
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's rainbow
2 license plate design is nearing the end of its current numbering
3 pattern and will need to be changed. The legislature further
4 finds that electric vehicle adoption is growing exponentially,
5 with many major car manufacturers phasing out gasoline-powered
6 cars completely by 2035. As a result, Hawaii's temporary
7 electric vehicle license plate numbering scheme will also soon
8 need to be changed.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Replace the electric vehicle special number plate with
11 a new, standard zero-emission vehicle number plate
12 that will eventually apply to nearly all new vehicles;
13 and
14 (2) Renumbering and extending the run of the current
15 rainbow design-bearing number plates for gasoline-
16 powered and hybrid vehicles.



1 SECTION 2. 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, for affixture
11 on:

12 (A) A zero-emission vehicle, bear the word "Hawaii"
13 along the upper portion of the plate and the
14 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of
15 the plate and contain a colorful design
16 reflecting the State's unique environment;

17 (B) A hybrid vehicle, bear the word "Hawaii" along
18 the upper portion of the plate and the words
19 "hybrid vehicle" on any portion of the plate as
20 may be determined by the directors of finance of
21 each county through majority consent and use the



1 rainbow design featured on number plates, except
2 special number plates, issued in the State
3 beginning in 1991; and

4 (C) A gasoline-powered vehicle, bear the word
5 "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and
6 the words "gas vehicle" on any portion of the
7 plate and use the rainbow design featured on
8 number plates, except special number plates,
9 issued in the State beginning in 1991;

10 [~~(2)~~] (3) Have a distinct contrast between the color of the
11 plate and the numerals and letters thereon; and

12 [~~(3)~~] (4) Be of such shape, size, and color, and with such
13 arrangements of letters and numbers as may, subject to
14 sections 249-1 to 249-13, be determined by the
15 directors of finance of each county through majority
16 consent.

17 The numerals on all such plates shall be not less than three
18 inches in height and the strokes thereof not less than three-
19 eighths inch in width, except in the case of motorcycles, in
20 which case the numerals shall not be less than one inch in
21 height and the strokes thereof not less than one-eighth inch in



1 width. The directors of finance of each county through majority
2 consent may include on any number plate appropriate diacritical
3 marks.

4 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu
5 shall contract annually on behalf of the counties for the
6 purchase of all number plates, tags, or emblems required. The
7 council of each county shall appropriate and cause to be paid
8 over to the party with whom the director of finance of the city
9 and county of Honolulu shall contract, or to the director of
10 finance of the city and county of Honolulu as the director may
11 direct, such sum or sums as the director of finance of the city
12 and county of Honolulu shall determine to be the county's
13 proportionate share of the expense of such contract and the
14 charges connected therewith. The contract shall be made by the
15 director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu as agent
16 of the several counties, and the proportionate liability of each
17 county shall be stated in the contract. Notwithstanding any
18 other provision of the law, the contract shall constitute a
19 valid obligation of each county for its proportionate share."

20 SECTION 3. The directors of finance of each county shall
21 issue a new series of number plates for any number plates issued



1 pursuant section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for affixture
2 to hybrid vehicles pursuant to section 249-9(a)(2)(B), Hawaii
3 Revised Statutes, or gasoline-powered vehicles pursuant to
4 section 249-9(a)(2)(C), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

5 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
8 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on
9 January 1, 2025.



Report Title:

DOT; Number Plates; Zero-Emission Vehicles; Hybrid Vehicles;
Gasoline-Powered Vehicles

Description:

Establishes requirements for number plates issued for zero-emission, hybrid, and gasoline-powered vehicles beginning 1/1/2025. Requires the continued use of the rainbow number plate design for hybrid and gasoline-powered vehicles.
(Proposed SD1)

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