



GOV. MSG. NO. 1165

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

June 21, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 21, 2024, the following bill was signed into law:

HB1861 HD2 SD2

RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES.
ACT 064

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 1861
H.D. 2
S.D. 2

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 249-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) The number plates hereinabove referred to shall be
4 used upon all vehicles for which a tax has been paid pursuant to
5 sections 249-1 to 249-13. All [~~such~~] number plates shall:

6 (1) [~~Bear~~] If issued before January 1, 2025, bear the word
7 "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the
8 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the
9 plate;

10 (2) If issued on or after January 1, 2025, bear the word
11 "Hawai'i" along the upper portion of the plate and the
12 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the
13 plate; provided that both "Hawai'i" and "Aloha State"
14 may either contain all uppercase or lowercase letters
15 or have the first letter of each word be uppercase;

16 [~~2~~] (3) Have a distinct contrast between the color of the
17 plate and the numerals and letters thereon; and



1 [~~3~~] (4) Be of [~~such~~] any shape, size, and color, and with
2 [~~such~~] any arrangements of letters and numbers as may,
3 subject to sections 249-1 to 249-13, be determined by
4 the directors of finance of each county through
5 majority consent.

6 The numerals on all [~~such~~] number plates shall be [~~not~~] no less
7 than three inches in height and the strokes thereof [~~not~~] no
8 less than three-eighths inch in width, except in the case of
9 motorcycles, in which case the numerals shall [~~not~~] be no less
10 than one inch in height and the strokes thereof [~~not~~] no less
11 than one-eighth inch in width.

12 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu
13 shall contract annually on behalf of the counties for the
14 purchase of all number plates, tags, or emblems required. The
15 council of each county shall appropriate and cause to be paid
16 over to the party with whom the director of finance of the city
17 and county of Honolulu shall contract, or to the director of
18 finance of the city and county of Honolulu as the director may
19 direct, [~~such~~] the sum or sums as the director of finance of the
20 city and county of Honolulu shall determine to be the county's
21 proportionate share of the expense of [~~such~~] the contract and



1 the charges connected therewith. The contract shall be made by
2 the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu as
3 agent of the several counties, and the proportionate liability
4 of each county shall be stated in the contract. Notwithstanding
5 any other provision of the law, the contract shall constitute a
6 valid obligation of each county for its proportionate share."

7 SECTION 2. Section 249-9.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to
10 read:

11 "[+]§249-9.7[+] Special number plates for environmental
12 conservation; authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the
13 contrary, the director of finance shall issue to any registered
14 owner of [~~a motor~~] an electric vehicle, who is a resident of the
15 State and has completed the application and paid the required
16 fees, special number plates that commemorate the importance of
17 environmental conservation, for the registered owner's motor
18 vehicle. The special number plates shall be granted the same
19 benefits and restrictions granted to any other electric vehicle
20 special number plates.



1 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of
2 Honolulu shall establish special number plate designs that
3 commemorate the importance of environmental conservation. The
4 design ~~[shall]~~:

5 (1) ~~[Contain]~~ Shall contain words or images, or both, that
6 indicate that the special number plate is being issued
7 to commemorate the importance of environmental
8 conservation;

9 (2) ~~[Be]~~ Shall be similar in shape and size to the uniform
10 state number plate prescribed by law; ~~[and]~~

11 (3) ~~[Be]~~ Shall be readily identifiable and distinguishable
12 under actual traffic conditions ~~[=]~~; and

13 (4) May, but shall not be required to, bear the words
14 "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the plate.

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



1 visually attractive and highlight Hawaii's environment, native
2 species, or both."

3 2. By amending subsection (d) to read:

4 "(d) Each special number plate shall be securely fastened
5 to the [~~motor~~] electric vehicle in lieu of the uniform state
6 number plate."

7 3. By amending subsection (g) to read:

8 "(g) The director of finance may revoke all special number
9 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of
10 registered owners of [~~motor~~] electric vehicles that obtain the
11 special number plates is less than one hundred fifty within
12 three years of issuance of the first special number plate."

13 4. By amending subsection (i) to read:

14 "(i) For the purposes of this section[~~, unless a different~~
15 ~~meaning appears from the context, "special"]:~~

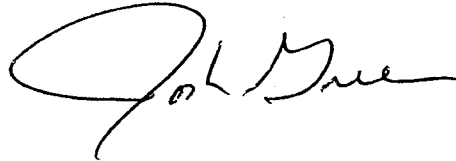
16 "Special number plate" means a license plate that is not a
17 uniform state number plate, unless a different meaning appears
18 from the context.

19 "Electric vehicle" shall have the same meaning as the term
20 is defined in section 196-2 and produce zero emissions."



- 1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.
3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

APPROVED this 21st day of June , 2024



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 1861, HD 2, SD 2

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 3, 2024
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives




Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

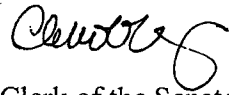
THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: April 9, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2024.



President of the Senate



Clerk of the Senate