
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GASOLINE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that while ethanol, which
2 is currently being used as an additive to gasoline to reduce
3 pollution and displace petroleum, is a good cleaner and solvent
4 when used at fairly high concentrations, it causes two problems:

5 (1) The ethanol in ethanol-blended gasoline absorbs
6 moisture from the humidity in the air, causing the
7 gasoline and ethanol to separate. Once separated,
8 neither parts are a suitable fuel and are not easily
9 miscible without the proper equipment.

10 (2) Ethanol reacts with rubber and fiberglass and would
11 dissolve parts made of rubber or fiberglass upon
12 prolonged contact.

13 While the automobile industry discontinued use of rubber
14 for its seals and hoses, as the use of ethanol was
15 popularized, other industries, such as boat and lawnmower
16 manufacturers, continued to use rubber and fiberglass for
17 components of its fuel tanks and have only recently
18 switched to materials that are ethanol-safe. Rubber and



1 fiberglass parts of older automobiles, boats, and
2 lawnmowers are now at risk of dissolving. This problem is
3 exacerbated by the tendency of ethanol to absorb water and
4 separate into gasoline and ethanol.

5 The legislature finds that the use of a high percentage of
6 ethanol as an additive in gasoline will cause many problems for
7 owners of older model automobiles, boats, and lawnmowers. The
8 legislature believes that using a lower ethanol content in
9 gasoline will prevent these problems.

10 The purpose of this Act is to reduce the percentage of
11 ethanol content required in gasoline sold in the state for use
12 in motor vehicles from ten per cent to two per cent.

13 SECTION 2. Section 486J-10, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

15 "(a) The director shall adopt rules in accordance with
16 chapter 91 to require that gasoline sold in the State for use in
17 motor vehicles contain [~~ten~~] two per cent ethanol by volume.

18 The amounts of gasoline sold in the State containing [~~ten~~] two
19 per cent ethanol shall be in accordance with rules as the
20 director may deem appropriate. The director may authorize the
21 sale of gasoline that does not meet these requirements as
22 provided in subsection (d).



Report Title:

Ethanol content requirement; Two percent

Description:

Changes the ethanol content requirement for gasoline sold in the state for use in motor vehicles from 10% to 2%.

