
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STREAM MAINTENANCE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State's public
2 streams and tributaries are vital natural resources that support
3 the State's ecosystems, serve as crucial infrastructure for
4 managing stormwater, and provide recreational and aesthetic
5 value to residents and visitors alike. Improper storage of
6 personal property in or near these waterways poses significant
7 environmental, health, and safety risks, including obstructing
8 water flow, increasing flood potential, and introducing
9 pollutants into the ecosystem.

10 The legislature further finds that in October 2024, heavy
11 rains caused debris from tributaries to wash into the Ala Wai
12 canal and Ala Wai small boat harbor, creating hazardous
13 conditions that jeopardized public safety, harmed marine
14 ecosystems, and disrupted boating and recreational activities.
15 Such incidents demonstrate the urgent need to regulate the
16 storage of personal property in or near public streams and
17 tributaries to prevent future blockages, pollution, and



1 environmental degradation. It is the responsibility of the
2 State to preserve its natural resources, protect public safety,
3 and maintain the functionality and health of its waterways for
4 present and future generations.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prohibit the
6 storage of personal property in or near a public stream or
7 tributary.

8 SECTION 2. Chapter 171, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
10 designated and to read as follows:

11 "§171- Storage of personal property in or near a public
12 stream or tributary; prohibited. (a) A person shall not store
13 personal property in or near a public stream or tributary.
14 Personal property stored in or near a public stream or tributary
15 for a continuous period of more than twenty-four hours shall be
16 deemed abandoned property that the department shall dispose of
17 pursuant to section 171-31.5.

18 (b) For the purposes of this section, "personal property"
19 means any and all tangible property and includes but is not
20 limited to items, goods, materials, merchandise, furniture,
21 equipment, fixtures, clothing, and household items. "Personal



1 property" does not include any vehicle as defined in section
2 291C-1 or vessel as defined in section 200-23."

3 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 15 2025



H.B. NO. 211

Report Title:

DLNR; Abandoned Property; Personal Property; Property Storage;
Streams; Tributaries

Description:

Clarifies that personal property stored in or near a public stream or tributary for a continuous period of more than twenty-four hours shall become abandoned property which the Department of Land and Natural Resources shall dispose of.

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