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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dozens of cities and  
2 towns in the United States, the District of Columbia, and the  
3 State of California have banned gasoline-powered leaf blowers  
4 due to their harmful impacts on health and the environment.

5           The legislature finds that noise can be a pollutant that  
6 affects the public health. Noise causes hearing loss,  
7 interferes with human activities at home, work, in schools, and  
8 is injurious to people's health and well-being in various ways.  
9 Noise annoys, awakens, angers, and frustrates people. The  
10 numerous effects of noise combine to detract from the quality of  
11 people's lives and the environment.

12           The sound emissions from gasoline-powered leaf blowers are  
13 a public nuisance and a great concern for the State's public  
14 health and welfare. Gasoline-powered leaf blowers operate at  
15 approximately ninety decibels, which can cause hearing damage  
16 after two hours of exposure. According to the United States



1 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the noise intensity  
2 is a particularly troubling issue for landscaping workers.

3 The legislature further finds that there are viable,  
4 quieter alternatives to gasoline-powered leaf blowers such as  
5 battery-powered leaf blowers.

6 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ban the use of  
7 gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use district.

8 SECTION 2. Section 342F-30.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "[+]§342F-30.8[+] Leaf blowers; restrictions[-]; and  
11 prohibition of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. (a) In any urban  
12 land use district, as designated pursuant to section 205-2, it  
13 shall be unlawful for any person to operate a non-gasoline-  
14 powered leaf blower within a residential zone or within one  
15 hundred feet of a residential zone in the State, except between  
16 the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday or  
17 a state or federal holiday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m.  
18 and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday or any state or federal holiday.

19 (b) In any urban land use district, as designated pursuant  
20 to section 205-2, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate  
21 a gasoline-powered leaf blower at any time.



1       ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Violators shall be fined ~~[\$50]~~ \$100 for the  
2 first violation, ~~[\$100]~~ \$250 for the second violation, ~~[\$200 for~~  
3 ~~the third violation,]~~ and \$500 for each subsequent violation~~[-]~~;  
4 provided that any person who commits a third violation of  
5 subsection (b) shall also be subject to forfeiture of the  
6 gasoline-powered leaf blower.

7       ~~[(e) Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of~~  
8 ~~government entities, shall not be subject to this section.]~~

9       (d) Any county may adopt a rule or ordinance that places  
10 stricter limitations on the use of leaf blowers than are in this  
11 section. In case of a conflict between the requirements or  
12 limitations of this section and any county rule or ordinance  
13 regarding the use of leaf blowers, the more restrictive  
14 requirements shall apply.

15       (e) For the purposes of this section:

16       "Gasoline-powered leaf blower" means any leaf blower that  
17 is powered by a two-stroke internal combustion engine.

18       "Leaf blower" means any machine used to blow leaves, dirt,  
19 or other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, and other  
20 surfaces.



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

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

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers; Prohibition; Fines; Government Agency Exemption; Repeal

**Description:**

Prohibits the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use districts. Increases the amounts of fines for offenses of leaf blower restrictions and provides for the forfeiture of gasoline-powered leaf blowers upon a third violation. Removes the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

