



## DOG TETHERING LEGISLATION SURFACES IN HAWAII

### **The Issue:**

Hawaii [Senate Bill 1424](#) provides new dog tethering standards that include chain length requirements, weight and age prohibitions and penalties.

### **The Impact:**

SB 1424 states that “a person commits the offense of confinement of a dog by tethering if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly tethers, fastens, ties, or restrains a dog in a cruel or inhumane manner to a doghouse, tree, fence, or any other stationary object or to a cable trolley system:

- By a tether or chain that is less than six feet in length;
- By a tether or chain that weighs more than ten per cent of the weight of the dog tethered;
- By a tether or chain that does not have a swivel on at least one end; or
- Where the dog is under the age of six months.”

**EXEMPTIONS:** A person is not prohibited from using these restraints when:

- Walking a dog with a hand-held leash;
- While a dog is engaged in a supervised activity; or
- When a dog under the age of six months is engaged in an activity, including training, that is directly related to shepherding or herding livestock, or when reasonably necessary for the safety of the dog.

### Penalties.

Any person convicted of “confinement of a dog” in violation of the tethering provisions provided in SB 1424 faces the following penalties:

- First offense - fine of \$50 to \$150, without the possibility of suspension; and
- Second or subsequent offense - fine of \$200 to \$500, without the possibility of suspension.

### **PIJAC Position:**

This PetAlert is for informational purposes only. All dog owners or anyone who harbors a dog in Hawaii should read [SB 1424](#) carefully.

### **Recommended Action:**

SB 1424 has been placed in the [Senate Judiciary & Labor Committee](#), but has not yet been set for hearing. Please check the [“Breaking News” page](#) of the PIJAC website frequently for updates on this bill.