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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, as part of the  
2 increased development of Hawaii's towns and cities, there has  
3 been an increase in noise pollution. One of the contributors to  
4 noise pollution is the loud beeping sound emitted by large  
5 vehicles when they are reversing. This is due to a state law  
6 that requires certain large vehicles to be equipped with an  
7 audible reverse warning system. This safety measure is meant to  
8 warn pedestrians and others behind a large vehicle that the  
9 vehicle is about to reverse. When these vehicles operate in  
10 areas of high population density or near hospitals or hotels,  
11 however, the loud noise can be very irritating and inevitably  
12 raises complaints. Although the department of health has rules  
13 to control vehicular noise, these rules exempt audible reverse  
14 warning systems, and the department has no authority to compel  
15 compliance.

16           The purpose of this Act is to provide an option to turn off  
17 the audible reverse warning system for noise control purposes



1 the vehicle is equipped with a rearview camera system in the  
2 rear that continues to operate whenever the vehicle is  
3 reversing, or if a watchperson is continuously on duty to ensure  
4 safety.

5 SECTION 2. Section 291-35.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§291-35.1 Regulation of bumper height[-]; reverse warning**  
8 **systems.** (a) Maximum bumper heights of motor vehicles shall be  
9 determined by the weight category of gross vehicle weight rating  
10 (GVWR) as measured from a level surface to the highest point on  
11 the bottom of the bumper. Maximum heights are as follows:

12	Gross Vehicle Weight Rating	Front	Rear
13	Passenger vehicles	22 inches	22 inches
14	4,500 lbs. and under	29 inches	29 inches
15	4,501 lbs. to 7,500 lbs.	33 inches	33 inches
16	7,501 lbs. to 10,000 lbs.	35 inches	35 inches

17 (b) For any vehicle with bumpers or attaching components  
18 which have been modified or altered from the original  
19 manufacturer's design to conform with the maximum bumper height  
20 requirements of this section, the bumper height shall be  
21 measured from a level surface to the bottom of the bumper. The  
22 vehicle frame rail, measured from a level surface to the bottom



1 of the vehicle frame rail, shall not exceed the attached bumper  
2 height. The maximum distance between vehicle body to vehicle  
3 frame rail shall not exceed three inches. The distance between  
4 the vehicle body to vehicle frame rail shall be measured from  
5 the vehicle body mount seat to the vehicle frame rail mount  
6 seat. "Bumper", for purposes of this section means a horizontal  
7 load bearing protective system installed on a motor vehicle  
8 which is constructed of sturdy materials that will not shatter  
9 or split upon moderate impact and provides adequate protection  
10 against damages to the front and rear external lighting and  
11 reflective devices, hood, trunk, doors, painted surfaces,  
12 cooling system, exhaust system, and other components during a  
13 low speed impact. Any vehicle that exceeds the Vehicle  
14 Equipment Safety Commission -Regulation 12 recommended bumper  
15 height, based on the gross vehicle weight rating, shall be  
16 equipped with an audible reverse warning system[-]; provided  
17 that the audible reverse warning system may be manually turned  
18 off for noise control purposes if: the vehicle is equipped with  
19 a rearview camera system that operates whenever the vehicle is  
20 reversing; or, a watchperson is continuously on duty to ensure  
21 safety. Any switch permitting the audible reverse warning  
22 system to be manually disengaged shall automatically turn off



1 after a fixed period of time and automatically engage the  
 2 audible reverse warning system. The director shall adopt rules  
 3 under chapter 91 to implement this subsection. The audible  
 4 reverse warning system is not required on any open cab vehicle  
 5 with a distance of less than four feet from the rear of the  
 6 driver's seating position to the rear most part of the vehicle  
 7 body."

8 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
 9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicles; Reverse Warning Systems

**Description:**

Permits motor vehicle backup warning beepers to be disabled if the vehicle is equipped with a rear view camera system, or a watchperson is on duty.

