

MAR 10 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO UPDATE THE DESIGN AND FORMAT OF
VEHICLE REGISTRATION PLATES IN RESPONSE TO GROWING ELECTRIC
VEHICLE AND HYBRID VEHICLE SALES.

1 WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State to
2 effectively manage the distribution and circulation of vehicle
3 registration plates, also known as license plates or number
4 plates, especially as consumer trends in the automotive industry
5 rapidly change; and

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7 WHEREAS, Hawaii's rainbow license plate design is nearing
8 the end of its current numbering pattern and will need to
9 change; and

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11 WHEREAS, the people of the State are seeking alternatives
12 to gasoline-powered vehicles as gasoline prices rise and harmful
13 emissions continue to warm our climate; and

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15 WHEREAS, hybrid vehicle sales have been increasing as
16 consumers view these vehicles as a convenient middle ground
17 between conventional gasoline-powered vehicles and electric
18 vehicles; and

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20 WHEREAS, electric vehicle adoption is growing
21 exponentially, with many major car manufacturers phasing out
22 gasoline-powered cars completely by 2035; and

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24 WHEREAS, as a result, Hawaii's temporary electric vehicle
25 license plate numbering scheme needs to be changed to keep up
26 with this demand; and

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28 WHEREAS, electric vehicle license plates in the State
29 currently use four characters, three of which are numbers and
30 one of which is a letter; and

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32 WHEREAS, at the current pace of electric vehicle sales, the
33 current alphanumeric scheme will last for only five years; and
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1 WHEREAS, updating the present license plate schemes is
2 necessary to accommodate shifting trends for electric, hybrid,
3 and gasoline-powered vehicle sales in the State; now, therefore,
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5 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
7 that the counties are requested to update the design and format
8 of vehicle registration plates in response to the growing
9 electric vehicle and hybrid vehicle sales; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that beginning January 1, 2025, that
12 the Director of Finance of each county is requested to issue
13 number plates in the following manner:
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15 (1) Number plates for electric vehicles should bear the
16 word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and
17 the words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the
18 plate and contain a colorful design reflecting the
19 State's unique environment;
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21 (2) Number plates for hybrid vehicles should bear the word
22 "Hawaii" on the upper portion of the plate and the
23 words "hybrid vehicle" on any portion of the plate and
24 use the rainbow design featured on number plates,
25 except special number plates, issued in the State
26 beginning in 1991; and
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28 (3) Number plates for gasoline-powered vehicles should
29 bear the word "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the
30 plate and the words "gas vehicle" on any portion of
31 the plate and use the rainbow design featured on
32 number plates, except special number plates, issued in
33 the State beginning in 1991; and
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35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
36 Resolution be transmitted to the mayors of each county and the
37 directors of finance of each county.
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OFFERED BY: 

