

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2015
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 466

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 711, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

"§711- **Cruelty to animals by declawing.** (1) A person commits the offense of cruelty to animals by declawing if the person intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly:

(a) Performs surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any domesticated cat; or

(b) Assists another in the commission of an act specified in subsection (a).

(2) This section does not apply to any person performing or assisting in the surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy of a domesticated cat for the purpose of addressing the medical condition of the cat, such as an existing or recurring illness, infection, disease, injury, or abnormal condition in the claw the compromises the animal's health.

(3) Cruelty to animals by declawing is a misdemeanor.

(4) As used in this section:

"Declawing" and "onychectomy" mean any surgical procedure in which a portion of a cat's paw is amputated in order to remove a cat's claws.

"Tendonectomy" means a procedure in which the tendons to a cat's limbs, paws, or toes are cut or modified so that the cat's claws cannot be extended."

SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Report Title:

Crimes Against Public Order; Cruelty to Animals; Declawing

Description:

Makes performing or assisting with a surgical claw removal, declawing, onychectomy, or tendonectomy on any domesticated cat a misdemeanor.

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