

ACT 297

H.B. NO. 1414

A Bill for an Act Relating to Abandoned Vehicles.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the number of abandoned and derelict vehicles on public streets throughout the State remains a major issue. Abandoned vehicles present a widespread environmental hazard and are a public eyesore that create unsafe and unhealthy conditions for Hawai'i's residents. Abandoned vehicles further adversely impact the availability of legal parking in many areas of the State.

The legislature further finds that this public nuisance stems from the ease of abandoning vehicles, leading to individuals having multiple abandoned vehicles registered under their name. The counties are inundated with complaints

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about abandoned and derelict vehicles and are often burdened with fronting the cost of towing and disposing of these vehicles, with no means to recoup the costs. The legislature additionally finds that more needs to be done to deter and curtail individuals from abandoning their vehicles by expanding penalties for those who have multiple abandoned vehicles.

Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to make a person who is the registered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict subject to a tiered fine system.

SECTION 2. Chapter 290, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

“§290- Abandoned vehicles; repeat offender; penalty. A person who is the registered owner of a vehicle that was deemed abandoned or derelict pursuant to this chapter shall be subject to a fine for each vehicle as follows:

- (1) For the third violation, a fine of \$750; and
- (2) For a fourth or subsequent violation, a fine of \$1,000.”

SECTION 3. This Act does not affect rights and duties that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were begun before its effective date.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.¹

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

(Approved July 12, 2022.)

Note

1. Edited pursuant to HRS §23G-16.5.