
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 State
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. . . .

7 Charter provisions with respect to a political
8 subdivision's executive, legislative and administrative
9 structure and organization shall be superior to statutory
10 provisions, subject to the authority of the legislature to
11 enact general laws allocating and reallocating powers and
12 functions."

13 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the counties to
14 appoint and remove their respective liquor administrators
15 pursuant to their respective county charter. The legislature
16 finds that the granting of this authority is within the purview
17 of the counties' executive and administrative structure and
18 organization, and is therefore supported by and consistent with



1 the principle of county self-governance established in article
2 VIII, section 2 of the Hawaii State Constitution.

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

5 "§281-11.5 Liquor [~~commission and~~ administrator;
6 commission and board attorney. (a) Subject to chapter 76, a
7 liquor administrator shall be appointed and may be removed by
8 the liquor commission unless otherwise prescribed by the charter
9 of each county. The liquor administrator may also be appointed
10 as an investigator and shall be responsible for the operations
11 and activities of the liquor commission staff.

12 The liquor administrator may:

13 (1) Hire, remove, prescribe the duties of, and fix the
14 compensation for hearings officers, investigators, and
15 clerical and other assistants, as the liquor
16 commission's business may from time to time require;
17 and

18 (2) Engage the services of experts and persons engaged in
19 the practice of a profession, if deemed expedient.

20 Every investigator, within the scope of the
21 investigator's duties, shall have the powers of a
22 police officer.



1 (b) The liquor commission or liquor control adjudication
2 board may hire attorneys to assist it in carrying out its
3 administrative functions under this chapter. The assistance may
4 include providing legal advice and prosecuting and defending
5 legal claims under this chapter or arising in connection with
6 this chapter."

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

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

12 (1) To grant, refuse, suspend, and revoke any licenses for
13 the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquors;

14 (2) To take appropriate action against a person who,
15 directly or indirectly, manufactures, sells, or
16 purchases any liquor without being authorized pursuant
17 to this chapter; provided that in counties which have
18 established by charter a liquor control adjudication
19 board, the board shall have the jurisdiction, power,
20 authority, and discretion to hear and determine
21 administrative complaints of the director regarding
22 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~~] are 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~~] that may be done
21 with 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;



1 ~~[(11)]~~ (10) To prescribe, by rule, the terms, conditions, and
2 circumstances under which persons or any class of
3 persons may be employed by holders of licenses;

4 ~~[(12)]~~ (11) To prescribe, by rule, the term of any license or
5 solicitor's and representative's permit authorized by
6 this chapter, the annual or prorated amount, the
7 manner of payment of fees for the licenses and
8 permits, and the amount of filing fees; and

9 ~~[(13)]~~ (12) To prescribe, by rule, the circumstances and
10 penalty for the unauthorized manufacturing or selling
11 of any liquor."

12 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
13 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

14 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Liquor Commission; Liquor Administrator; Counties

Description:

Authorizes each county's liquor commission to appoint and remove their respective liquor administrator, unless otherwise prescribed by their respective county charter. Effective July 1, 2030. (HB587 HD2)

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

