

---

---

## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WATER WASTE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that water is a limited  
2 and vital resource in Hawaii. According to the Honolulu board  
3 of water supply, it takes approximately twenty-five years for  
4 rain water to percolate through the earth, and into underground  
5 aquifers. Yet water is frequently wasted in the State through  
6 careless use, including use of sprinklers during rain storms and  
7 broken sprinklers that expend excessive and unnecessary water.  
8 This type of negligent water use is akin to littering, with even  
9 more serious long-term consequences to the well-being of the  
10 State.

11           The purpose of this Act is to establish excessive water  
12 waste as a petty misdemeanor, similar to the offense of  
13 criminal littering.

14           SECTION 2. Chapter 712, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
16 and to read as follows:



1           "§712-           Criminal waste of water.   (1) A person commits  
2 the offense of criminal waste of water if that person  
3 knowingly:

4           (a) Allows water originating from the person's property to  
5 fall on impervious areas instead of a lawn or  
6 landscaped area, so that a constant stream of water  
7 flows to the impervious area, including to the street  
8 or other drainage areas, for a period of one hour or  
9 more; or

10          (b) Operates a permanently installed irrigation system on  
11 that person's property with a broken sprinkler head or  
12 spray nozzle so that a constant stream of water flows  
13 to an impervious area, including to the street or  
14 other drainage areas, for a period of one hour or  
15 more;

16          (2) Criminal waste of water is a petty misdemeanor.

17          (3) The court may sentence any person convicted of  
18 committing the offense of criminal waste of water as follows:

19          (a) For the first offense, the court shall fine the person  
20 \$50;

21          (b) For the second offense, the court shall fine the  
22 person \$100; and





**Report Title:**

Criminal Waste of Water; Misdemeanor; Water

**Description:**

Establishes excessive use of water on impervious areas as a misdemeanor offense.

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

