
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COUNTIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Article VIII, section 2 of the Hawaii
2 constitution states, in relevant part, that:

3 "Each political subdivision shall have the power to
4 frame and adopt a charter for its own self-government
5 within such limits and under such procedures as may be
6 provided by general law Charter provisions with
7 respect to a political subdivision's executive, legislative
8 and administrative structure and organization shall be
9 superior to statutory provisions, subject to the authority
10 of the legislature to enact general laws allocating and
11 reallocating powers and functions."

12 The purpose of this Act is to allow the counties the
13 authority to determine appropriate appointment and removal
14 procedures for county liquor administrators pursuant to each
15 county's charter. The legislature finds that the grant of such
16 authority is within the purview of the counties' executive and
17 administrative structure and organization, and is therefore
18 supported by and consistent with the principle of county



1 self-governance established in article VIII, section 2 of the
2 Hawaii constitution.

3 SECTION 2. Section 281-11.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended to read as follows:

5 "§281-11.5 Liquor commission, liquor administrator, and
6 board attorney. (a) The liquor commission or liquor control
7 adjudication board may hire attorneys to assist it in carrying
8 out its administrative functions under this chapter. The
9 assistance may include providing legal advice and prosecuting
10 and defending legal claims under this chapter or arising in
11 connection with this chapter.

12 (b) Subject to chapter 76, a liquor administrator shall be
13 appointed and may be removed by the liquor commission or liquor
14 control adjudication board, or as prescribed by the charter of
15 each county. The administrator may also be appointed an
16 investigator, and shall be responsible for the operations and
17 activities of the staff. The administrator may:

18 (1) Hire and remove hearing officers, investigators, and
19 clerical and or other assistants as the liquor
20 commission's business may from time to time require,
21 to prescribe their duties, and fix their compensation;
22 and



1 (2) Engage the services of experts and persons engaged in
2 the practice of a profession, if deemed expedient.
3 Every investigator, within the scope of the
4 investigator's duties, shall have the powers of a
5 police officer."

6 SECTION 3. Section 281-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

8 "(a) The liquor commission, within its own county, shall
9 have the sole jurisdiction, power, authority, and discretion,
10 subject only to this chapter:

- 11 (1) To grant, refuse, suspend, and revoke any licenses for
- 12 the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquors;
- 13 (2) To take appropriate action against a person who,
- 14 directly or indirectly, manufactures, sells, or
- 15 purchases any liquor without being authorized pursuant
- 16 to this chapter; provided that in counties which have
- 17 established by charter a liquor control adjudication
- 18 board, the board shall have the jurisdiction, power,
- 19 authority, and discretion to hear and determine
- 20 administrative complaints of the director regarding
- 21 violations of the liquor laws of the State or of the

1 rules of the liquor commission, and impose penalties
2 for violations thereof as may be provided by law;

3 (3) To control, supervise, and regulate the manufacture,
4 importation, and sale of liquors by investigation,
5 enforcement, and education; provided that any
6 educational program shall be limited to the commission
7 staff, commissioners, liquor control adjudication
8 board members, licensees and their employees and shall
9 be financed through the money collected from the
10 assessment of fines against licensees; provided that
11 fine moneys, not to exceed ten per cent a year of
12 fines accumulated, may be used to fund public liquor
13 related educational or enforcement programs;

14 (4) From time to time to make, amend, and repeal such
15 rules, not inconsistent with this chapter, as in the
16 judgment of the commission seem appropriate for
17 carrying out this chapter and for the efficient
18 administration thereof, and the proper conduct of the
19 business of all licensees, including every matter or
20 thing required to be done or which may be done with
21 the approval or consent or by order or under the
22 direction or supervision of or as prescribed by the



1 commission; which rules, when adopted as provided in
2 chapter 91 shall have the force and effect of law;

3 ~~[-(5) Subject to chapter 76, to appoint and remove an
4 administrator, who may also be appointed an
5 investigator and who shall be responsible for the
6 operations and activities of the staff. The
7 administrator may hire and remove hearing officers,
8 investigators, and clerical or other assistants as its
9 business may from time to time require, to prescribe
10 their duties, and fix their compensation; to engage
11 the services of experts and persons engaged in the
12 practice of a profession, if deemed expedient. Every
13 investigator, within the scope of the investigator's
14 duties, shall have the powers of a police officer;~~

15 ~~[-(6)]~~ (5) To limit the number of licenses of any class or
16 kind within the county, or the number of licenses of
17 any class or kind to do business in any given
18 locality, when in the judgment of the commission such
19 limitations are in the public interest;

20 ~~[-(7)]~~ (6) To prescribe the nature of the proof to be
21 furnished, the notices to be given, and the conditions
22 to be met or observed in case of the issuance of a



1 duplicate license in place of one alleged to have been
2 lost or destroyed, including a requirement of any
3 indemnity deemed appropriate to the case;

4 ~~[(8)]~~ (7) To fix the hours between which licensed premises
5 of any class or classes may regularly be open for the
6 transaction of business, which shall be uniform
7 throughout the county as to each class respectively;

8 ~~[(9)]~~ (8) To prescribe all forms to be used for the
9 purposes of this chapter not otherwise provided for in
10 this chapter, and the character and manner of keeping
11 of books, records, and accounts to be kept by
12 licensees in any matter pertaining to their business;

13 ~~[(10)]~~ (9) To investigate violations of this chapter,
14 chapter 244D and, notwithstanding any law to the
15 contrary, violations of the applicable department of
16 health's allowable noise levels, through its
17 investigators or otherwise, to include covert
18 operations, and to report violations to the
19 prosecuting officer for prosecution and, where
20 appropriate, the director of taxation to hear and
21 determine complaints against any licensee;



Report Title:

Intoxicating Liquor; Liquor Administrator

Description:

Extends the power to appoint county liquor administrators to the county liquor control adjudication boards.

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

