
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the
2 most beautiful places on the planet, with breathtaking
3 landscapes, lush tropical forests, and rich ocean resources.
4 The State is home to amazing ecosystems that include a unique
5 mix of flora and fauna, including dozens of endemic Hawaiian
6 birds that can be found nowhere else on earth; approximately one
7 thousand four hundred species of native plants, ninety per cent
8 of which are endemic to the State; and familiar marine mammals
9 that are closely associated with the State, including the
10 Hawaiian monk seal and humpback whale.

11 The legislature also finds that state residents understand
12 the importance of these unique resources and appreciate their
13 value. More specifically, residents appreciate the beloved
14 native and endemic plants and animals of Hawaii, strongly
15 believe that these resources must be preserved for future
16 generations, and support opportunities to directly contribute to
17 the conservation of these critical resources.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish
2 special number motor vehicle license plates that commemorate the
3 importance of forest and ocean conservation, and to use proceeds
4 from the special number plate program to fund conservation
5 efforts for the State's beaches, nearshore environments, and
6 forests.

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
9 and to read as follows:

10 "**\$249- Special number plates for forest and ocean**
11 **conservation; authorized.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to the
12 contrary, the director of finance shall issue to any registered
13 owner of a motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State and has
14 completed the application and paid the required fees, special
15 number plates that commemorate the importance of forest and
16 ocean conservation, for the registered owner's motor vehicle.

17 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of
18 Honolulu shall establish special number plate designs that
19 commemorate the importance of forest and ocean conservation;
20 provided that the director of finance shall establish two
21 different designs that commemorate the importance of forest



1 conservation and that correspond to the two fundraising fee
2 amounts described in subsection (e), and two different designs
3 that commemorate the importance of ocean conservation and that
4 correspond to the two fundraising fee amounts described in
5 subsection (e). Each design shall:

6 (1) Contain words or images, or both, that indicate that
7 the special number plate is being issued to
8 commemorate the importance of forest or ocean
9 conservation;

10 (2) Be similar in shape and size to the uniform state
11 number plate prescribed by law; and

12 (3) Is readily identifiable and distinguishable under
13 actual traffic conditions.

14 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall
15 consult with the directors of finance of the counties of Kauai,
16 Maui, and Hawaii, the chiefs of police of the city and county of
17 Honolulu, and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii, and the
18 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources in
19 establishing the special number plate design.

20 (c) Each special number plate design shall not:



1 (1) Infringe or otherwise violate any trademark, trade
2 name, service mark, copyright, or other proprietary or
3 property right;

4 (2) Represent any obscene or degrading image, idea, word,
5 or phrase;

6 (3) Advertise or endorse a product, brand, or service that
7 is provided for sale;

8 (4) Promote any religious belief;

9 (5) Promote any philosophy based on prejudice or that is
10 contrary to state civil rights laws; or

11 (6) Obstruct the visibility of the number plate's numbers
12 or letters or any other information that is required
13 by law to be on a number plate.

14 (d) Each special number plate shall be securely fastened
15 to the motor vehicle in lieu of the uniform state number plate.

16 (e) The director of finance shall charge a special number
17 plate fee at least equal to the county's cost of providing the
18 special number plate and administrative costs, if any, plus a
19 fundraising fee of either \$100 or \$200; provided that the
20 director of finance shall issue a separate number plate design
21 for each fundraising fee amount. The special number plate fee



1 and fundraising fee established by this subsection shall be in
2 addition to any other state or county fees collected for a motor
3 vehicle registration or license plate.

4 (f) The director of finance shall charge the same
5 fundraising fee established pursuant to subsection (e) for the
6 renewal of a special number plate.

7 (g) The revenue generated by the fundraising fees
8 established pursuant to subsections (e) and (f) shall be
9 deposited into the:

10 (1) Forest stewardship fund established pursuant to
11 section 195F-4, if the fundraising fee is for a
12 special number plate issued to commemorate the
13 importance of forest conservation; and

14 (2) Beach restoration special fund established pursuant to
15 section 171-156, if the fundraising fee is for a
16 special number plate issued to commemorate the
17 importance of ocean conservation; provided that fees
18 deposited into the beach restoration special fund
19 pursuant to this paragraph shall be used for beach and
20 nearshore environmental cleanup as authorized by
21 section 171-156(b)(1).



1 (h) The director of finance may revoke all special number
2 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of
3 registered owners of motor vehicles that obtain the special
4 number plates is less than one hundred fifty within three years
5 of issuance of the first special number plate.

6 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to
7 any plates issued pursuant to section 249-9.2.

8 (j) For the purposes of this section, unless a different
9 meaning appears from the context, "special number plate" means a
10 license plate that is not a uniform state number plate."

11 SECTION 3. Section 171-156, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
12 amended to read as follows:

13 "~~[§]§171-156[§]~~ **Beach restoration special fund.** (a)

14 There is established in the state treasury a special fund to be
15 designated as the "beach restoration special fund" to carry out
16 the purposes of this part. The following moneys shall be
17 deposited into the beach restoration special fund:

18 (1) Proceeds from the lease or development of public
19 coastal lands designated pursuant to a beach
20 restoration plan, subject to the Hawaiian Homes



1 Commission Act of 1920, as amended, and section 5(f)
2 of the Admission Act of 1959;

3 (2) Proceeds from the lease of public lands pursuant to
4 this part for an existing seawall or revetment;

5 (3) Proceeds from the fundraising fee charged for special
6 number plates pursuant to section 249- (g)(2);

7 [~~+3+~~] (4) Fines collected for unauthorized shoreline
8 structures on state submerged land or conservation
9 district land;

10 [~~+4+~~] (5) Appropriations made by the legislature for
11 deposit into this fund;

12 [~~+5+~~] (6) Donations and contributions made by private
13 individuals or organizations for deposit into this
14 fund;

15 [~~+6+~~] (7) Fees collected for the processing of applications
16 for coastal and beach erosion control projects; and

17 [~~+7+~~] (8) Grants provided by governmental agencies or any
18 other source.

19 (b) The beach restoration special fund may be used by the
20 department for one or more of the following purposes:



(1) Planning, designing, development, or implementation of beach restoration projects pursuant to this part[~~+~~ and], including beach and nearshore environmental cleanup; and

(2) Providing grants to the counties, nongovernmental organizations, and the University of Hawaii for the restoration of beach lands and for research or engineering studies necessary to support beach restoration projects, subject to this part."

SECTION 4. Section 195F-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§195F-4 Forest stewardship fund. (a) There is established a special fund within the state treasury known as the forest stewardship fund into which shall be [~~used as follows:~~

~~(1) Payments shall be made by the board pursuant to agreements entered into with qualified landowners to further the purposes of this chapter; and~~

~~(2) Moneys collected]~~ deposited moneys:

(1) Received from any public or private sources; and

(2) Otherwise collected from:



- 1 (A) The harvest of non-native forest products from
2 forest reserves;
- 3 (B) The harvest of native forest products from
4 degraded forests as defined in section 186-5.5,
5 within forest reserves;
- 6 (C) The sale of forest products found dead and lying
7 on the ground;
- 8 (D) The sale of tree seedlings from state nurseries;
- 9 (E) The sale of any other products or services, or
10 anything of value derived from forest reserves
11 not described above; ~~[or]~~
- 12 (F) The imposition of fines or penalties for
13 violations of this chapter and chapters 183 and
14 185 or any rule adopted thereunder; or
- 15 (G) Proceeds from the fundraising fee charges for
16 special number plates pursuant to section
17 249- (g) (1).

18 (b) Moneys in the fund shall be used for:

- 19 [~~(i) replanting,~~] (1) Replanting, managing, and maintaining
20 designated timber management areas;



1 ~~[(ii) enhancing]~~ (2) Enhancing the management of public
2 forest reserves with an emphasis on restoring degraded
3 koa forests; and
4 ~~[(iii) developing]~~ (3) Developing environmental education and
5 training programs pertaining to sustainable forestry;
6 provided that the activities described in ~~[clauses (ii) and~~
7 ~~(iii) may]~~ paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not be funded unless the
8 activities described in approved management plans pertaining to
9 ~~[clause (i)]~~ paragraph (1) are adequately funded[-
10 ~~(b) The fund shall consist of moneys received from any~~
11 ~~public or private sources.];~~ provided further that payments
12 shall be made by the board pursuant to agreements entered into
13 with qualified landowners to further the purposes of this
14 chapter.
15 (c) The fund shall be held separate and apart from all
16 other moneys, funds, and accounts in the state treasury;
17 provided that any moneys received from the federal government or
18 from private contributions shall be deposited and accounted for
19 in accordance with conditions established by the agencies or
20 persons from whom the moneys are received.



1 (d) Investment earnings credited to the fund shall become
2 a part of the assets of the fund. Any balance remaining in the
3 fund at the end of any fiscal year shall be carried forward in
4 the fund for the next fiscal year."

5 SECTION 5. Section 249-9.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§249-9.1 Special number plates.** In addition to the
8 number plates contracted on behalf of the counties by the
9 director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, the
10 director of finance may provide, upon request, special number
11 plates. The special number plates shall conform to the
12 requirements provided for the uniform number plates except that
13 the owner may request the choice and arrangement of letters and
14 numbers. The maximum number of letters and numbers shall be six
15 and only one hyphen will be allowed in addition to and in lieu
16 of the six letters and numerals. No other punctuation marks
17 shall be allowed. The director of finance shall not issue
18 special number plates which have the letter and numeral
19 combination of regular plates, are misleading or publicly
20 objectionable. The fee for special number plates shall be [~~\$25~~]
21 \$100 upon initial application and [~~\$25~~] \$100 upon each annual



1 renewal of the vehicle registration. This fee shall not be
2 refundable. Re-application for special number plates must be
3 made upon a change in design of regular plates. The director of
4 finance may discard and allow for new applications of inactive
5 special number plates that have not been assigned or registered
6 during the preceding three years. The director of finance shall
7 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to carry out this section."

8 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

Counties; Board of Land and Natural Resources; Special Number Plates; Forest Conservation; Ocean Conservation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to support forest conservation and ocean conservation, with proceeds from the program to be used to fund conservation efforts at the State's beaches, nearshore environment, and forests. Increases the initial application and renewal fees for special number plates from \$25 to \$100. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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