

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

96

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 04 , 2025

RE: H.B. No. 470  
H.D. 1

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker, House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2025  
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection, to which  
was referred H.B. No. 470 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NOISE,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to:

- (1) Increase penalties for violations of leaf blower and  
weed whacker restrictions;
- (2) Repeal the exemption for government agencies from leaf  
blower and weed whacker restrictions; and
- (3) Beginning July 1, 2028, prohibit the sale of leaf  
blowers, string trimmers, and weed whackers rated by  
their manufacturers at greater than sixty-five weighted  
decibels when measured at a distance of fifty feet.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure  
from three individuals. Your Committee received testimony in  
opposition to this measure from Retail Merchants of Hawaii and one  
individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from  
the Department of Health and Department of Education.

2025-1117 HB470 HD1 HSCR HMSO



Your Committee finds that certain leaf blowers, string trimmers, and weed whackers operate at high measures of weighted decibels, creating a nuisance for those in the vicinity and potentially causing hearing damage through prolonged exposure. Your Committee believes that this measure will address this issue by increasing penalties for violations of leaf blower and weed whacker restrictions, repealing certain exemptions to these restrictions, and prohibiting the sale of certain leaf blowers, string trimmers, and weed whackers.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy & Environmental Protection that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 470, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 470, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Energy &  
Environmental Protection,



NICOLE E. LOWEN, Chair



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Bill/Resolution No.: <b>HB470</b>		Committee Referral: <b>EEP, CPC, JHA</b>		Date: <b>1/28/25</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to:				
<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
EEP Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. LOWEN, Nicole E. (C)	✓			
2. PERRUSO, Amy A. (VC)	✓			
3. KAHALOA, Kirstin	✓			
4. KUSCH, Matthias	✓			
5. QUINLAN, Sean	✓			
6. WARD, Gene				✓
TOTAL (6)	5			1
The recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. committee acronym(s)				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: _____ <i>Amy Perruso</i>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee    Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office    Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				