

A Bill for an Act Relating to Serial Numbers and Identification Marks on Merchandise.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the defacing, removal or alteration of any factory or owner identification mark or serial number from any merchandise on which the same has been inscribed or marked, and thereby provide more effective protection to the public from theft and traffic of stolen merchandise.

SECTION 2. Chapter 708 (Hawaii Penal Code), title 37, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately numbered and to read as follows:

“Sec. 708- Removal of identification marks. A person commits the offense of removal of identification marks if he, with intent to cause interruption of the ownership of another, defaces, erases, or otherwise alters any serial number or identification mark placed or inscribed on any bicycle, firearm, movable or immovable construction tool or equipment, appliance, merchandise, or other article by the manufacturer or owner for the purpose of identifying the bicycle, firearm, movable or immovable tool or equipment, appliance, merchandise or other article or its component parts, with a value of more than \$50. A person removes identification marks if he attempts to or succeeds

in erasing, defacing, altering, or removing a serial number or identification mark or part thereof, on the property of another.

Removal of identification marks is a misdemeanor.

Sec. 708- Unlawful possession. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess any bicycle, firearm, movable construction tool or equipment, appliance, merchandise, or other article, or any part thereof knowing the serial number or identification mark placed on the same by the manufacturer or owner for the purpose of identification, has been erased, altered, changed or removed for the purpose of changing the identity of the foregoing items.

Unlawful possession is a misdemeanor.”

SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored. In printing this Act, the revisor of statutes need not include the brackets, the bracketed material, or the underscoring.*

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved May 11, 1973.)

*Edited accordingly.