
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 and
3 weed whacker restrictions;

4 (2) Repeal the exemption of government agencies from leaf
5 blower and weed whacker restrictions; and

6 (3) Beginning July 1, 2028, prohibit the sale of leaf
7 blowers, string trimmers, and weed whackers that are
8 rated by their manufacturers at greater than sixty-
9 five weighted decibels (dBA) when measured at a
10 distance of fifty 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 trimmers; weed whackers;**
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 as it~~



1 ~~applies to leaf blowers.]~~ Beginning July 1, 2028, it shall be
2 unlawful for any person to sell a leaf blower, string trimmer,
3 or weed whacker rated by its manufacturer at greater than sixty-
4 five weighted decibels (dBA) when measured at a distance of
5 fifty feet."

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

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

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

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

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

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
20 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
21 begun before its effective date.



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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed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

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



Report Title:

Noise; Noise Pollution; String Trimmers; Leaf Blowers; Weed Whackers; Sales Prohibition; Fines

Description:

Increases fines for violations of leaf blower, string trimmer, and weed whacker restrictions. Repeals the exemptions for government entities and their agents from these restrictions. Beginning 7/1/2028, prohibits the sale of any leaf blower, string trimmer, or weed whacker that is rated by its manufacturer at greater than sixty-five dbA when measured at fifty feet. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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