

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SYNTHETIC TURF.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the use of
2 artificial grass and synthetic turf has potential adverse health
3 and environmental effects. A 2018 article in the journal
4 *Chemosphere* (vol.195:201-211) found that there was a substantial
5 increase in the number and concentration of numerous hazardous
6 chemicals in runoff water and air above synthetic turf made from
7 recycled tire rubber. In a separate 2019 study published in the
8 journal *Environmental Research* (vol.169:163-172), researchers
9 found that one hundred ninety-seven of the identified
10 three hundred six chemical constituents of synthetic turf infill
11 material met carcinogenicity criteria, with fifty-two of these
12 chemicals being classified as known carcinogens by the
13 United States Environmental Protection Agency and the
14 European Chemicals Agency. According to research published in
15 the *Journal of Hazardous Material* in 2021 (vol.209:124998),
16 while there may be no definitive conclusions as to the
17 potentially toxic human exposure to chemicals such as polycyclic



1 aromatic hydrocarbons, heavy metals, and other volatile organic
2 compounds that exist in synthetic turf infill, "the literature
3 existing so far suggests the possibility of their release from
4 synthetic turf infill into the environment as water leachates
5 and to the air surrounding the [sports] pitches[.]" This report
6 further stated that data from six countries, including the
7 United States, "revealed a myriad of hazardous chemicals, with
8 benzo[a]pyrene and zinc often exceeding the established limits."

9 The legislature further finds that this growing body of
10 scientific data on the negative impacts of synthetic turf has
11 profoundly troubling implications for Hawaii's wildlife,
12 particularly for flora and fauna in and near streams and the
13 ocean. Moreover, this data is particularly concerning given the
14 increasing use of synthetic turf and artificial grass in
15 playgrounds and school sports fields, where children and young
16 adults may be unwittingly exposed to high concentrations of
17 hazardous chemicals. Furthermore, the breakdown of synthetic
18 turf contributes to the burgeoning problem of microplastic
19 pollution in the ocean and on Hawaii beaches.

20 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to require an
21 environmental impact statement for actions that propose the



1 installation or replacement of synthetic turf on an area larger
2 than five thousand square yards.

3 SECTION 2. Section 343-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
4 amended by adding a new definition to be appropriately inserted
5 and to read as follows:

6 "Synthetic turf" means a carpet-like covering that is
7 manufactured from synthetic fibers, recycled tires, or other
8 artificial substances and made to resemble natural grass."

9 SECTION 3. Section 343-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

11 "(a) Except as otherwise provided, an environmental
12 assessment shall be required for actions that:

13 (1) Propose the use of state or county lands or the use of
14 state or county funds, other than funds to be used for
15 feasibility or planning studies for possible future
16 programs or projects that the agency has not approved,
17 adopted, or funded, or funds to be used for the
18 acquisition of unimproved real property; provided that
19 the agency shall consider environmental factors and
20 available alternatives in its feasibility or planning
21 studies; provided further that an environmental



1 assessment for proposed uses under

2 section 205-2(d)(11) or 205-4.5(a)(13) shall only be

3 required pursuant to section 205-5(b);

4 (2) Propose any use within any land classified as a
5 conservation district by the state land use commission
6 under chapter 205;

7 (3) Propose any use within a shoreline area as defined in
8 section 205A-41;

9 (4) Propose any use within any historic site as designated
10 in the National Register or Hawaii Register, as
11 provided for in the Historic Preservation Act of 1966,
12 Public Law 89-665, or chapter 6E;

13 (5) Propose any use within the Waikiki area of Oahu, the
14 boundaries of which are delineated in the land use
15 ordinance as amended, establishing the "Waikiki
16 Special District";

17 (6) Propose any amendments to existing county general
18 plans where the amendment would result in designations
19 other than agriculture, conservation, or preservation,
20 except actions proposing any new county general plan



1 or amendments to any existing county general plan
2 initiated by a county;

3 (7) Propose any reclassification of any land classified as
4 a conservation district by the state land use
5 commission under chapter 205;

6 (8) Propose the construction of new or the expansion or
7 modification of existing helicopter facilities within
8 the State, that by way of their activities, may
9 affect:

10 (A) Any land classified as a conservation district by
11 the state land use commission under chapter 205;

12 (B) A shoreline area as defined in section 205A-41;
13 or

14 (C) Any historic site as designated in the National
15 Register or Hawaii Register, as provided for in
16 the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Public Law
17 89-665, or chapter 6E; or until the statewide
18 historic places inventory is completed, any
19 historic site that is found by a field
20 reconnaissance of the area affected by the
21 helicopter facility and is under consideration



1 for placement on the National Register or the

2 Hawaii Register of Historic Places; ~~and~~

3 (9) Propose any:

4 (A) Wastewater treatment unit, except an individual
5 wastewater system or a wastewater treatment unit
6 serving fewer than fifty single-family dwellings
7 or the equivalent;

8 (B) Waste-to-energy facility;

9 (C) Landfill;

10 (D) Oil refinery; or

11 (E) Power-generating facility~~[-]~~; and

12 (10) Propose the installation or replacement of synthetic
13 turf on an area of one thousand square yards or
14 larger; provided that any action under this paragraph
15 shall be deemed to have a significant effect and shall
16 require the preparation of an environmental impact
17 statement."

18 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
19 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
20 begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

4

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Jane Alcasio



S.B. NO. 2559

Report Title:

Environmental Impact Statements; Environmental Assessments;
Synthetic Turf

Description:

Requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement for actions that propose the installation or replacement of synthetic turf on an area of 1,000 square yards or larger. Defines synthetic turf.

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

