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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 and the District of Columbia and  
3 State of California have banned gasoline-powered leaf blowers  
4 due to their harmful impacts on health and the environment.

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

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



1 Control and Prevention, noise intensity is a particularly  
2 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; weed whackers; restrictions[-]**  
11 **on non-gasoline-powered leaf blowers; prohibition of gasoline-**  
12 **powered leaf blowers.** (a) In any urban land use district, as  
13 designated pursuant to section 205-2, it shall be unlawful for  
14 any person to operate a non-gasoline-powered leaf blower or weed  
15 whacker within a residential zone or within one hundred feet of  
16 a residential zone in the State, except between the hours of  
17 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday or a state or  
18 federal holiday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 7:00  
19 p.m. on Sunday or any state or federal holiday; provided that  
20 government entities, and agents acting on behalf of government



1 entities, may use weed whackers during the prohibited hours in  
2 the case of an emergency as defined in section 127A-2.

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

6 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Violators shall be fined ~~[\$50]~~ \$100 for the  
7 first violation, ~~[\$100]~~ \$250 for the second violation, ~~[\$200 for~~  
8 ~~the third violation,]~~ and \$500 for each subsequent violation~~[-];~~  
9 provided that upon the third violation of subsection (b), the  
10 gasoline-powered leaf blower used to commit that violation shall  
11 be subject to forfeiture.

12 ~~[(e) Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of~~  
13 ~~government entities, shall not be subject to this section as it~~  
14 ~~applies to leaf blowers.]~~

15 (d) Any county may adopt a rule or ordinance that places  
16 stricter limitations on the use of leaf blowers or weed whackers  
17 than are in this section. In case of a conflict between the  
18 requirements or limitations of this section and any county rule  
19 or ordinance regarding the use of leaf blowers or weed whackers,  
20 the more restrictive requirements shall apply.

21 (e) For the purposes of this section:



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

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

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

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

17        SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

18

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 10 2025



**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 district. Applies the existing time-of-use restrictions on leaf blowers to non-gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Increases the 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.

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

