

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AIR POLLUTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that air and noise
2 pollution from two-stroke engines is extremely detrimental to
3 the quality of life for Hawaii's residents. The legislature
4 further finds that, according to a 2015 study based on data from
5 the United States Environmental Protection Agency, two-stroke
6 engines are a major source of volatile organic compounds and
7 criteria pollutants, such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides,
8 and carbon dioxide, which cause harmful air pollution.
9 Additionally, the use of two-stroke engines increases the risk
10 of gasoline spills and fire. Moreover, according to the United
11 States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, gas-powered
12 lawn mowers and leaf blowers operate at approximately eighty to
13 eighty-five decibels and can cause hearing damage after only two
14 hours of exposure.

15 Currently, string trimmers, which are often referred to as
16 "weed wackers", and leaf blowers are the most common machines
17 powered by two-stroke engines in Hawaii. The legislature finds



1 that, after the initial costs of switching from two-stroke
2 engines to electric motors, electric motors are less costly to
3 operate and maintain compared to gasoline-powered two-stroke
4 engines.

5 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to reduce air and
6 noise pollution in Hawaii by prohibiting the use of leaf blowers
7 and string trimmers that are powered by two-stroke engines
8 beginning January 1, 2028.

9 SECTION 2. Chapter 342B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately
11 designated and to read as follows:

12 "§342B- Leaf blowers and string trimmers; two-stroke
13 engines; prohibited. (a) Beginning January 1, 2028, no person
14 shall operate a:

15 (1) Leaf blower; or

16 (2) String trimmer,

17 that is powered using a two-stroke engine in the State.

18 (b) Any person who violates this section shall be fined
19 \$50 for the first violation, \$100 for the second violation, \$200
20 for the third violation, and \$500 for each subsequent violation.

21 (c) For purposes of this section:



1 "Leaf blower" has the same meaning as in section 342F-30.8.

2 "String trimmer" means a hand-held garden tool that uses
3 rotating blades or a rotating line to cut grass, weeds, and
4 groundcover. "String trimmer" includes devices referred to or
5 marketed as strimmers, weed eaters, weed wackers, and whipper
6 snappers.

7 "Two-stroke engine" means an internal combustion engine
8 that completes a power cycle with two strokes of a piston."

9 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
10 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
11 begun before its effective date.

12 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

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

14

INTRODUCED BY:



S.B. NO. 2554

Report Title:

DOH; Pollution; Noise Pollution; Air Pollution; Two-Stroke Engines; String Trimmers; Leaf Blowers; Prohibition

Description:

Beginning 1/1/2028, prohibits the operation of leaf blowers or string trimmers that are powered using two-stroke engines. Establishes penalties to be enforced by the Department of Health.

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

