

JAN 18 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that dozens of cities and
2 towns in the United States, the District of Columbia, and the
3 State of California have banned gasoline-powered leaf blowers
4 due to their harmful impacts on health and the environment. The
5 exhaust and sound emissions from gasoline-powered leaf blowers
6 are a great concern for the State's public health and welfare.
7 According to the California Air Resources Board, use of a
8 commercial gasoline-powered leaf blower for one hour emits as
9 much smog-forming pollution as a 2016 Toyota Camry being driven
10 one thousand one hundred miles, and more than three times as
11 much pollution as a commercial gasoline-powered lawn mower.
12 Noise-wise, gasoline-powered leaf blowers operate at ninety
13 decibels which can cause hearing damage after two hours of
14 exposure. According to the United States Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention, the noise intensity is a particularly
16 troubling issue for landscaping workers.



1 The legislature further finds that there are viable
2 alternatives to gasoline-powered leaf blowers such as battery-
3 powered leaf blowers.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ban the sale and
5 use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers.

6 SECTION 2. Section 342F-30.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "~~[+] §342F-30.8 [.]~~ Leaf blowers; restrictions~~[-]~~; and
9 prohibition of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. (a) In any urban
10 land use district, as designated pursuant to section 205-2, it
11 shall be unlawful for any person to operate a non-gasoline-
12 powered leaf blower within a residential zone or within one
13 hundred feet of a residential zone in the State, except between
14 the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on any day except Sunday or
15 a state or federal holiday, and between the hours of 9:00 a.m.
16 and 6:00 p.m. on Sunday or any state or federal holiday.

17 (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, offer for
18 sale, or operate a gasoline-powered leaf blower at any time.

19 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Violators shall be fined ~~[\$50]~~ \$100 for the
20 first violation, ~~[\$100]~~ \$250 for the second violation, ~~[\$200 for~~
21 ~~the third violation,~~] and \$500 for each subsequent violation~~[-]~~;



1 provided that any person who commits a third violation of
2 subsection (b) shall also be subject to forfeiture of the
3 gasoline-powered leaf blower.

4 ~~[(c) Government entities, and agents acting on behalf of~~
5 ~~government entities, shall not be subject to this section.]~~

6 (d) Any county may adopt a rule or ordinance that places
7 stricter limitations on the use of leaf blowers than are in this
8 section. In case of a conflict between the requirements or
9 limitations of this section and any county rule or ordinance
10 regarding the use of leaf blowers, the more restrictive
11 requirements shall apply.

12 (e) For the purposes of this section:

13 "Gasoline-powered leaf blower" means any leaf blower that
14 is powered by a two-stroke internal combustion engine.

15 "Leaf blower" means any machine used to blow leaves, dirt,
16 or other debris off sidewalks, driveways, lawns, and other
17 surfaces.

18 "State holiday" means any day established as a state
19 holiday in section 8-1."

20 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



S.B. NO. 54

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2025.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Kal Nhoak



S.B. NO. 54

Report Title:

Gasoline-Powered Leaf Blowers; Prohibition; Fines; Government Agency Exemption; Repeal

Description:

Prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers. Increases the amounts of fines for offenses of leaf blower restrictions and provides for the forfeiture of gasoline-powered leaf blowers upon a third violation. Removes the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies. Takes effect 1/1/2025.

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

