
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Keawalau o Puuloa,
2 also known as Puuloa or Pearl Harbor, was first settled around
3 400 A.D. and is a place of cultural significance that
4 exemplifies the power of positive, community-led change. The
5 Maweke family, one of the original families who settled in the
6 area, is credited with bringing sweet potato from Peru to Ewa
7 and dredging an entrance to allow large voyaging canoes to pass
8 over the shallow entrance to Puuloa. Puuloa's ancient
9 settlements near present-day Honouliuli, also known as West
10 Loch, represent the first and oldest settlements on the island
11 of Oahu. The area near Puuloa also served as a major political
12 capital in Ewa that governed the island of Oahu.

13 The legislature also finds that Puuloa was an abundant
14 water resource that contained at least thirty loko ia,
15 traditional Hawaiian fishponds, and loi kalo, patches of land
16 for taro cultivation. A convergence of estuaries, perennial
17 freshwater springs, shallow aquifers, and healthy nutrient



1 runoff provided loko ia and loi kalo with regenerative resources
2 needed to feed surrounding settlements. However, Puuloa's
3 aquatic resources have been exposed and contaminated with
4 mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, pesticides,
5 microplastics, lead, and other harmful chemicals and materials
6 from multiple polluted runoff sources. Many toxins present in
7 Puuloa persist in the environment for significant periods of
8 time and bioaccumulate in the tissues of fish, aquatic plants,
9 and wildlife that live in the local ecosystems.

10 The legislature further finds that Malama Puuloa is a
11 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established in 2015 with a
12 mission to restore Puuloa to abundance. Through a community
13 driven approach that includes workdays, education, partnerships
14 with the community, and land-based programs, Malama Puuloa
15 focuses on rebuilding relationships between people and the land
16 to heal impacted waters and land. Since its inception, Malama
17 Puuloa has hosted over ten thousand community and school
18 volunteers to restore Puuloa's natural resources. It is
19 therefore appropriate that Malama Puuloa be honored with a
20 special license plate to further promote the organization's
21 legacy of natural resource management, perpetuation of Native



1 Hawaiian culture, and environmentalism through community-based
2 volunteer programs and education.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
4 issuance of special number plates to recognize and honor Malama
5 Puuloa.

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

9 "§249- Special number plates for Malama Puuloa

10 authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the
11 director of finance shall issue to any registered owner of a
12 motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State and has completed
13 the application and paid the required fees, a special number
14 plate for the registered owner's motor vehicle that commemorates
15 Malama Puuloa and observes the organization's contributions to
16 the restoration of Puuloa, also known as Pearl Harbor.

17 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of
18 Honolulu, in consultation with the directors of finance of the
19 counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; the chiefs of police of the
20 city and county of Honolulu and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and



1 Hawaii; and the executive director of Malama Puuloa shall
2 establish a special number plate design that:

3 (1) Contains words, images, or both, that indicate the
4 special number plate is issued to recognize Malama
5 Puuloa;

6 (2) Is similar in shape and size to the uniform state
7 number plate prescribed by law; and

8 (3) Does not obstruct the visibility of the number or
9 letters or any other information that is required by
10 law to be on a number plate and is readily
11 identifiable and distinguishable under actual traffic
12 conditions,

13 provided that the director of finance of the city and county of
14 Honolulu may also establish additional special number plate
15 designs in conformance with this subsection and subsection (c)
16 that jointly or separately recognize Malama Puuloa.

17 (c) The special number plate design shall not:

18 (1) Infringe upon or otherwise violate any trademark,
19 trade name, service mark, copyright, or other
20 proprietary or property right;



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

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

5 (4) Promote any religious belief; or

6 (5) Promote any philosophy based on prejudice or that is
7 contrary to state civil rights laws.

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

10 (e) The director of finance shall charge a special number
11 plate fee at least equal to the county's cost of providing the
12 special number plate and administrative costs, if any, plus a
13 fundraising fee to be determined by the director of finance in
14 consultation with the executive director of Malama Puuloa. The
15 fundraising fee shall be in addition to any other state or
16 county fees collected for a motor vehicle registration or
17 license plate.

18 (f) The director of finance may charge an additional
19 fundraising fee, of the same or a different amount as the
20 fundraising fee established pursuant to subsection (e), for the
21 renewal of a special number plate. If an additional fundraising



1 fee is implemented pursuant to this subsection, the director of
2 finance shall not renew and instead shall revoke the special
3 number plate of the registered owner of a motor vehicle who
4 fails to pay the additional fundraising fee imposed by this
5 subsection.

6 (g) The revenue generated by the fundraising fees, or a
7 portion of the revenue generated by the fundraising fees as
8 determined by the director of finance, shall be deposited in the
9 name of Malama Puuloa in a separate county budget account. The
10 director of finance shall determine the most efficient means of
11 directing the net revenue generated by the fundraising fees to
12 Malama Puuloa, as appropriate, to fund the restoration of
13 Puuloa, or Pearl Harbor.

14 (h) The director of finance may revoke all special number
15 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of
16 registered owners of motor vehicles who obtain the special
17 number plates is less than one hundred fifty within three years
18 of issuance of the first special number plate.

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



H.B. NO. 2715

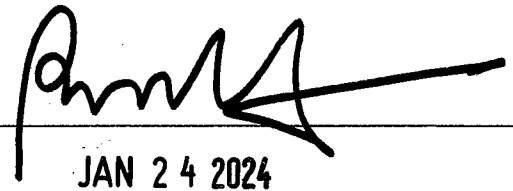
1 (j) For the purposes of this section, unless a different
2 meaning appears from the context, "special number plate" means a
3 license plate that commemorates Malama Puuloa."

4 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

6

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. M. K.', written over a horizontal line.

JAN 24 2024



H.B. NO. 2715

Report Title:

Special Number Plates; Malama Puuloa; Motor Vehicles

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Malama Puuloa.

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