

ACT 112

H.B. NO. 2213

A Bill for an Act Relating to Mail Theft.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the ongoing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic has changed the way many families rely on delivery services. There has been a major increase in the amount of online orders being placed, and subsequently fulfilled by shipping items through the mail. Most

packages sent through the mail are left outside the door at their intended destination if there is no mail receptacle large enough for the package on site.

The legislature further finds that reports of mail theft are on the rise. When mail carriers leave packages by doors or in otherwise unsecured mail receptacles, the packages are susceptible to theft, leading to frustration from senders and intended recipients.

The purpose of this Act is to establish the criminal offense of theft of mail.

SECTION 2. Chapter 708, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part IV to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§708- Theft of mail. (1) A person commits the offense of theft of mail if the person intentionally obtains or exerts unauthorized control over mail from another person’s mailbox or premises without the effective consent of the addressee and with the intent to deprive that addressee of the mail.

(2) For purposes of this section, “mail” means an envelope, a package, a bag, or a box that:

- (a) Is delivered by a common carrier or delivery service to an addressee;
or
- (b) Has been left to be collected for delivery by a common carrier or delivery service.
- (3) Theft of mail is a misdemeanor.”

SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.¹

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

(Approved June 17, 2022.)

Note

- 1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.