
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MAIL THEFT.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the ongoing
2 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the way
3 that many individuals and families rely on mail and parcel
4 delivery services. The pandemic has led to a major increase in
5 online orders that are subsequently fulfilled by shipping items
6 through the United States Postal Service or another parcel
7 delivery service. Many packages sent through the mail are left
8 at the addressee's doorstep if there is no onsite mail
9 receptacle large enough to accommodate the package.

10 The legislature further finds that reports of mail theft
11 are on the rise. When mail carriers or delivery persons have no
12 choice but to leave packages by doors or deposit them in
13 unsecured mail receptacles, the packages become susceptible to
14 theft. Mail theft leads to frustration for both the sender and
15 intended recipient, especially because stolen mail is typically
16 never recovered.



1 The legislature believes that treating mail theft as a
2 separate theft offense would be appropriate to emphasize the
3 importance of mail delivery and promote greater respect for the
4 property rights of others.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish the
6 class C felony offense of mail theft.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 708, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately
9 designated and to read as follows:

10 "§708- Theft of mail. (1) A person commits the
11 offense of theft of mail if the person intentionally removes,
12 without the consent of the addressee, mail from the mailbox of
13 another or from premises occupied by another, with the intent to
14 deprive the addressee of the mail.

15 (2) For the purposes of this section:

16 "Mail" means an envelope, package, bag, box, or other
17 sealed article that:

18 (a) Was delivered to the addressee's address by a common
19 carrier or delivery service but not yet retrieved by
20 the addressee; or



1 (b) Has been left to be collected by a common carrier or
2 delivery service for subsequent delivery.

3 (3) Theft of mail is a class C felony."

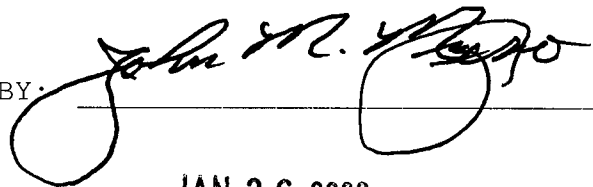
4 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
5 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
6 begun before its effective date.

7 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

9

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Pardo", is written over a horizontal line.

JAN 26 2022



H.B. NO. 2479

Report Title:

Penal Code; Property Rights; Theft of Mail

Description:

Establishes the class C felony offense of theft of mail.

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

