

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

713

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 02 2023

RE: S.B. No. 54  
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate  
Thirty-Second State Legislature  
Regular Session of 2023  
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 54, S.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO GASOLINE-POWERED LEAF BLOWERS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Prohibit the operation of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use district;
- (2) Increase the fine for offenses of leaf blower restrictions and provide for the forfeiture of gasoline-powered leaf blowers upon a third violation; and
- (3) Remove the exemption on leaf blower restrictions for government agencies.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation and four individuals. Your Committee received testimony in opposition to this measure from the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and two individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education and Department of the Attorney General.



Your Committee finds that gasoline-powered leaf blowers are a public nuisance. The obnoxious noise created by gasoline-powered leaf blowers annoys, awakens, and frustrates people, detracting from the general quality of life of those nearby. Further, operating at approximately ninety decibels, gasoline-powered leaf blowers can cause hearing loss after just two hours of exposure, which is an especially serious issue for landscape workers. Additionally, gasoline-powered leaf blowers contribute to carbon emissions. Your Committee finds that while perhaps efficient in its purpose, quieter and equally viable alternatives to gasoline-powered leaf blowers are available. Therefore, this measure prohibits the use of gasoline-powered leaf blowers in any urban land use district.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 54, S.D. 1, and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on  
behalf of the members of the  
Committee on Judiciary,



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KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate  
 Thirty-Second Legislature  
 State of Hawai'i

**Record of Votes**  
**Committee on Judiciary**  
**JDC**

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 54 S01	CPN, JDC	2/23/23		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
ELEFANTE, Brandon J.C.	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton			✓	<i>[Signature]</i>
<b>TOTAL</b>	4	—	<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
<i>Karl Rhoads</i>				
<b>Distribution:</b>				
Original File with Committee Report	Yellow Clerk's Office	Pink Drafting Agency	Goldenrod Committee File Copy	

\*Only one measure per Record of Votes