

ACT 173

S.B. NO. 1177

A Bill for an Act Relating to the General Excise Tax.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 237-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

“§237-4 “Wholesaler”, “jobber”, defined. (a) “Wholesaler” or “jobber” applies only to a person making sales at wholesale. Only the following are sales at wholesale:

- (1) Sales to a licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller for purposes of resale;
- (2) Sales to a licensed manufacturer of [material] materials or commodities [which] that are to be incorporated by the manufacturer into a finished or saleable product (including the container or package in which the product is contained) during the course of its preservation, manufacture, or processing, including preparation for market, and [which] that will remain in such finished or saleable product in such form as to be perceptible to the senses, which finished or saleable product is to be sold and not otherwise used by the manufacturer;
- (3) Sales to a licensed producer or cooperative association of materials or commodities [which] that are to be incorporated by the producer or by the cooperative association into a finished or saleable product [which] that is to be sold and not otherwise used by the producer or cooperative association, including specifically materials or commodities expended as essential to the planting, growth, nurturing, and production of commodities [which] that are sold by the producer or by the cooperative association;
- (4) Sales to a licensed contractor, of [material] materials or commodities [which] that are to be incorporated by the contractor into the finished work or project required by the contract and [which] that will remain in such finished work or project in such form as to be perceptible to the senses;
- (5) Sales to a licensed producer, or to a cooperative association described in section 237-23(a)(7) for sale to [such] a licensed producer, or to a licensed person operating a feed lot, of poultry or animal feed, hatching eggs, semen, replacement stock, breeding services for the purpose of raising or producing animal or poultry products for disposition as described in section 237-5 or [to be incorporated in] for incorporation into a manufactured product as described in paragraph (2) or for the purpose of breeding, hatching, milking, or egg laying other than for the customer’s own consumption of the meat, poultry, eggs, or milk so produced; provided that in the case of a feed lot operator, only the segregated cost of the feed furnished by the feed lot operator as part of the feed lot operator’s service to a licensed producer of poultry or animals to be butchered or to a cooperative association described in section 237-23(a)(7) of such licensed producers shall be deemed to be a

sale at wholesale; and provided further that any amount derived from the furnishing of feed lot services, other than the segregated cost of feed, shall be deemed taxable at the service business rate. This paragraph shall not apply to the sale of feed for poultry or animals to be used for hauling, transportation, or sports purposes;

- (6) Sales to a licensed producer, or to a cooperative association described in section 237-23(a)(7) for sale to the producer, of seed for producing agricultural products, or bait for catching fish (including the catching of bait for catching fish), which agricultural products or fish are to be disposed of as described in section 237-5 or to be incorporated in a manufactured product as described in paragraph (2);
- (7) Sales to a licensed producer, or to a cooperative association described in section 237-23(a)(7) for sale to such producer; of polypropylene shade cloth; of polyfilm; of polyethylene film; of cartons and such other containers, wrappers, and sacks, and binders to be used for packaging eggs, vegetables, fruits, and other agricultural products; of seedlings and cuttings for producing nursery plants; or of chick containers; which cartons and such other containers, wrappers, and sacks, binders, seedlings, cuttings, and containers are to be used as described in section 237-5, or to be incorporated in a manufactured product as described in paragraph (2);
- (8) Sales of tangible personal property to a licensed person engaged in [the] a service business[.]; or calling; provided that:
 - (A) [the] The property is not consumed or incidental to the performance of the services;
 - (B) [there] There is a resale of the article at the retail rate of four per cent; and
 - (C) [the] The resale of the article is separately charged or billed by the person rendering the services;
- (9) Sales to a licensed leasing company of capital goods [which] that are thereafter leased as a service to others. Capital goods means goods which have a depreciable life and which are purchased by the leasing company for lease to its customers[.];
- (10) Sales to a licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller of bulk condiments or prepackaged single-serving packets of condiments that are provided to customers by the licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller;
- (11) Sales to a licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller of tangible personal property that will be incorporated or processed by the licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller into a finished or saleable product during the course of its preparation for market (including disposable, nonreturnable containers, packages, or wrappers, in which the product is contained and that are generally known and most commonly used to contain food or beverage for transfer or delivery), and which finished or saleable product is to be sold and not otherwise used by the licensed retail merchant, jobber, or other licensed seller.

(b) If the use tax law is finally held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unconstitutional or invalid insofar as it purports to tax the use or consumption of tangible personal property imported into the State in interstate or foreign commerce or both, wholesalers and jobbers shall be taxed thereafter under this chapter in accordance with the following definition (which shall supersede the preceding paragraph otherwise defining "wholesaler" or "jobber"): "Wholesaler" or "jobber" means a person, or a definitely organized division thereof, definitely organized

to render and rendering a general distribution service [which] that buys and maintains at the person's place of business a stock or lines of merchandise [which] that the person distributes; and [which,] that the person, through salespersons, advertising, or sales promotion devices, sells to licensed retailers, to institutional or licensed commercial or industrial users, in wholesale quantities and at wholesale rates. A corporation deemed not to be carrying on a trade or business in this State under section 235-6 shall nevertheless be deemed to be a wholesaler and shall be subject to the tax imposed by this chapter."

SECTION 2. Section 237-13, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§237-13 **Imposition of tax.** There is hereby levied and shall be assessed and collected annually privilege taxes against persons on account of their business and other activities in the State measured by the application of rates against values of products, gross proceeds of sales, or gross income, whichever is specified, as follows:

(1) Tax on manufacturers.

- (A) Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in the business of manufacturing, including compounding, canning, preserving, packing, printing, publishing, milling, processing, refining, or preparing for sale, profit, or commercial use, either directly or through the activity of others, in whole or in part, any article or articles, substance or substances, commodity or commodities, the amount of the tax to be equal to the value of the articles, substances, or commodities, manufactured, compounded, canned, preserved, packed, printed, milled, processed, refined, or prepared[,] for sale, as shown by the gross proceeds derived from the sale thereof by the manufacturer or person compounding, preparing, or printing them, multiplied by one-half of one per cent.
- (B) The measure of the tax on manufacturers is the value of the entire product for sale, regardless of the place of sale or the fact that deliveries may be made to points outside the State.
- (C) If any person liable for the tax on manufacturers ships or transports the person's product, or any part thereof, out of the State, whether in a finished or unfinished condition, or sells the same for delivery to points outside [of] the State (for example, consigned to a mainland purchaser via common carrier f.o.b. Honolulu), the value of the products in the condition or form in which they exist immediately before entering interstate or foreign commerce, determined as hereinafter provided, shall be the basis for the assessment of the tax imposed by this paragraph. This tax shall be due and payable as of the date of entry of the products into interstate or foreign commerce, whether the products are then sold or not. The department [of taxation] shall determine the basis for assessment, as provided by this paragraph, as follows:
- (i) If the products at the time of their entry into interstate or foreign commerce already have been sold, the gross proceeds of sale, less the transportation expenses, if any, incurred in realizing the gross proceeds for transportation from the time of entry of the products into interstate or foreign commerce, including insurance and storage in transit, shall be the measure of the value of the products[.];

- (ii) If the products have not been sold at the time of their entry into interstate or foreign commerce, and in cases governed by clause (i) in which the products are sold under circumstances such that the gross proceeds of sale are not indicative of the true value of the products, the value of the products constituting the basis for assessment shall correspond as nearly as possible to the gross proceeds of sales for delivery outside the State, adjusted as provided in clause (i), or if sufficient data are not available, sales in the State, of similar products of like quality and character and in similar quantities, made by the taxpayer (unless not indicative of the true value) or by others. Sales outside the State, adjusted as provided in clause (i), may be considered when they constitute the best available data. The department shall prescribe uniform and equitable rules for ascertaining the values[.];
 - (iii) At the election of the taxpayer and with the approval of the department, the taxpayer may make the taxpayer's returns under clause (i) even though the products have not been sold at the time of their entry into interstate or foreign commerce[.]; and
 - (iv) In all cases in which products leave the State in an unfinished condition, the basis for assessment shall be adjusted so as to deduct the portion of the value as is attributable to the finishing of the goods outside the State.
- (2) Tax on business of selling tangible personal property; producing.
- (A) Upon every person engaging or continuing in the business of selling any tangible personal property whatsoever (not including, however, bonds or other evidence of indebtedness, or stocks), there is likewise hereby levied, and shall be assessed and collected, a tax equivalent to four per cent of the gross proceeds of sales of the business; provided that insofar as certain retailing is taxed by section 237-16, the tax shall be that levied by section 237-16, and in the case of a wholesaler, the tax shall be equal to one-half of one per cent of the gross proceeds of sales of the business. Upon every person engaging or continuing within this State in the business of a producer, the tax shall be equal to one-half of one per cent of the gross proceeds of sales of the business, or the value of the products, for sale, if sold for delivery outside the State or shipped or transported out of the State, and the value of the products shall be determined in the same manner as the value of manufactured products covered in the cases under paragraph (1)(C).
 - (B) Gross proceeds of sales of tangible property in interstate and foreign commerce shall constitute a part of the measure of the tax imposed on persons in the business of selling tangible personal property, to the extent, under the conditions, and in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the United States and the Acts of the Congress of the United States which may be now in force or may be hereafter adopted, and whenever there occurs in the State an activity to which, under the Constitution and Acts of Congress, there may be attributed gross proceeds of sales, the gross proceeds shall be so attributed.
 - (C) No manufacturer or producer, engaged in such business in the State and selling the manufacturer's or producer's products for

delivery outside of the State (for example, consigned to a mainland purchaser via common carrier f.o.b. Honolulu), shall be required to pay the tax imposed in this chapter for the privilege of so selling the products, and the value or gross proceeds of sales of the products shall be included only in determining the measure of the tax imposed upon the manufacturer or producer.

- (D) When a manufacturer or producer, engaged in such business in the State, also is engaged in selling the manufacturer's or producer's products in the State at wholesale, retail, or in any other manner, the tax for the privilege of engaging in the business of selling the products in the State shall apply to the manufacturer or producer as well as the tax for the privilege of manufacturing or producing in the State, and the manufacturer or producer shall make the returns of the gross proceeds of the wholesale, retail, or other sales required for the privilege of selling in the State, as well as making the returns of the value or gross proceeds of sales of the products required for the privilege of manufacturing or producing in the State. The manufacturer or producer shall pay the tax imposed in this chapter for the privilege of selling its products in the State, and the value or gross proceeds of sales of the products, thus subjected to tax, may be deducted insofar as duplicated as to the same products by the measure of the tax upon the manufacturer or producer for the privilege of manufacturing or producing in the State; except that no producer of agricultural products who sells the products to a purchaser who will process the products outside the State shall be required to pay the tax imposed in this chapter for the privilege of producing or selling those products.
- (E) A taxpayer selling to a federal cost-plus contractor may make the election provided for by paragraph (3)(C), and in that case the tax shall be computed pursuant to the election, notwithstanding this paragraph or paragraph (1) to the contrary.
- (F) The department, by rule, may [provide] require that a seller [may] take from the purchaser of tangible personal property a certificate, in a form [as] prescribed by the department [shall prescribe], certifying that the sale is a sale at wholesale[. If the certificate is so provided for by rule of the department:]; provided that:
- (i) Any purchaser who furnishes a certificate shall be obligated to pay to the seller, upon demand, if the sale in fact is not at wholesale, the amount of the additional tax which by reason thereof is imposed upon the seller; and
 - (ii) The absence of a certificate, unless the sales of the business are exclusively at wholesale, in itself shall give rise to the presumption that the sale is not at wholesale.
- (3) Tax upon contractors.
- (A) Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in the business of contracting, the tax shall be equal to four per cent of the gross income of the business; provided that insofar as the business of contracting is taxed by section 237-16, which relates to certain retailing, the tax shall be that levied by section 237-16.
- (B) In computing the tax levied under this paragraph or section 237-16, there shall be deducted from the gross income of the taxpayer so much thereof as has been included in the measure of the tax levied under subparagraph (A) or section 237-16, on:

- (i) Another taxpayer who is a contractor, as defined in section 237-6;
- (ii) A specialty contractor, duly licensed by the department of commerce and consumer affairs pursuant to section 444-9, in respect of the specialty contractor's business; or
- (iii) A specialty contractor who is not licensed by the department of commerce and consumer affairs pursuant to section 444-9, but who performs contracting activities on federal military installations and nowhere else in this State;

but any person claiming a deduction under this paragraph shall be required to show in the person's return the name and general excise number of the person paying the tax on the amount deducted by the person.

- (C) In computing the tax levied under this paragraph against any federal cost-plus contractor, there shall be excluded from the gross income of the contractor so much thereof as fulfills the following requirements:
 - (i) The gross income exempted shall constitute reimbursement of costs incurred for materials, plant, or equipment purchased from a taxpayer licensed under this chapter, not exceeding the gross proceeds of sale of the taxpayer on account of the transaction; and
 - (ii) The taxpayer making the sale shall have certified to the department that the taxpayer is taxable with respect to the gross proceeds of the sale, and that the taxpayer elects to have the tax on gross income computed the same as upon a sale to the state government.
- (D) A person who, as a business or as a part of a business in which the person is engaged, erects, constructs, or improves any building or structure, of any kind or description, or makes, constructs, or improves any road, street, sidewalk, sewer, or water system, or other improvements on land held by the person (whether held as a leasehold, fee simple, or otherwise), upon the sale or other disposition of the land or improvements, even if the work was not done pursuant to a contract, shall be liable to the same tax as if engaged in the business of contracting, unless the person shows that at the time the person was engaged in making the improvements [it was,] the person intended, and for the period of at least one year after completion of the building, structure, or other improvements[, it continued to be the person's purpose] the person continued to intend to hold and not sell or otherwise dispose of the land or improvements. The tax in respect of the improvements shall be measured by the amount of the proceeds of the sale or other disposition that is attributable to the erection, construction, or improvement of such building or structure, or the making, constructing, or improving of the road, street, sidewalk, sewer, or water system, or other improvements. The measure of tax in respect of the improvements shall not exceed the amount which would have been taxable had the work been performed by another, subject as in other cases to the deductions allowed by subparagraph (B). Upon the election of the taxpayer, this paragraph may be applied notwithstanding that the improvements were not made by the taxpayer, or were not made as a business or as a part of a business, or were made with the intention of holding

the same. However, this paragraph shall not apply in respect of any proceeds that constitute or are in the nature of rent; all such gross income shall be taxable under paragraph [(10);] (9); provided that insofar as the business of renting or leasing real property under a lease is taxed under section 237-16.5, the tax shall be levied by section 237-16.5.

- (4) Tax upon theaters, amusements, radio broadcasting stations, etc. Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in the business of operating a theater, opera house, moving picture show, vaudeville, amusement park, dance hall, skating rink, radio broadcasting station, or any other place at which amusements are offered to the public, the tax shall be equal to four per cent of the gross income of the business.
- (5) Tax upon sales representatives, etc. Upon every person classified as a representative or purchasing agent under section 237-1, engaging or continuing within the State in the business of performing services for another, other than as an employee, there is likewise hereby levied and shall be assessed and collected a tax equal to four per cent of the commissions and other compensation attributable to the services so rendered by the person.
- (6) Tax on service business. Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in any service business, [or] calling, or professional services not otherwise specifically taxed under this chapter, there is [likewise hereby] levied, [and] shall be assessed, and shall be collected a tax equal to four per cent of the gross income of the business; provided that [where]:
 - (A) Where any person engaging or continuing within the State in any service business, [or] calling, or professional services renders those services upon the order of or at the request of another taxpayer who is engaged in the service business, calling, or professional services and who, in fact, acts as or [acts] in the nature of an intermediary between the person rendering those services and the ultimate recipient of the benefits of those services, so much of the gross income as is received by the person rendering the services shall be subjected to the tax at the rate of one-half of one per cent and all of the gross income received by the intermediary from the principal shall be subjected to a tax at the rate of four per cent; and [provided that where]
 - (B) Where any person is engaged in the business of selling interstate or foreign common carrier telecommunication services within and without the State, the tax shall be imposed on that portion of gross income received by a person from service which is originated or terminated in this State and is charged to a telephone number, customer, or account in this State notwithstanding any other state law (except for the exemption under section 237-23(a)(1)) to the contrary. If, under the Constitution and laws of the United States, the entire gross income as determined under this paragraph of a business selling interstate or foreign common carrier telecommunication services cannot be included in the measure of the tax, the gross income shall be apportioned as provided in section 237-21; provided that the apportionment factor and formula shall be the same for all persons providing those services in the State.
- (7) Tax on insurance solicitors and agents. Upon every person engaged as a licensed solicitor, general agent, or subagent pursuant to chapter 431,

there is hereby levied and shall be assessed and collected a tax equal to .15 per cent of the commissions due to that activity.

[(8) Professions. Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in the practice of a profession, including those expounding the religious doctrines of any church, there is likewise hereby levied and shall be assessed and collected a tax equal to four per cent of the gross income on the practice or exposition.

(9)] (8) Tax on receipts of sugar benefit payments. Upon the amounts received from the United States government by any producer of sugar (or the producer's legal representative or heirs), as defined under and by virtue of the Sugar Act of 1948, as amended, or other Acts of the Congress of the United States relating thereto, there is hereby levied a tax of one-half of one per cent of the gross amount received[,]; provided that the tax levied hereunder on any amount so received and actually disbursed to another by a producer in the form of a benefit payment shall be paid by the person or persons to whom the amount is actually disbursed, and the producer actually making a benefit payment to another shall be entitled to claim on the producer's return a deduction from the gross amount taxable hereunder in the sum of the amount so disbursed. The amounts taxed under this paragraph shall not be taxable under any other paragraph, subsection, or section of this chapter.

[(10)] (9) Tax on other business. Upon every person engaging or continuing within the State in any business, trade, activity, occupation, or calling not included in the preceding paragraphs or any other provisions of this chapter, there is likewise hereby levied and shall be assessed and collected, a tax equal to four per cent of the gross income thereof. In addition, the rate prescribed by this paragraph shall apply to a business taxable under one or more of the preceding paragraphs or other provisions of this chapter, as to any gross income thereof not taxed thereunder as gross income or gross proceeds of sales or by taxing an equivalent value of products, unless specifically exempted.''

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

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval; provided that section 1 shall apply to gross receipts received after June 30, 1999.

(Approved July 1, 1999.)