



## HAWAII PROPOSES “LARGE SCALE DOG BREEDERS REGULATION ACT”

**\*\* HEARING SET FOR FEBRUARY 8<sup>TH</sup> \*\***

**\*\*\* LIMITS BREEDERS TO 50 DOGS \*\*\***

### The Issue:

[House Bill 1621](#) establishes the Hawaii “Large Scale Dog Breeders Regulation Act” (herein “Act”) and is set for hearing on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. The Act requires licensing for “large scale dog breeders” and declares the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs as the authority over the proposed regulations. This legislation also imposes a limit of 50 on the number of dogs (over six months of age) breeders may possess.

### The Impact:

HB 1621 defines a “large scale dog breeder” as “any person engaged in the business of breeding intact female dogs who:

- Owns or harbors twenty or more intact female dogs over six months of age;
- Owns or harbors thirty intact dogs over six months of age on the premises; or
- For compensation or profit, sells or offers for sale, exchange, or lease, via any means, including the internet, newspaper, or telephone, 25 or more of the offspring of intact female dogs in any one year period.”

### Licensing.

The Act would require any person operating a large scale dog breeding operation to obtain a valid dog breeder license issued by the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs. Large scale breeders who apply for a license must submit a license application together with the annual licensing fee to the department. **The annual license fee is not set forth in the bill but, rather, will be determined by the department.** Licenses must be renewed annually, by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each year.

**NOTE:** The Act limits breeders by stating that a licensee may not “harbor more than 50 dogs over the age of six months on the premises at any time”.

### Investigations.

The Director of the Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs will have the right to investigate, at any reasonable time during regular business hours, facilities where dogs are housed or transported. These breeders would also be required to show all required records to the Director upon request.

### Penalties.

Any person found in violation of the Act will face fines of up to \$1,000 per violation per day and is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Similar legislation, in the form of [Senate Bill 1522](#), has also been introduced, but not yet set for hearing. SB 1522 encompasses many of the provisions of HB 1621 but also adds requirements for “humane breeding”. PIJAC will issue a revised alert with hearing information when that bill receives a hearing date.

### **PIJAC Position:**

PIJAC strongly opposes legislation that includes an arbitrary limit on the number of dogs a breeder may have. There is no correlation between the number of animals in a facility and the quality of care those animals receive. Furthermore, a prohibition such as this limits the ability of dog breeders to maintain sufficiently diverse blood lines – This will result in an increase in adverse hereditary conditions, to the detriment of pets and pet owners.

### **Recommended Action:**

HB 1621 will be heard in the [House Economic Revitalization & Business Committee](#) on Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. (Conference Room 312, State Capitol, Honolulu). Any person concerned about the continued ability to breed and sell pet dogs in Hawaii should contact members of the committee in advance of the hearing to voice your opposition, and should attend the February 8<sup>th</sup> hearing to present your views before the committee if possible.

If you have any additional questions or concerns about this legislation please contact PIJAC’s Bambi Nicole Osborne at 202-452-1525, ext. 105 or via email at [bambi@pijac.org](mailto:bambi@pijac.org).

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**On behalf of pets, responsible pet owners, and the pet industry, we thank you!**