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# 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, at work,  
4 and in schools; and be injurious to people's health and well-  
5 being in various ways. Noise can further annoy, awaken, anger,  
6 and frustrate individuals. The numerous effects of noise  
7 combine to detract from the quality of life for residents of the  
8 State and 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 sixty-five weighted
- 9 decibels (dBA) when measured at a distance of fifty
- 10 feet.

11 SECTION 2. Section 342F-30.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended as follows:

13 1. By amending its title to read:

14 "[+]§342F-30.8[+] Leaf blowers; string trimmer;  
15 restrictions."

16 2. By amending subsections (b) and (c) to read:

17 "(b) Violators shall be fined [~~\$50~~] \$100 for the first  
18 violation, [~~\$100~~] \$250 for the second violation, [~~\$200 for the~~  
19 ~~third violation,~~] and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

20 (c) [~~Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of~~  
21 ~~government entities, shall not be subject to this section.~~]



1 Beginning July 1, 2027, it shall be unlawful for any person to  
2 sell a leaf blower or string trimmer rated by its manufacturer  
3 at greater than sixty-five weighted decibels (dBA) when measured  
4 at a distance of fifty feet."

5 3. By amending subsection (e) to read:

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

7 "Leaf blower" means any machine used to blow leaves, dirt,  
8 or other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, and other  
9 surfaces.

10 "State holiday" means any day established as a state  
11 holiday in section 8-1.

12 "String trimmer" means a garden tool that uses whirling  
13 monofilament line to cut grass, small weeds, and groundcover."

14 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
16 begun before its effective date.

17 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the  
18 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
19 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
20 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the



1 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
2 of this Act are severable.

3 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**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 65 weighted decibels (dBA) when measured at a distance of 50 feet. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

