

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LEAF BLOWERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that gasoline-powered
2 leaf blowers have become a significant source of environmental
3 and public health concerns, prompting calls for their ban. One
4 of the most pressing reasons to prohibit the sale of new gas-
5 powered leaf blowers is the extreme noise pollution they create.
6 Operating at levels often ranging between eighty and one hundred
7 decibels, gas-powered leaf blowers can cause hearing damage to
8 users and bystanders with prolonged exposure. This excessive
9 noise also disrupts neighborhoods, schools, and businesses,
10 while disturbing wildlife and compromising the quality of life
11 for residents in urban and suburban areas. By comparison,
12 modern electric or battery-powered alternatives are much quieter
13 and provide an effective solution without the unnecessary
14 auditory strain.

15 In addition to noise pollution, gas-powered leaf blowers
16 are notorious for their environmental impact. Most models use
17 inefficient two-stroke engines, which burn a mixture of oil and



1 gasoline and release significant amounts of pollutants into the
2 air. Studies indicate these types of leaf blowers emit high
3 levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and unburned
4 hydrocarbons—contributing to smog and worsening air quality.
5 Shockingly, running a gas-powered leaf blower for just one hour
6 can produce as much pollution as driving a car for hundreds of
7 miles. This level of emissions exacerbates climate change and
8 directly impacts respiratory health, especially for children,
9 the elderly, and those with preexisting conditions like asthma.

10 Transitioning away from gas-powered leaf blowers is also
11 increasingly practical. Advances in electric and battery-
12 powered technologies have made these alternatives more
13 efficient, powerful, and affordable than ever. Electric leaf
14 blowers are not only quieter and cleaner but also much cheaper
15 and easier maintain since they do not require fuel or frequent
16 engine repairs. Banning the sale of new gas-powered leaf
17 blowers would accelerate the shift to cleaner options, reduce
18 noise and air pollution while promoting a healthier and more
19 sustainable environment, and would represent a meaningful step
20 toward addressing climate concerns and protecting the well-being
21 of individuals in the State.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ban the sale of
2 gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

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

5 "**§342F-30.8 Leaf blowers; weed whackers; restrictions[-];**
6 **prohibition of sale of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.** (a) In
7 any urban land use district, as designated pursuant to section
8 205-2, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate a leaf
9 blower or weed whacker within a residential zone or within one
10 hundred feet of a residential zone in the State, except between
11 the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday or
12 a state or federal holiday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m.
13 and 7:00 p.m. on Sunday or any state or federal holiday;
14 provided that government entities, and agents acting on behalf
15 of government entities, may use weed whackers during the
16 prohibited hours in the case of an emergency as defined in
17 section 127A-2.

18 (b) Beginning January 1, 2027, it shall be unlawful for
19 any person to sell or offer for sale a gasoline-powered leaf
20 blower.



1 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Violators shall be fined \$50 for the first
2 violation, \$100 for the second violation, \$200 for the third
3 violation, and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

4 ~~[(c) Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of
5 government entities, shall not be subject to this section as it
6 applies to leaf blowers.]~~

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

13 (e) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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



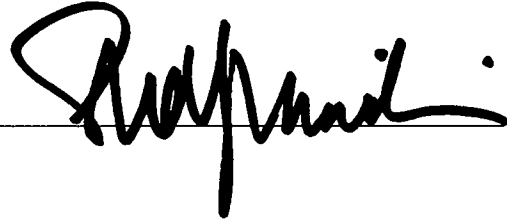
1 "Weed whacker" means a gasoline or electric powered yard
2 tool that uses either a flexible monofilament line (also known
3 as a string or line trimmer) or revolving metal cutting blade
4 intended to cut or trim grass and other vegetation."

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

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

8

INTRODUCED BY: _____



S.B. NO. 365

Report Title:

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers; Noise and Air Pollution;
Prohibition; Repeal

Description:

Beginning 1/1/2027, prohibits the sale or offer for sale of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Repeals the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies.

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