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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS.

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

1           SECTION 1. Chapter 281, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part VII to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4           "§281- Multiple violations; penalties. Notwithstanding  
5 any other provision in this chapter or any rules adopted  
6 thereunder to the contrary, if the liquor commission or liquor  
7 control adjudication board established pursuant to section  
8 281-11 in a county with a population of five hundred thousand or  
9 more determines that any licensee has violated this chapter or  
10 any rule in effect by authority of this chapter within twelve  
11 months of the initial violation, the penalty for the second or  
12 subsequent violation of the same section or rule shall be as  
13 follows:

14           (1) For a second violation, the fine shall be a minimum of  
15           \$2,000 and a maximum of \$4,000;

16           (2) For a third violation, the fine shall be a minimum of  
17           \$4,000 and a maximum of \$8,000;



1       (3) For a fourth violation, the licensee's license shall  
2       be suspended for one month; and

3       (4) For a fifth violation, the licensee's license shall be  
4       revoked.

5       This section shall be in addition to, and shall not affect,  
6       any other applicable penalties."

7       SECTION 2. Section 281-76, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8       amended to read as follows:

9       "§281-76 Tampering with samples; penalty. Any person who  
10      tamper with any sample of liquor taken for analysis under this  
11      chapter shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not  
12      more than one year, or both[-]; provided that in a county with a  
13      population of five hundred thousand or more, the amount of any  
14      penalty assessed and collected for a second or subsequent  
15      violation of this section by a licensee within twelve months of  
16      the initial act of tampering shall be assessed pursuant to  
17      section 281- ."

18      SECTION 3. Section 281-77, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19      amended to read as follows:

20      "§281-77 Refusal of samples; penalty. Any licensee who  
21      refuses to deliver or accede to the taking of any sample of



1 liquor for analysis upon disclosure of the procurer's authority  
2 as provided by section 281-75 shall be fined not more than  
3 \$2,000 [-]; provided that in a county with a population of five  
4 hundred thousand or more, the amount of any penalty assessed and  
5 collected for a second or subsequent violation of this section  
6 by a licensee within twelve months of the initial act of refusal  
7 shall be assessed pursuant to section 281- ."

8 SECTION 4. Section 281-79, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "§281-79 Entry for examination; obstructing liquor  
11 commission operations; penalty. Every investigator shall, and  
12 any officer having police power may, at all reasonable times,  
13 and at any time whatsoever if there is any reasonable ground for  
14 suspicion that the conditions of any license are being violated,  
15 without warrant enter into and upon any licensed premises and  
16 inspect the same and every part thereof, and any books or  
17 records therein, to ascertain whether or not all conditions of  
18 the license and all provisions of this chapter are being  
19 complied with by the licensee.

20 If any investigator or officer, or any person called by the  
21 investigator or officer to the investigator's or officer's aid,



1 is threatened with the use of violence, force, or physical  
2 interference or obstacle, or is hindered, obstructed, or  
3 prevented by any licensee, the licensee's employees, or any  
4 other person from entering into the premises, or whenever any  
5 investigator or officer is by any licensee, the licensee's  
6 employees, or any other person opposed, obstructed, or molested  
7 in the performance of the officer's duty in any respect, the  
8 licensee, the licensee's employee, or any other person shall be  
9 fined not more than \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than one year,  
10 or both[-]; provided that in a county with a population of five  
11 hundred thousand or more, the amount of any penalty assessed and  
12 collected for a second or subsequent violation of this section  
13 by a licensee within twelve months of the initial violation  
14 shall be assessed pursuant to section 281- .

15 Whenever any investigator or officer, having demanded  
16 admittance into any licensed premises and declared the  
17 investigator's or officer's name and office, is not admitted by  
18 the licensee or the person in charge of the premises, it shall  
19 be lawful for the investigator or officer to forcibly and in any  
20 manner to break into and enter the premises."



1 SECTION 5. Section 281-102, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§281-102 Other offenses; penalty. If any person violates  
4 this chapter or any rule or regulation in effect by authority of  
5 this chapter, whether in connection therewith a penalty is  
6 referred to or not, for which violation no penalty is  
7 specifically prescribed, the person shall be imprisoned not more  
8 than six months or fined not more than \$1,000, or both[-];  
9 provided that in a county with a population of five hundred  
10 thousand or more, the amount of any penalty assessed and  
11 collected for a second or subsequent violation of this section  
12 by a licensee within twelve months of the initial violation  
13 shall be assessed pursuant to section 281- ."

14 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
15 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
16 begun before its effective date.

17 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:

*DH*

JAN 17 2025



# H.B. NO. 578

**Report Title:**

Liquor; Liquor Commissions; Penalties; Multiple Violations

**Description:**

Establishes enhanced penalties for multiple violations of the same liquor law by licensees in a county with a population of 500,000 or more, under certain circumstances.

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

