
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VIRTUAL CURRENCY.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 489D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended as follows:

3 1. By adding five new definitions to be appropriately
4 inserted and to read as follows:

5 "Exchange", in reference to virtual currency, means to
6 assume control of virtual currency from, or on behalf of, a
7 person in the State, at least momentarily, to sell, trade, or
8 convert:

9 (1) Virtual currency for money, monetary value, or one or
10 more forms of virtual currency; or

11 (2) Money or monetary value for one or more forms of
12 virtual currency.

13 "Money" means a medium of exchange or unit of value,
14 including coin or paper money, issued by the United States or by
15 another country or a union of countries recognized by the United
16 States.



1 "Store" or "storage", in reference to virtual currency,
2 means maintaining control of virtual currency on behalf of
3 another person.

4 "Transfer", in reference to virtual currency, means to
5 assume control of virtual currency from, or on behalf of, a
6 person in the State and to:

7 (1) Credit the virtual currency to the account of another
8 person;

9 (2) Move the virtual currency from one account of the
10 person to another account of the same person; or

11 (3) Relinquish control of the virtual currency to another
12 person.

13 "Virtual currency" means a digital representation of value
14 that:

15 (1) Is used as a medium of exchange, unit of account, or
16 store of value; and

17 (2) Is not money, whether or not denominated in money.

18 "Virtual currency" does not include:

19 (1) Units of value that are issued in affinity or rewards
20 programs that cannot be redeemed for either money or
21 virtual currencies; or



1 (2) Units of value that are used solely within online
2 gaming platforms that have no market or application
3 outside of the gaming platforms."

4 2. By amending the definition of "control" to read:

5 ""Control" means:

6 (1) In reference to a person, ownership of, or the power
7 to vote, twenty-five per cent or more of the
8 outstanding voting securities of a licensee or
9 controlling person. For purposes of determining the
10 percentage of a licensee controlled by any person,
11 there shall be aggregated with the controlling
12 person's interest the interest of any other person
13 controlled by the person, or by any spouse, parent, or
14 child of the person[-]; and

15 (2) In reference to a transaction or relationship
16 involving virtual currency, the power to execute
17 unilaterally or prevent indefinitely a virtual
18 currency transaction."

19 3. By amending the definitions of "monetary value" and
20 "money transmission" to read:



1 "Monetary value" means a medium of exchange, whether or
2 not redeemable in money[-], and includes virtual currency.

3 "Money transmission" means to engage in the business of:

4 (1) Selling or issuing payment instruments; or

5 (2) Receiving money or monetary value for transmission,
6 transfer, exchange, or delivery to a location within
7 or outside the United States by any and all means,
8 including wire, internet, facsimile, or electronic
9 transfer.

10 Money transmission does not apply to courier services. Money
11 transmission does not include the sole provision of internet
12 connection services, telecommunications services, or network
13 access."

14 4. By amending the definition of "outstanding payment
15 obligation" to read:

16 "Outstanding payment obligation" means:

17 (1) Any payment instrument issued by the licensee that has
18 been sold in the United States:

19 (A) Directly by the licensee; or



1 (B) By an authorized delegate of the licensee in the
2 United States, which has been reported to the
3 licensee as having been sold,
4 and that has not yet been paid by or for the licensee;
5 and

6 (2) All other [~~outstanding~~] money transmission obligations
7 [~~of~~] that the licensee has issued, or has agreed to
8 transmit, deliver, or instruct to be delivered, in the
9 United States[-] that have not been fully performed by
10 the licensee."

11 5. By amending the definition of "permissible investments"
12 to read:

13 "Permissible investments" means:

- 14 (1) Cash;
- 15 (2) Certificates of deposit or other debt obligations of a
16 financial institution, either domestic or foreign;
- 17 (3) Bills of exchange or time drafts drawn on and accepted
18 by a commercial bank, known as bankers' acceptances,
19 that are eligible for purchase by member banks of the
20 Federal Reserve System;



- 1 (4) Any investment bearing a rating of one of the three
2 highest grades as defined by a nationally recognized
3 organization that rates securities;
- 4 (5) Investment securities that are obligations of the
5 United States, its agencies, or its instrumentalities,
6 obligations that are guaranteed fully as to principal
7 and interest by the United States, or any obligations
8 of any state, municipality, or any political
9 subdivision thereof;
- 10 (6) Shares in a money market mutual fund, interest-bearing
11 bills, notes, or bonds, debentures or stock traded on
12 any national securities exchange or on a national
13 over-the-counter market, mutual funds primarily
14 composed of these securities, or a fund composed of
15 one or more permissible investments as set forth in
16 paragraphs (1) to (5);
- 17 (7) Any demand borrowing agreement or agreements made with
18 a corporation or a subsidiary of a corporation whose
19 capital stock is listed on a national exchange;
- 20 (8) Receivables that are due to a licensee from its
21 authorized delegates pursuant to a contract under



1 section 489D-21, that are not past due or doubtful of
2 collection; [~~or~~]

3 (9) Virtual currency; or

4 [~~(9)~~] (10) Any other investments or security device

5 approved by the commissioner."

6 SECTION 2. Section 489D-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "**§489D-8 Permissible investments and statutory trust.** (a)

9 A licensee, at all times, shall possess permissible investments
10 having an aggregate market value, calculated in accordance with
11 generally accepted accounting principles, of not less than the
12 aggregate amount of all outstanding payment obligations. This
13 requirement may be waived by the commissioner if the dollar
14 volume of a licensee's outstanding payment obligations does not
15 exceed the bond or other security devices posted by the licensee
16 pursuant to section 489D-7.

17 (b) In lieu of the permissible investments required under
18 subsection (a), a licensee, in connection with the storage or
19 transfer of virtual currency, may possess like-kind virtual
20 currency of the same volume as the outstanding payment



1 obligations to be completed in virtual currency pursuant to the
2 contract with the licensee.

3 (c) A licensee transmitting both money and virtual
4 currency shall maintain applicable levels and types of
5 permissible investments as described in subsections (a) and (b).

6 (d) The commissioner, with respect to any money
7 transmitter licensee, may limit the extent to which a type of
8 investment within a class of permissible investments may be
9 considered a permissible investment, except for money, time
10 deposits, savings deposits, demand deposits, and certificates of
11 deposit issued by a federally insured financial institution.
12 The commissioner may prescribe by rule, or allow by order, other
13 types of investments that the commissioner determines to have a
14 safe and sound equivalent to other permissible investments.

15 [~~(b)~~] (e) Permissible investments, even if commingled with
16 other assets of the licensee, shall be held in trust for the
17 benefit of the purchasers and holders of the licensee's
18 outstanding payment obligations in the event of the bankruptcy
19 of the licensee."

20 SECTION 3. Section 489D-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:



1 "(d) An application for a license under this chapter shall
2 be made in writing, and in a form prescribed by NMLS or by the
3 commissioner. Each application shall contain the following:

4 (1) For all applicants:

- 5 (A) The exact name of the applicant, any fictitious
6 or trade name used by the applicant in the
7 conduct of its business, the applicant's
8 principal address, and the location of the
9 applicant's business records;
- 10 (B) The history of the applicant's material
11 litigation and criminal convictions for the five-
12 year period prior to the date of the application;
- 13 (C) A description of the business activities
14 conducted by the applicant and a history of
15 operations;
- 16 (D) A description of the business activities in which
17 the applicant seeks to engage within the State;
- 18 (E) A list identifying the applicant's proposed
19 authorized delegates in the State, if any, at the
20 time of the filing of the license application;



- 1 (F) A sample authorized delegate contract, if
2 applicable;
- 3 (G) A sample form of payment instrument, if
4 applicable;
- 5 (H) The locations where the applicant and its
6 authorized delegates, if any, propose to conduct
7 their licensed activities in the State;
- 8 (I) The name and address of the clearing bank or
9 banks on which the applicant's payment
10 instruments will be drawn or through which
11 payment instruments will be payable;
- 12 (J) Disclosure of any pending or final suspension,
13 revocation, or other enforcement action by any
14 state or governmental authority for the five-year
15 period prior to the date of the application; and
- 16 (K) Any other information the commissioner may
17 require;
- 18 (2) If the applicant is a corporation, the applicant shall
19 also provide:
- 20 (A) The date of the applicant's incorporation and
21 state of incorporation;



- 1 (B) A certificate of good standing from the state in
2 which the applicant was incorporated;
- 3 (C) A description of the corporate structure of the
4 applicant, including the identity of any parent
5 or subsidiary company of the applicant, and the
6 disclosure of whether any parent or subsidiary
7 company is publicly traded on any stock exchange;
- 8 (D) The name, business and residence address, and
9 employment history, for the past five years, of
10 the applicant's principals, and each person who
11 upon approval of the application will be a
12 principal of the licensee;
- 13 (E) For the five-year period prior to the date of the
14 application, the history of material litigation
15 involving, and criminal convictions of, each
16 principal of the applicant;
- 17 (F) A copy of the applicant's most recent audited
18 financial statement, including balance sheets,
19 statements of income or loss, statements of
20 changes in shareholder equity and statements of
21 changes in financial position, and, if available,



1 the applicant's audited financial statements for
2 the preceding two-year period or, if the
3 applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary of another
4 corporation, either the parent corporation's
5 consolidated audited financial statements for the
6 current year and for the preceding two-year
7 period, or the parent corporation's Form 10-K
8 reports filed with the United States Securities
9 and Exchange Commission for the prior three years
10 in lieu of the applicant's financial statements,
11 or if the applicant is a wholly owned subsidiary
12 of a corporation having its principal place of
13 business outside the United States, similar
14 documentation filed with the parent corporation's
15 non-United States regulator;

16 (G) Copies of all filings, if any, made by the
17 applicant with the United States Securities and
18 Exchange Commission, or with a similar regulator
19 in a country other than the United States, within
20 the year preceding the date of filing of the
21 application; and



- 1 (H) Information necessary to conduct a criminal
2 history record check in accordance with section
3 846-2.7 of each person who upon approval of the
4 application will be a principal of the licensee,
5 accompanied by the appropriate payment of the
6 applicable fee for each record check; [~~and~~]
- 7 (3) If the applicant is not a corporation, the applicant
8 shall also provide:
- 9 (A) The name, business and residence address,
10 personal financial statement, and employment
11 history, for the past five years, of each
12 principal of the applicant;
- 13 (B) The name, business and residence address, and
14 employment history, for the past five years, of
15 any other persons who upon approval of the
16 application will be a principal of the licensee;
- 17 (C) The place and date of the applicant's
18 registration or qualification to do business in
19 this State;
- 20 (D) The history of material litigation and criminal
21 convictions for the five-year period before the



1 date of the application for each principal of the
2 applicant;

3 (E) Copies of the applicant's audited financial
4 statements, including balance sheets, statements
5 of income or loss, and statements of changes in
6 financial position for the current year and, if
7 available, for the preceding two-year period; and

8 (F) Information necessary to conduct a criminal
9 history record check in accordance with section
10 846-2.7 of each principal of the applicant,
11 accompanied by the appropriate payment of the
12 applicable fee for each record check[-]; and

13 (4) If the applicant's business model transfers or stores
14 virtual currency on behalf of others, the applicant
15 shall also provide a third-party security audit of all
16 electronic information and data systems acceptable to
17 the commissioner."

18 SECTION 4. Section 489D-12, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1 "(b) The annual license fee shall be accompanied by a
2 report, in a form prescribed by the commissioner, which shall
3 include:

4 (1) A copy of the licensee's most recent audited annual
5 financial statement, including balance sheets,
6 statement of income or loss, statement of changes in
7 shareholder's equity, and statement of cash flows or,
8 if a licensee is a wholly owned subsidiary of another
9 corporation, the consolidated audited annual financial
10 statement of the parent corporation in lieu of the
11 licensee's audited annual financial statement [↗]. If
12 the applicant's business model transfers or stores
13 virtual currency on behalf of others, the applicant
14 shall also provide a third-party security audit of all
15 electronic information and data systems acceptable to
16 the commissioner;

17 (2) For the most recent quarter for which data is
18 available prior to the date of filing the annual
19 report, but in no event more than one hundred twenty
20 days prior to the renewal date, the licensee shall
21 provide the number of money transmissions sold,



1 issued, or received for transmission, transfer,
2 exchange, or delivery by the licensee in the State,
3 and as applicable, the dollar amount and monetary
4 value of those transmissions, and the dollar amounts
5 and monetary value of outstanding payment obligations;

6 (3) Any material changes to any of the information
7 submitted by the licensee on its original application
8 that have not previously been reported to the
9 commissioner on any other report required to be filed
10 under this chapter;

11 (4) For the most recent quarter for which data is
12 available prior to the date of filing the annual
13 report, but in no event more than one hundred twenty
14 days prior to the renewal date, a list of the
15 licensee's permissible investments, including the
16 total market value of each type of permissible
17 investment, and the total [~~dollar amount~~] amounts, in
18 money and monetary value, as applicable, of all
19 outstanding payment obligations;

20 (5) A list of the locations, if any, within this State
21 where business regulated by this chapter is being



- 1 conducted by either the licensee or the licensee's
2 authorized delegates;
- 3 (6) Disclosure of any pending or final suspension,
4 revocation, or other enforcement action by any state
5 or governmental authority;
- 6 (7) The licensee's evidence of a valid bond or other
7 security device as required pursuant to section
8 489D-7; and
- 9 (8) Any other information the commissioner may require.

10 A license may be renewed by filing a renewal statement on a
11 form prescribed by NMLS or by the commissioner and paying a
12 renewal fee at least four weeks prior to the renewal date for
13 licensure for the following year."

14 SECTION 5. Section 489D-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

16 "(a) Each licensee shall make, keep, preserve, and make
17 available for inspection by the commissioner the following
18 books, accounts, and other records for a period of three years:

- 19 (1) A record or records of each payment instrument [✓] and
20 other money transmission;



- 1 (2) A general ledger containing all assets, liability,
2 capital, income, and expense accounts that shall be
3 posted at least monthly;
- 4 (3) Bank statements and bank reconciliation records;
- 5 (4) Records of all outstanding payment obligations;
- 6 (5) Records of each payment instrument paid within the
7 three-year period;
- 8 (6) A list of the names and addresses of all of the
9 licensee's authorized delegates; and
- 10 (7) Any other records the commissioner reasonably requires
11 by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 91."

12 SECTION 6. Section 489D-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 "[+]§489D-20[+] Money transmitter receipts and refunds.

- 15 (a) Each licensee who receives money or monetary value for
16 transmission and the licensee's authorized delegates shall
17 transmit the monetary equivalent of all money or equivalent
18 value received from a customer for transmission, net of any
19 fees, or issue instructions committing the money or its monetary
20 equivalent, to the person designated by the customer within ten
21 business days after receiving the money or equivalent value,



1 unless otherwise ordered by the customer or unless the licensee
2 or its authorized delegate has reason to believe that a crime
3 has occurred, is occurring, or may occur as a result of
4 transmitting the money[-] or monetary value.

5 (b) Each licensee who receives money or monetary value for
6 transmission and the licensee's authorized delegates shall
7 provide a receipt to the customer that clearly states the amount
8 of money or equivalent value presented for transmission and the
9 total of the fees charged by the licensee. If the rate of
10 exchange for a money transmission to be paid in the currency of
11 another country is fixed by the licensee for that transaction at
12 the time the money transmission is initiated, the receipt
13 provided to the customer shall disclose the rate of exchange for
14 that transaction, and the duration, if any, for the payment to
15 be made at that fixed rate of exchange. If the rate of exchange
16 for a money transmission to be paid in the currency of another
17 country is not fixed at the time the money transmission is sent,
18 the receipt provided to the customer shall disclose that the
19 rate of exchange for that transaction will be set at the time
20 the recipient of the money transmission picks up the funds in
21 the foreign country.



- 1 (c) For purposes of this section:
- 2 (1) Money is considered to have been transmitted when it
- 3 is available to the person designated by the customer,
- 4 whether or not the designated person has taken
- 5 possession of the money;
- 6 (2) "Monetary equivalent", when used in connection with a
- 7 money transmission in which the customer provides the
- 8 licensee or its authorized delegate with the money of
- 9 one government, and the designated recipient is to
- 10 receive the money of another government, means the
- 11 amount of money, in the currency of the government
- 12 that the designated recipient is to receive, as
- 13 converted at the retail exchange rate offered by the
- 14 licensee or its authorized delegate to the customer in
- 15 connection with the transaction; and
- 16 (3) "Fees" do not include revenue that a licensee or its
- 17 authorized delegate generates, in connection with a
- 18 money transmission, in converting the money of one
- 19 government into the money of another government.
- 20 (d) Each licensee who receives money or monetary value for
- 21 a money transmission and the licensee's authorized delegates



1 shall refund to a customer all moneys received for transmittal
2 within ten days of receipt of a written request for a refund
3 unless any of the following occurs:

4 (1) The moneys have been transmitted and delivered to the
5 person designated by the customer prior to receipt of
6 the written request for a refund;

7 (2) Instructions have been given committing an equivalent
8 amount of money to the person designated by the
9 customer prior to receipt of a written request for a
10 refund;

11 (3) The licensee or its authorized delegate has reason to
12 believe that a crime has occurred, is occurring, or
13 may occur as a result of transmitting the money as
14 requested by the customer or refunding the money as
15 requested by the customer; or

16 (4) The licensee is otherwise barred by law from making a
17 refund.

18 (e) Before entering into any agreement to perform a money
19 transmission involving virtual currency, a licensee shall obtain
20 the customer's agreement to the following notice and retain it
21 as a record pursuant to section 489D-18:



1 "Most virtual currencies are based upon computer
2 cryptography and derive their value solely from the
3 market's perception of their value, which can
4 experience great swings. These currencies are:

5 NOT backed by any physical commodity, such as
6 gold or silver;

7 NOT backed by the United States or any other
8 national government;

9 NOT legal tender for debts; and

10 NOT insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance
11 Corporation or any government agency.

12 You should be aware that there is a potential for you
13 as a consumer to lose all of your virtual currency.

14 Though cash can also be lost, with virtual currency
15 this loss can occur because of a computer failure;
16 malicious software attack; an attack, closure, or
17 disappearance of a virtual currency exchange company;

18 lack of security; loss of your private key; or a
19 sudden or dramatic change in value. These are just a
20 few examples. Some virtual currency users have been
21 unable to access their legitimate virtual currency



1 account because of heavy traffic by other users or a
2 prevalence of criminal activity in virtual currency
3 use. To protect yourself, become educated as to the
4 potential risks before deciding whether you want to
5 transact in virtual currency."

6 SECTION 7. Section 489D-22.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

8 "(b) Notice pursuant to this section shall be provided at
9 least thirty days before the surrender of the license and shall
10 include:

- 11 (1) The date of surrender;
- 12 (2) The name, address, telephone number, facsimile number,
13 and electronic address of a contact individual with
14 knowledge and authority sufficient to communicate with
15 the commissioner regarding all matters relating to the
16 licensee during the period that it was licensed
17 pursuant to this chapter;
- 18 (3) The reason or reasons for surrender;
- 19 (4) Total [~~dollar amount~~] amounts, in money and monetary
20 value, as applicable, of the licensee's outstanding
21 payment obligations sold in Hawaii and the individual



1 amounts of each outstanding payment obligation, and
2 the name, address, and contact phone number of the
3 licensee to which each outstanding payment obligation
4 was assigned;

5 (5) A list of the licensee's Hawaii authorized delegates,
6 if any, as of the date of surrender; and

7 (6) Confirmation that the licensee has notified each of
8 its Hawaii authorized delegates, if any, that they may
9 no longer conduct money transmissions on the
10 licensee's behalf.

11 Voluntary surrender of a license shall be effective upon
12 the date of surrender specified on the written notice to the
13 commissioner as required by this section; provided that the
14 licensee has met all the requirements of voluntary surrender and
15 has returned the original license issued."

16 SECTION 8. Sections 489D-23 and 489D-25(a), Hawaii Revised
17 Statutes, are amended by substituting the term "money
18 transmission" wherever the term "money services" appears, as the
19 context requires.

20 SECTION 9. Section 489D-25, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
21 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1 "(b) In determining whether an authorized delegate is
2 engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice, the commissioner may
3 consider the size and condition of the delegate's provision of
4 money [~~services,~~] transmissions, the magnitude of the loss, the
5 gravity of the violation of this chapter, and the previous
6 conduct of the delegate."

7 SECTION 10. This Act does not affect rights and duties
8 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
9 were begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

13



Report Title:

Money Transmitters Act; Virtual Currency

Description:

Extends the money transmitters act to expressly apply to persons engaged in the transmission of virtual currency. Requires a licensee dealing with virtual currency to provide a warning to a consumer prior to entering into an agreement with the consumer. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

