
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CERTAIN PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SUBTITLE 4 OF
TITLE 12, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 183-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "[~~f~~]**\$183-5**[~~}]~~ **General** [~~administrative~~] **penalties.** (a)

4 Except as otherwise provided by law, the board or its authorized
5 representative may:

6 (1) Set, charge, and collect administrative fines;

7 (2) Bring legal action to recover administrative fines,
8 fees, and costs, including attorney's fees and costs
9 and costs associated with land or habitat restoration;
10 and

11 (3) Collect administrative fees and costs pursuant to
12 paragraph (2),

13 resulting from a violation of this chapter, any rule adopted, or
14 permit issued thereunder.

15 (b) [~~The~~] Except as provided in subsection (d), the
16 administrative fines for violation of this chapter shall be as
17 follows:

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- 1 (1) For a first violation, or any violation not preceded
2 within a five-year period by a violation of this
3 chapter, a fine of not more than \$2,500 per violation;
- 4 (2) For a second violation within five years of a previous
5 violation of this chapter, a fine of not more than
6 \$5,000 per violation; and
- 7 (3) For a third or subsequent violation within five years
8 of the last violation of this chapter, a fine of not
9 more than \$10,000 per violation.
- 10 (c) In addition[+
11 ~~(1)~~ A], a fine of an amount up to \$10,000 or three times
12 the market value at the time and place of the
13 violation, as determined by the board, for each tree
14 or tree products, including koa, whichever is greater,
15 per violation of section 183-17 may be levied for each
16 destroyed, damaged, or harvested [koa] tree, or
17 portion thereof, larger than six inches in diameter at
18 ground level[; and
- 19 ~~(2)~~ ~~A fine of up to \$2,000 per violation of section 183-17~~
20 ~~may be levied for each destroyed or harvested tree or~~
21 ~~plant, other than koa, or portion thereof, larger than~~

1 ~~six inches in diameter at ground level.],~~ along with
2 any costs associated with restoration or replacement
3 of habitat and damages to public land or natural
4 resources, or any combination thereof.

5 (d) Any person who violates any rule adopted by the
6 department under this chapter regulating vehicular parking or
7 traffic movement shall have committed a traffic infraction as
8 set forth in chapter 291D, the adjudication of which shall be
9 subject to the provisions contained therein. A person found to
10 have committed such a traffic infraction shall be fined not more
11 than:

- 12 (1) \$100 for a first violation;
13 (2) \$200 for a second violation; and
14 (3) \$500 for a third or subsequent violation.

15 [~~(d)~~] (e) Any criminal [~~prosecution~~] action against a
16 person for any violation of this chapter or any rule adopted
17 thereunder shall not be deemed to preclude the State from
18 [~~recovering additional~~] pursuing civil legal action to recover
19 administrative fines, fees, and costs, including attorney's fees
20 and costs[-], or monetary assessments against that person. Any
21 civil legal action against a person to recover administrative

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1 finances, fees, and costs, including attorney's fees and costs, or
2 monetary assessments for any violation of this chapter or any
3 rule adopted thereunder shall not be deemed to preclude the
4 State from pursuing any criminal action against that person.

5 [~~e~~] (f) No person shall be sanctioned pursuant to this
6 section for the exercise of native Hawaiian gathering rights and
7 traditional cultural practices as authorized by law or as
8 permitted by the department pursuant to article [~~xii~~] XII,
9 section 7, of the [~~Hawaii~~] state constitution.

10 [~~f~~] (g) The department shall submit an annual report
11 outlining the revenues generated by the penalties to the
12 legislature at least twenty days before the convening of each
13 regular session."

14 SECTION 2. Section 183-18, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "**§183-18 Criminal penalties.** [~~Any person who violates~~
17 ~~section 183-17, upon conviction thereof, is guilty of a~~
18 ~~misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than \$2,000 or~~
19 ~~imprisoned not more than one year, or both. In addition to any~~
20 ~~other penalty imposed under this section, a fine of up to \$2,000~~
21 ~~shall be levied for each tree illegally destroyed or harvested~~

1 ~~under section 183-17.]~~ (a) Unless otherwise specified, any
2 person who violates a provision of this part or a rule adopted
3 pursuant to this part shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor.
4 Authorized employees of the department acting within the scope
5 of employment shall not be subject to the penalty provided for
6 in this section. A person convicted of violating a provision of
7 this part or a rule adopted pursuant to this part shall be
8 sentenced, without the possibility of suspension of sentence, as
9 follows:

10 (1) A mandatory fine of not less than \$100, or
11 imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both,
12 for a first offense, or any offense not preceded
13 within a five-year period by a conviction for a prior
14 offense;

15 (2) A mandatory fine of not less than \$500, or by
16 imprisonment of not more than thirty days, or both,
17 for an offense that occurs within five years of a
18 conviction for a prior offense; and

19 (3) A mandatory fine of \$1,000, or imprisonment of not
20 more than thirty days, or both, for an offense that
21 occurs within five years of two or more convictions
22 for prior offenses.

1 For purposes of this subsection, "offense" means a violation of
2 any provision of this part or any rules adopted pursuant
3 thereto.

4 (b) A person who is convicted of violating section 183-17
5 is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined not more than
6 \$2,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

7 SECTION 3. Section 183-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 repealed.

9 [~~"§183-4 General penalty. Any person violating any of the~~
10 ~~provisions of chapters 183 to 185, for which violation a penalty~~
11 ~~is not otherwise provided, or violating any rule or regulation~~
12 ~~of the department of land and natural resources, and any master~~
13 ~~of any vessel which brings into the State any article which the~~
14 ~~department shall at any time prohibit from being imported into~~
15 ~~the State, and the master of any vessel from which is landed any~~
16 ~~article required in chapters 183 to 185 to be inspected, before~~
17 ~~the master has received a permit to land the articles from the~~
18 ~~department or its officer or inspector, as in such chapters~~
19 ~~provided, shall be fined not more than \$500."]~~

20 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
21 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
22 begun before its effective date.

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1 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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5

INTRODUCED BY: _____

Alan

6

BY REQUEST

JAN 25 2021

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Report Title:

Destruction or Harvesting of Trees including Koa on State Lands;
Forest Reserves Violations; Penalties

Description:

Amends fines for destroying or harvesting trees or tree products, including koa, on state forest reserves lands to an amount up to \$10,000 or three times the market value at the time and place of the violation, as determined by the Board of Land and Natural Resources, for each tree, whichever is greater, in addition to any costs associated with restoration or replacement of the habitat and damages to public land or natural resources, or any combination thereof. Clarifies that any person violating any provision of part II (Forest Reserves) of chapter 183, Hawaii Revised Statutes, or any rule adopted thereto, other than section 183-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor. Clarifies penalties for traffic infractions within forest reserves and sets fine amounts. Repeals the general penalty provision of section 183-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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

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JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Land and Natural Resources

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CERTAIN PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF SUBTITLE 4 OF TITLE 12, HAWAII REVISED STATUTES.

PURPOSE: To amend fines for destroying or harvesting trees or tree products, including koa, on state forest reserves lands to an amount up to \$10,000 or three times the market value at the time and place of the violation, as determined by the Board of Land and Natural Resources (Board), for each tree, whichever is greater, and in addition to any costs associated with restoration or replacement of the habitat and damages to public land or natural resources, or combination thereof; to clarify that any person violating any provision of part II (Forest Reserves) of chapter 183, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), or any rule adopted thereunder, other than section 183-17, HRS, shall be guilty of a petty misdemeanor; to clarify penalties for traffic infractions within forest reserves and set fine amounts; and to repeal the general penalty provision of section 183-4, HRS.

MEANS: Amend sections 183-5 and 183-18 and repeal section 183-4, HRS.

JUSTIFICATION: Section 183-5(c), HRS, authorizes an administrative fine up to \$10,000 per koa tree and \$2,000 for all other tree or plant destroyed or harvested on state lands. The current market value of koa and other forest products, such as Hawaiian sandalwood, far exceeds the dollar amount of the current established fines. Amending fines for destroying or harvesting trees including koa on state lands up to \$10,000 or three times the market value at the time and place of the violation for each tree including koa, in addition to any administrative fines and

costs associated with restoration or replacement of the habitat and damages to public lands or natural resources, or any combination thereof, would help: (1) deter illegal harvesting and destruction of natural resources within forest reserves; and (2) make these penalties consistent with those established by other states.

Currently, section 183-18, HRS, only applies criminal penalties for timber trespass offenses. The Department has determined that there are other types of offenses such as removing, injuring, or killing plant or animal life, or introducing plant or animal life except as approved by the Board, as examples that warrant the imposition of a stricter penalty. Establishing statutory authority for a criminal penalty to apply to any violation of part II of chapter 183, HRS, or any rules adopted pursuant thereto would strengthen the Department's enforcement capabilities and allow for greater protection of the State's natural resources within its forest reserves.

The Legislature has been engaged in an ongoing effort to make resolution of minor criminal offenses, including traffic violations, as simple as possible for the average citizen and to ensure that police, prosecutor, and judicial resources are focused on the most serious criminal offenses. This bill thus seeks to clarify penalties for traffic infractions within forest reserves so that they are comparable with the penalties for similar infractions established for the State Park System and sets the fine amounts for violations.

Presently, section 183-4, HRS, authorizes general (civil) penalties for violations of the provisions of chapters 183 to 185, HRS. The Department notes that civil penalties are already provided in sections 183-5 and 184-5.5, HRS. The Department further notes that while chapter 185, HRS, pertaining to

land fire protection, does not include a civil penalty section, the chapter does provide for criminal penalties under section 185-7, HRS. The Department feels that violations of chapter 185, HRS, because of the risk of serious harm to people and the environment, should carry only criminal penalties. Given the above, section 183-4, HRS, has been proposed for repeal.

Impact on the public: This bill will allow the Department to more consistently and effectively address certain conservation and resource violations for the protection, preservation, and enhancement of public resources.

Impact on the department and other agencies: This bill will amend fines for destroying or harvesting trees on state lands to ensure an effective mechanism for pursuing enforcement actions and providing a strong deterrent for unauthorized and illegal use of public resources; establish a criminal penalty for certain conservation and resource violations; and reduces effort and resources expended to resolve minor traffic violations.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM
DESIGNATION: LNR 172.

OTHER AFFECTED
AGENCIES: None.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.