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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTE MANAGEMENT.

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

1        SECTION 1. The legislature finds that waste from the use  
2        of disposable electronic cigarettes poses significant  
3        environmental problems. Disposable electronic cigarettes are  
4        not recyclable and contain hazardous components like lithium  
5        batteries and liquid nicotine, and also contribute to plastic  
6        pollution, landfill fires, and toxic chemical leaching into  
7        waterways. According to a study conducted by Truth Initiative,  
8        the nation's largest nonprofit public health organization  
9        dedicated to preventing youth nicotine addiction, over half of  
10       young people surveyed discarded their disposable electronic  
11       smoking devices in the trash, with less than a quarter reporting  
12       that they recycled their devices.

13       The legislature also finds that the local and global impact  
14       of the world's increasing waste stream is unsustainable and  
15       detrimental to the environmental integrity of the State. The  
16       exponential rise in single-use plastics and bioplastics has  
17       worsened problems related to street and beach litter, ocean



1 pollution, and marine and other wildlife harm. A significant  
2 portion of marine debris, estimated to be eighty per cent,  
3 originates on land, primarily as escaped refuse and litter, much  
4 of it plastic, via urban runoff. It is now estimated that  
5 8,750,000 metric tons of plastic enter the ocean each year from  
6 land-based sources.

7 The legislature notes that lithium-ion batteries used in  
8 disposable electronic smoking devices pose significant fire  
9 risks. Despite laws regulating the disposal of lithium-ion  
10 batteries, many are improperly discarded and end up in landfills  
11 or other inappropriate parts of the solid waste system. The  
12 improper disposal of rechargeable lithium-ion batteries creates  
13 unnecessary safety hazards for workers and surrounding  
14 residents, while also posing environmental threats to the  
15 State's land and water resources, including the aquifer.

16 The legislature acknowledges that according to the Bureau  
17 of Investigative Journalism, at least five disposable electronic  
18 smoking devices are being thrown away every second in the United  
19 States, amounting to 150,000,000 devices per year. Yet, clear  
20 disposal guidance from federal regulatory agencies and  
21 electronic cigarette manufacturers is lacking, leaving state and



1 local governments responsible for establishing standards to  
2 manage the environmental risks associated with electronic  
3 smoking devices.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to protect the  
5 environment from hazardous waste associated with disposable  
6 electronic smoking devices by banning the sale of these devices  
7 throughout the State.

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

11                   **"PART . MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

12                   **§342G- Disposable electronic smoking devices;**

13 **prohibited.** (a) It shall be unlawful for any person or entity  
14 to sell, offer for sale, or distribute for sale any disposable  
15 electronic smoking device in the State.

16                   (b) The sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of  
17 between one to twenty disposable electronic smoking devices  
18 shall constitute a single violation of this section.

19                   (c) As used in this section:

20                   "Disposable electronic smoking device" means an electronic  
21 smoking device that is non-refillable, has a non-rechargeable



1 battery, or is intended to be disposed of after the contents  
2 inside the device have been used.

3 "Electronic smoking device" has the same meaning as in  
4 section 245-1."

5 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
6 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
7 begun before its effective date.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.

9

INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 23 2026



# H.B. NO. 2121

**Report Title:**

Waste Management; Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices; Sale, Offer for Sale, Distribution; Prohibition

**Description:**

Beginning 1/1/2027, prohibits the sale, offer for sale, or distribution for sale of any disposable electronic smoking devices in the State.

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