



GOV. MSG. NO. 1151

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
HONOLULU

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR

JUN 17 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on **JUN 17 2022**, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1455 HD1 SD1

RELATING TO ROBBERY IN THE FIRST  
DEGREE.  
**ACT 051**

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ROBBERY IN THE FIRST DEGREE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii Penal  
 2 Code does not adequately address potential situations in which  
 3 offenders will utilize electric guns to facilitate crimes. On  
 4 January 1, 2022, it became legal for many members of the public  
 5 to buy and possess electric guns.

6           Electric guns can cause severe pain and completely  
 7 incapacitate a person. Criminals will begin to use these  
 8 devices against others to facilitate crimes as they become more  
 9 prevalent in the community. While the effect of electric guns  
 10 can be severe, the incapacitation can also be momentary and may  
 11 not result in death or serious bodily injury. Once the use of  
 12 an electric gun against a person stops, it is likely that the  
 13 residual injuries would be lesser than would occur had a similar  
 14 level of incapacitation or pain been inflicted on a victim by  
 15 other means.

16           The Penal Code frequently utilizes residual injury or  
 17 incapacitation as a key determining factor for the level of



1 severity and resulting penalty for a crime. Electric guns will  
2 allow criminals to achieve unprecedented incapacitation of a  
3 person and potentially avoid residual injury to the victim,  
4 resulting in lower penalties for the crime.

5 For these reasons, the legislature further finds that  
6 specifying the use or threatened use of an electric gun during  
7 the course of committing a robbery under this particular offense  
8 is necessary and may have a long-term deterrent effect that  
9 creates a safer environment for the community.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the  
11 offense of robbery in the first degree to include as part of  
12 this offense being armed with or using an electric gun during  
13 the course of a theft or non-consensual taking of a motor  
14 vehicle.

15 SECTION 2. Section 708-840, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
16 amended by amending subsections (1) and (2) to read as follows:

17 "(1) A person commits the offense of robbery in the first  
18 degree if, in the course of committing theft or non-consensual  
19 taking of a motor vehicle:



- 1 (a) The person attempts to kill another or intentionally  
2 or knowingly inflicts or attempts to inflict serious  
3 bodily injury upon another;
- 4 (b) The person is armed with a dangerous instrument, an  
5 electric gun, or a simulated firearm and:
- 6 (i) The person uses force against the person of  
7 anyone present with intent to overcome that  
8 person's physical resistance or physical power of  
9 resistance; or
- 10 (ii) The person threatens the imminent use of force  
11 against the person of anyone present with intent  
12 to compel acquiescence to the taking of or  
13 escaping with the property;
- 14 (c) The person uses force against the person of anyone  
15 present with the intent to overcome that person's  
16 physical resistance or physical power of resistance  
17 during an emergency period proclaimed by the governor  
18 or mayor pursuant to chapter 127A, within the area  
19 covered by the emergency or disaster; or
- 20 (d) The person threatens the imminent use of force against  
21 the person of anyone present with intent to compel



1 acquiescence to the taking of or escaping with the  
2 property during an emergency period proclaimed by the  
3 governor or mayor pursuant to chapter 127A, within the  
4 area covered by the emergency or disaster.

5 (2) As used in this section:

6 "Dangerous instrument" means any firearm, whether loaded or  
7 not, and whether operable or not, or other weapon, device,  
8 instrument, material, or substance, whether animate or  
9 inanimate, which in the manner it is used or threatened to be  
10 used is capable of producing death or serious bodily injury.

11 "Electric gun" shall have the same meaning as in section  
12 134-81.

13 "Simulated firearm" means any object that:

- 14 (a) Substantially resembles a firearm;  
15 (b) Can reasonably be perceived to be a firearm; or  
16 (c) Is used or brandished as a firearm."

17 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
19 begun before its effective date.

20 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 1455  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 17 day of June , 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "David I. Ige". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish under the name.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1455, HD 1, SD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 21, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.



Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker  
House of Representatives



Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 1, 2022  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2022.

  
President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate