

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISPOSABLE ELECTRONIC SMOKING DEVICES.

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-ion
5 batteries and liquid nicotine, while also contributing to
6 plastic pollution, landfill fires, and toxic chemicals leaching
7 into waterways. Confusion concerning proper disposal of the
8 devices further complicates safe waste management. According to
9 a study conducted by Truth Initiative, over half of young people
10 surveyed discarded their disposable smoking devices in the
11 trash, less than a quarter saved their empty devices, and
12 approximately an eighth reported recycling their devices.

13 The legislature further finds that the local and global
14 impact of the world's increasing waste stream is unsustainable
15 and detrimental to the environmental integrity of the State.
16 The 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. An estimated
2 eighty per cent of marine debris originates on land, primarily
3 as escaped refuse and litter, much of it plastic, via urban
4 runoff. It is now estimated that 8.75 million metric tons of
5 plastic enter the ocean each year from land-based sources.

6 The legislature notes that the lithium-ion batteries used
7 in disposable electronic smoking devices pose significant fire
8 risks. Despite laws regulating the disposal of lithium-ion
9 batteries, many are improperly discarded, resulting in their
10 disposition in landfills or other inappropriate parts of the
11 solid waste system.

12 The legislature acknowledges that according to the Bureau
13 of Investigative Journalism, at least five disposable electronic
14 cigarettes are thrown away every second in the United States,
15 amounting to 150 million devices per year. Yet, clear disposal
16 guidance from federal regulatory agencies and electronic
17 cigarette manufacturers is lacking. State and local governments
18 are therefore responsible for filling the regulatory gap by
19 establishing standards to manage the environmental risks
20 associated with electronic cigarette products.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to safeguard the
2 environment from hazardous electronic cigarette waste by banning
3 the sale of certain disposable electronic cigarettes throughout
4 the State.

5 SECTION 2. Chapter 339, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by adding a new section to part I to be appropriately
7 designated and to read as follows:

8 "§339- Disposable electronic smoking devices;

9 **prohibited.** (a) Beginning January 1, 2027, it shall be
10 unlawful for any person or entity to sell, offer for sale, or
11 distribute, directly or indirectly, a disposable electronic
12 smoking device.

13 (b) The unlawful sale of not more than twenty disposable
14 electronic smoking devices pursuant to subsection (a) shall
15 constitute a single violation of this section.

16 (c) As used in this section, "disposable electronic
17 smoking device" means any electronic product that:
18 (1) Can be used to aerosolize and deliver nicotine or
19 other substances to the person inhaling the device;
20 (2) Is not refillable, has a non-rechargeable battery, and
21 is intended to be discarded after use; and



1 (3) Includes an electronic cigarette, electronic cigar,
2 electronic cigarillo, or electronic pipe, and any
3 cartridge or other component of the device or related
4 product.

5 "Disposable electronic smoking device" does not include a device
6 authorized for sale by a marketing order issued by the United
7 States Food and Drug Administration pursuant to title 21 United
8 States Code section 387j."

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.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Mark W. Rector Jr.



S.B. NO. 2175

Report Title:

Disposable Electronic Smoking Devices; Prohibition

Description:

Beginning 1/1/2027, prohibits selling, offering for sale, or distributing certain disposable electronic smoking devices.

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