

ACT 348

H.B. NO. 796

A Bill for an Act Relating to Motor Vehicle Insurance.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:

SECTION 1. Section 431:10C-117, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

- “(a) (1) Any person subject to this article in the capacity of the operator, owner, or registrant of a motor vehicle in this State, or registered in this State, who violates any applicable provision of this article, shall be subject to citation for the violation by any county police department in a form and manner approved by the violations bureau of the district court of the first circuit.
- (2) Notwithstanding any provision of the Hawaii Penal Code, each violation shall be deemed a separate offense and shall be subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than [\$1,000] \$5,000 which shall not be suspended; provided that if the person is convicted of not having had a no-fault policy in effect at the time the citation was issued, the fine shall be [\$100] \$1,000 for the first offense and a minimum of

[\$400] \$3,000 for each subsequent offense. In addition to the fine in this paragraph, if any person operates a motor vehicle without a valid no-fault policy in effect insuring the driver or registered owner, or both, either the driver's license of the driver and of the registered owner shall be suspended for six months or they shall be required to maintain proof of financial responsibility pursuant to section 287-21(2), (3), or (4) and keep a nonrefundable no-fault insurance policy in force for six months; provided that if the violation is a subsequent offense of driving without a valid no-fault policy, the driver's licenses of the driver and the registered owner shall be suspended for one year; and provided further that any person cited under this section shall have an opportunity to present a good faith defense, including but not limited to lack of knowledge or proof of insurance. The general penalty provision of this section shall not apply to:

- (A) Any operator of a motor vehicle owned by another person if the operator's own insurance covers such driving; [nor] or
- (B) Any operator of a motor vehicle owned by that person's employer during the normal scope of that person's employment.
- (3) In the case of multiple violations, the court shall in addition to any other penalty impose the following penalties:
 - (A) Imprisonment of not more than thirty days;
 - (B) Suspension or revocation of the motor vehicle registration plates of the vehicle involved;
 - (C) Impoundment, or impoundment and sale, of the motor vehicle for the costs of storage and other charges incident to seizure of the vehicle, or any other cost involved pursuant to section 431: 10C-301; or
 - (D) Any combination of such penalties."

SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved June 16, 1989.)