
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "**§249-7 Number plates.** (a) Upon receipt of the tax the
4 director of finance shall number and register the vehicle in the
5 owner's name in a permanent record or book to be kept by the
6 director for this purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof
7 with a receipt showing upon its face the license number issued
8 for the vehicle and the fact that the license tax has been paid
9 thereon for the whole or the remainder of the current year in
10 which the receipt is issued. The director of finance shall also
11 furnish the owner, upon the original registration of the
12 vehicle, two number plates for the vehicle or one plate in the
13 case of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles with the
14 registration number marked thereon. Upon the payment of the tax
15 for each year a tag or emblem bearing a serial number and the
16 month and year of expiration shall be provided to the owner.
17 Transfer of current number plates, tag, or emblem, except as



1 authorized by this chapter or by chapter 286, is punishable by a
2 fine of not more than \$50 for each offense.

3 (b) Upon an original registration the director of finance
4 shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the
5 cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the
6 administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem
7 and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new
8 series of number plates as determined by the directors of
9 finance of each county through majority consent, the director of
10 finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the
11 number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the
12 plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of finance
13 shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner shall
14 securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on the
15 front and the other on the rear, at a location provided by the
16 manufacturer or in the absence of such a location upon the
17 bumpers of the vehicle and in conformance with section 291-31,
18 in such a manner as to prevent the plates from swinging. Number
19 plates shall at all times be displayed entirely unobscured and
20 be kept reasonably clean. In the case of trailers,
21 semitrailers, or motorcycles, one plate shall be used and it



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1 shall be fastened to the rear thereof at a location provided by
2 the manufacturer or in the absence of such a location at the
3 rear thereof, and in the case of motorcycles in conformance with
4 section 291-31.

5 (c) Upon the issuance of the tag or emblem the owner shall
6 affix the tag or emblem to the top right portion of the rear
7 number plate, except that all vehicles owned by the State, any
8 county government, any board of water supply, and official
9 representatives of any foreign governments shall be issued
10 registrations which need be renewed only in the new plate issue
11 year.

12 (d) After the initial payment of the tax and the original
13 registration of a vehicle as herein specified, a motor vehicle
14 shall not be required to be reweighed in any succeeding year
15 unless it has been so altered or changed as to increase or
16 diminish its weight. No new number plates shall, however, be
17 issued to a new owner except as provided in sections 249-7.5 and
18 249-8.

19 (e) If an owner of a vehicle registered in any county,
20 upon the disposition of the vehicle, requests that the license
21 plates furnished to the owner with respect to the registration



1 of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle subsequently
2 acquired by the owner, the assignment may be made by the
3 director of finance at the director's discretion. To defray
4 additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to those
5 requests, the director of finance shall charge a fee of \$5 for
6 each reassignment of license plates, in addition to the fee for
7 registration. The procedure for registering the vehicles shall
8 otherwise be identical with that provided by this section.

9 (f) Failure to display number plates in the manner
10 required by this section shall be punishable by a fine of:

11 (1) Not less than \$ but not more than

12 \$ for a first offense;

13 (2) \$ for a second offense; and

14 (3) \$ for each additional offense thereafter."

15 SECTION 2. Section 291-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 **"§291-2 Reckless driving of vehicle or riding of animals;**
18 **penalty.** Whoever operates any vehicle or rides any animal
19 recklessly in disregard of the safety of persons or property is
20 guilty of reckless driving of vehicle or reckless riding of an
21 animal, as appropriate, and shall be fined [~~not more than \$1,000~~]



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1 ~~or~~] per cent of the person's income, as determined by the
2 court; imprisoned not more than thirty days~~[7]~~; or both~~[7]~~;
3 provided that the person shall be subject to enhanced penalties
4 of an additional per cent of the person's income, as
5 determined by the court and based on the number of previous
6 citations for reckless driving."

7 SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
8 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
9 begun before its effective date.

10 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
11 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

12 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2022.

13 INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 22 2021



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Report Title:

Reckless Driving; Improperly Displayed License Plates; Penalties

Description:

Amends the penalties for reckless driving and improperly displayed license plates. Effective 1/1/2022.

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