
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO USED MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in recent years, the
2 State has seen an increase in the number of catalytic converters
3 being stolen from vehicles and resold for profit. Catalytic
4 converters contain precious metals such as platinum, palladium,
5 and rhodium, making catalytic converters highly sought after by
6 thieves due to their high resale value. Catalytic converters
7 remove toxic elements from the exhaust stream making them
8 essential to vehicles and thus are federally mandated to be
9 installed on a vehicle. A catalytic converter can be stolen in
10 less than sixty seconds, causing damage to other areas of a
11 vehicle, leading to hundreds to thousands of dollars in repair
12 costs.

13 The purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Require licensed used motor vehicle part dealers who
15 deal with catalytic converters to keep records of
16 purchases and sales of catalytic converters, which may
17 aid in the apprehension of those who engage in the



1 theft and sale of catalytic converters by requiring
2 the seller to file a written statement that the seller
3 has the lawful right to sell and dispose of the
4 catalytic converter; and

5 (2) Establish the offense of theft of catalytic converter
6 as a class C felony.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 289, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§289- Statement required; catalytic converter. (a)
11 Every licensee, when the licensee purchases a catalytic
12 converter within the State, shall obtain a written statement
13 signed by the seller certifying that the seller has the lawful
14 right to sell and dispose of the catalytic converter. This
15 statement shall also contain the:

16 (1) Seller's name, business or residence address, and
17 occupation;

18 (2) Description, including serial numbers and other
19 identifying marks, when practical, of every catalytic
20 converter;

21 (3) Amount paid to the seller;



1 (4) Date, time, and place of the sale; and

2 (5) License number of any vehicle used to deliver the
3 property to the place of purchase.

4 (b) The seller shall provide a copy of a receipt that
5 describes, with particularity:

6 (1) The exact item that is being offered for sale;

7 (2) Who issued the receipt;

8 (3) The date of sale of the item prior to the item being
9 offered to the licensee; and

10 (4) The price, if any, of the item when obtained by the
11 seller.

12 (c) If a receipt is not available, the seller shall
13 provide to the licensee a notarized declaration, describing with
14 particularity:

15 (1) The exact item that is being offered for sale;

16 (2) Who sold or otherwise transferred the item to the
17 seller;

18 (3) The date of sale of the item; and

19 (4) The price, if any, of the item when obtained by the
20 seller.



1 (d) If the seller does not provide a copy of the receipt
2 or the notarized declaration as required by subsections (b) and
3 (c), the licensee shall not purchase the catalytic converter, in
4 whole or in part, and shall report the attempted sale to the
5 police.

6 (e) If the licensee purchases any catalytic converter, in
7 whole or in part, the licensee shall take a photograph or
8 photographs of the catalytic converter offered for sale.

9 (f) The licensee shall require the seller to verify the
10 seller's identity by presenting a valid photo identification
11 card or license issued by a federal or state government agency
12 authorized to issue valid identification. The licensee shall:

13 (1) Take a photograph of the seller; or
14 (2) Make a photocopy of the identification card or license
15 of the seller.

16 (g) The licensee shall keep at the licensee's place of
17 business the signed written statement, receipt or notarized
18 declaration required by subsections (b) and (c), photographs
19 required by subsection (e), and photocopy of the identification
20 card or license or photograph of the seller required by
21 subsection (f), if applicable, from the seller for a period of



1 two years after the date of purchase and the statement, receipt
2 or notarized declaration required by subsections (b) and (c),
3 photographs required by subsection (e), and photocopy or
4 photograph required by subsection (f), if applicable, may be
5 examined at any time by the director of finance, chief of
6 police, attorney general, prosecuting attorney, or their
7 designees.

8 (h) For purposes of this section, "catalytic converter"
9 means a device that is incorporated in a motor vehicle's exhaust
10 system and contains a catalyst for converting pollutant gas
11 emissions into less harmful emissions."

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 708, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§708- Theft of catalytic converter. (1) A person
16 commits the offense of theft of catalytic converter if the
17 person:

18 (a) Obtains a catalytic converter through any means
19 described in section 708-830; or

20 (b) Violates section 289- in regard to a catalytic
21 converter.



1 (2) For the purposes of this section, "catalytic
2 converter" means a device that is incorporated in a motor
3 vehicle's exhaust system and contains a catalyst for converting
4 pollutant gas emissions into less harmful emissions.

5 (3) Theft of catalytic converter is a class C felony."

6 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
7 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
8 begun before its effective date.

9 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.



Report Title:

Catalytic Converter; Theft; Penal Code; Class C Felony;
Statement

Description:

Requires licensed used motor vehicle part dealers to obtain a written statement by a seller of a catalytic converter that the seller has the lawful right to sell and dispose of the catalytic converter. Requires a seller of a catalytic converter to present a receipt or notarized declaration regarding the catalytic converter. Prohibits a licensed used motor vehicle part dealer from purchasing a catalytic converter with no receipt or notarized declaration and to report the attempted sale to the police. Establishes the offense of theft of catalytic converter as a class C felony. (SD1)

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