; Administrative Rules

Description:
Provides that it is unlawful for an owner of a dog to allow the dog to become, or fail to reasonably prevent the dog from becoming, a stray. Requires the CSD Director or the head of the City agency designated by the Mayor to require the animal control contractor to enforce the provisions contained in ROH Chapter 12, Article 4. Increases existing criminal fines and establishes new civil fines. Requires the CSD Director to adopt certain rules.

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