
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.**

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



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) Not require the words "Aloha State" along the lower
14 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 number plate":~~

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.



Report Title:

City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Package; Motor Vehicles;
Number Plates; Hawaiian Diacritical Marks; Electric Vehicles

Description:

Requires license plates issued on or after 1/1/2025 to include 'okina in the word "Hawai'i". Authorizes the use of all uppercase letters, all lowercase letters, or initial capital letters for the words "Hawai'i" and "Aloha State" in motor vehicle license plates. Limits special number plates for environmental conservation to apply to electric vehicles. Specifying that the design for special number plates for environmental conservation does not require the words "Aloha State". (SD1)

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