

September 30, 2020

MEMO TO: GET-60 File

F R O M: Mike Molina, Chair
Governance, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL RELATING TO
SOCIAL-HOST LIABILITY REGULATIONS** (GET-60)

The attached legislative proposal pertains to Item 60 on the Committee's agenda.

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Attachment

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. _____ (2020)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A NEW CHAPTER 9.40,
MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. The Council finds that in accordance with Chapter 281-101.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, no adult may provide intoxicating liquor to a person under twenty-one years of age for consumption. This ordinance provides for strict liability for responsible persons who are found by clear and convincing evidence to have hosted a gathering at which underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances.

SECTION 2. Title 9, Maui County Code, is amended by adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“Chapter 9.40

SOCIAL HOST LIABILITY

Sections:

- | | |
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| 9.40.010 | Purpose. |
| 9.40.020 | Definitions. |
| 9.40.030 | Prohibition against gatherings where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances. |
| 9.40.040 | Recovery of response costs. |
| 9.40.050 | Civil penalties. |
| 9.40.060 | Administrative citations and appeals. |

9.40.010 Purpose. The purposes of this chapter are to:

1. Protect public health, safety, and general welfare and enforce laws prohibiting the possession and consumption of intoxicating substances by underage persons.

2. Reduce the costs of providing police, fire, and other emergency response services to gatherings where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances by imposing strict liability against a responsible person who hosts such a gathering.

9.40.02 Definitions. Whenever used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires:

“Intoxicating substance” means the same as the term defined in section 281-1 of the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes.

“Landlord” means the owner, lessor, sublessor, assigns or successors in interest of the dwelling unit or the building of which it is a part and any agent of the landlord.

“Minor” means any person under eighteen years of age.

“Owner” means one or more persons, jointly or severally, in whom is vested: (1) all or any part of the legal title to property; or (2) all or any part of the beneficial ownership and a right to present use and enjoyment of the property; and includes a mortgagee in possession.

“Residence or other private property” means a home, yard, apartment, condominium, hotel or motel room, or other dwelling unit, or a hall or meeting room, whether occupied on a temporary or permanent basis, whether occupied as a dwelling, party or other social function, and whether owned, leased, rented, or used with or without compensation.

“Responsible person” means a person with a right of possession in the residence or other private property on which a gathering where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances occurs, such as: an owner of the residence or other private property; a tenant or lessee of the residence or other private property; the person in charge of the residence or other private property; and the person who organizes, supervises, officiates, conducts, or controls the gathering or any other person accepting responsibility for such a gathering.

“Underage person” means any person under twenty-one years of age.

9.40.030 Prohibition against gatherings where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances.

A. A gathering where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances at a residence or other private property is a public nuisance.

B. A responsible person who knowingly or unknowingly conducts, aids, allows, permits, or condones a gathering where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances at a residence or other private property will be strictly liable and subject to this chapter’s civil penalties.

C. The following are exemptions from this section's prohibitions:

1. This section does not apply to any location regulated by the department of liquor control.

2. Where a gathering where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances is a result of criminal trespass, a responsible person does not commit a first violation under this chapter. The person who owns or otherwise legally controls the residence or private property will be notified of any violation of this chapter involving criminal trespass and will be considered a responsible person for subsequent violations that occur at the same residence or private property within twelve months.

3. A landlord may be notified of the second and subsequent violations of this chapter that occur at the same location within twelve months, but may not be considered a responsible person.

D. For purposes of this section, a "gathering" means a group of two or more persons at or on a residence or other private property where one or more persons is underage and is found either to be in possession of an intoxicating substance or to have consumed an intoxicating substance. A gathering is a public nuisance.

9.40.040 Recovery of response costs. A. Any responsible person who is found by clear and convincing evidence to have violated this chapter may be required to reimburse the County for all public safety response costs incurred in connection with a second response to the same premises within a year of the first response, and any subsequent response within a year of the second response, due to the violation.

B. Response costs are the costs associated with responses by police, fire, and other emergency response providers to gatherings where underage persons possess or consume intoxicating substances, such as: salaries and benefits of law enforcement, fire, or other emergency response personnel for the amount of time spent responding to, remaining at, or otherwise dealing with such gatherings, and the administrative costs attributable to the response; the cost of any medical treatment to or for any law enforcement, fire or other emergency response personnel injured responding to, remaining at or leaving the scene of such a gathering; the cost of repairing any County equipment or property damaged, and the cost of the use of any such equipment, in responding to, remaining at, or leaving the scene of such a gathering.

The County will notify the person in writing of the imposition of costs and expenses and the process for appeal.

C. If the responsible person is a minor, the parents or guardians of that minor, and the minor will be jointly and severally liable for response costs.

D. All response costs and penalties for which the responsible person may be liable may become a lien on the residence or other private property on which the violation has occurred.

E. The council, by resolution, may establish the cost for reimbursement of response costs to the County for violations of this chapter.

9.40.050 Civil penalties. A. Any responsible person who is found by clear and convincing evidence to have violated any provision of this chapter will be strictly liable and fined \$200 for a first violation, \$500 for a second violation, and \$1000 for a third violation within a twelve-month period.

B. The County must notify the responsible person in writing of the imposition of such civil penalty and the process for appeal. If the responsible person is a minor, the minor and his or her parents or guardians will be jointly and severally liable for the civil penalties imposed.

C. Any responsible person found to have violated this chapter may request community service in lieu of paying the civil penalty on appeal.

D. In addition to any other procedures for the collection of civil fines available to the County by law or rules of the court, the County may add unpaid civil fines imposed under this chapter to any County taxes, fees, or charges, except for residential water or sewer charges.

E. Application of this chapter does not preclude the imposition of any other applicable civil or criminal penalties.

9.40.060 Administrative citations and appeals. A. The chief of police will administer this chapter; except the chief may designate a social host administrator, who will exercise the chief's authority under this chapter, to the extent authorized by the chief.

B. Any responsible person aggrieved by a determination of the chief of police or the social host administrator may appeal the determination by filing a written notice of appeal with the board of variances and appeals within thirty days after notice of the determination."

SECTION 3. New material is underscored. In printing this bill, the County Clerk need not include the underscoring.

SECTION 4. This ordinance takes effect upon its approval.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Department of the Corporation Counsel
County of Maui

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