

MAR 09 2018

S.R. NO. 95

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT A STUDY AND MAKE
RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE EMISSIONS OF LEAF BLOWERS AND OTHER
LAWN AND GARDEN EQUIPMENT.

1 WHEREAS, although leaf blowers enable homeowners and yard
2 workers to quickly clear a property of leaves, grass clippings,
3 and debris, many homeowners and yard workers use leaf blowers
4 with two-stroke engines, which are light enough to carry but
5 produce significant exhaust and noise; and
6

7 WHEREAS, in a two-stroke engine, the gas and oil mix
8 together, but approximately one-third of the combined fuel and
9 oil mixture is wasted, releasing carbon monoxide, nitrous oxide,
10 and hydrocarbons into the air; and
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12 WHEREAS, these three toxins are some of the main culprits
13 in air pollution from leaf blowers: carbon monoxide helps form
14 smog, nitrous oxide is a prime ingredient in acid rain and has
15 been linked to global warming, and hydrocarbons are cancer-
16 causing organic compounds that can cause breathing and lung
17 problems and also contribute to smog formation; and
18

19 WHEREAS, the federal Environmental Protection Agency
20 regulates non-road spark-ignition engines that operate at or
21 below nineteen kilowatts; and
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23 WHEREAS, these engines, often called small SI engines, are
24 commonly used in lawn and garden equipment and a variety of
25 other residential and commercial equipment, and include
26 lawnmowers, leaf blowers, chain saws, and weed wackers; and
27

28 WHEREAS, although the new regulations for small SI engines,
29 which were fully implemented in 2012, require more stringent
30 exhaust standards and establish new evaporative emission
31 standards for fuel tanks and fuel lines that are used in small
32 SI engines, they only apply to manufacturers of new equipment;
33 and



1
2 WHEREAS, although Hawaii does not currently regulate the
3 emissions of lawn and garden equipment, the air pollution from
4 leaf blowers and similar lawn and garden equipment has the
5 potential to have a significant impact on the State's air
6 quality; and
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8 WHEREAS, recommendations are needed to address the use of
9 leaf blowers and similar lawn and garden equipment; now,
10 therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
14 that the Department of Health is requested to conduct a study on
15 the emissions of leaf blowers and other lawn and garden
16 equipment; and
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study is requested to
19 compare the emissions from leaf blowers and similar lawn and
20 garden equipment that were manufactured after and conform to the
21 2012 Environmental Protection Agency standards on small SI
22 engines with leaf blowers and lawn and garden equipment
23 manufactured prior to 2012; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
26 also requested to make recommendations to:
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28 (1) Encourage the use of electric leaf blowers; and
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30 (2) Limit the use of leaf blowers, weed wackers, and
31 similar lawn and garden equipment that was
32 manufactured prior to 2012; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is
35 requested to submit a report of its findings and
36 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, on the
37 emissions of leaf blowers and similar lawn and garden equipment
38 to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the
39 convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and
40
41



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.
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OFFERED BY:

BT C b/r

