A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NOISE.

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

1   SECTION 1. The legislature finds that excessive noise can

2   be a pollutant that affects public health. Noise can cause

3   hearing loss; interfere with human activities at home, work, and

4   in schools; and be injurious to people's health and well-being

5   in various ways. Noise can further annoy, awaken, anger, and

6   frustrate individuals. The numerous effects of noise combine to

7   detract from the quality of life for residents of the state and

8   its environment.

9   The sound emissions from leaf blowers and string trimmers

10   are a nuisance and a concern for the State's public health and

11   welfare. Some leaf blowers and string trimmers operate at

12   approximately ninety decibels, which can cause hearing damage

13   after two hours of exposure. According to the United States

14   Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, noise intensity is a

15   particularly troubling issue for landscaping workers.

16   The legislature further finds that there are viable,

17   quieter alternatives to loud leaf blowers and string trimmers.

1   Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

2   (1)   Increase penalties for violations of leaf blower

3   restrictions;

4   (2)   Repeal the exemption of government agencies from leaf

5   blower restrictions; and

6   (3)   Beginning July 1, 2027, prohibit the sale of leaf

7   blowers and string trimmers that are rated by their

8   manufacturers at greater than seventy decibels when

9   measured at a distance of fifty feet.

10   SECTION 2.   Section 342F-30.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

11 amended as follows:

12   1. By amending subsections (b) and (c) to read:

13   "(b)   Violators shall be fined [$50] $100 for the first

14 violation, [$100] $250 for the second violation, [$200 for the

15 third violation,] and $500 for each subsequent violation.

16   (c)   [Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of

17 government entities, shall not be subject to this section.]

18 Beginning July 1, 2027, it shall be unlawful for any person to

19 sell a leaf blower or string trimmer rated by its manufacturer

20 at greater than seventy decibels when measured at a distance of

21 fifty feet."

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1   2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

2   "(e) For the purposes of this section:

3   "Leaf blower" means any machine used to blow leaves, dirt,

4   or other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, and other

5   surfaces.

6   "State holiday" means any day established as a state

7   holiday in section 8-1.

8   "String trimmer" means a garden tool that uses whirling

9   monofilament line to cut grass, small weeds, and groundcover."

10   SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that

11   matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were

12   begun before its effective date.

13   SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the

14   application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held

15   invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or

16   applications of the Act that can be given effect without the

17   invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions

18   of this Act are severable.

19   SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed

20   and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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1   SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

JAN 2 4 2024

Report Title:
Noise; Leaf Blowers; String Trimmers; Sales Prohibition; Penalty

Description:
Increases penalty fines for violations of leaf blower restrictions. Removes the exemption for government entities and their agents from leaf blower restrictions. Beginning July 1, 2027, prohibits the sale of any leaf blower or string trimmer that is rated by its manufacturer at greater than 70 decibels when measured at a distance of 50 feet.

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