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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Significant increases in the number of  
2 abandoned and derelict vehicles being discarded on Hawaii's  
3 roadways degrade the beauty of our island state and pose a  
4 danger to the public by creating unsafe driving conditions on  
5 our highways. While towing companies provide a valuable public  
6 service for Hawaii's motorists by removing many of these  
7 vehicles in a timely manner, increased costs in operating a  
8 towing service, along with increased "scrapping" costs for the  
9 disposal of unclaimed or derelict vehicles, have caused tow  
10 operators to incur financial hardships. Moreover, the current  
11 notification process required by law for the disposition of a  
12 motor vehicle that has been towed and determined to be abandoned  
13 or derelict is lengthy. In some instances, the process has  
14 taken upwards of three months. This increases costs incurred by  
15 the towing company for storage of the towed vehicle.

16           While the county in which the towing company is located is  
17 most often the requestor for the towing company to remove these  
18 abandoned and derelict motor vehicles, the county only pays for



1 the initial towing service and does not pay for any storage fees  
2 incurred with the towed motor vehicle even though the storage of  
3 the vehicle may be of considerable cost to the towing company.  
4 A possible solution to this growing problem is to use funds from  
5 the highway beautification and disposal of abandoned or derelict  
6 vehicles revolving fund to defray some of the costs associated  
7 with storage of abandoned or derelict vehicles until they can be  
8 sold at auction or scrapped.

9 Removal of these vehicles should be accomplished as rapidly  
10 as possible. Providing the county and tow companies with the  
11 tools necessary to take custody and properly dispose of  
12 abandoned vehicles in a more efficient manner will aid in this  
13 task.

14 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to allow counties  
15 to increase registration fees and thereby increase deposits into  
16 the highway beautification and disposal of abandoned or derelict  
17 vehicles revolving fund to defray costs associated with the  
18 storage of abandoned or derelict vehicles.

19 SECTION 2. Section 286-51, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

21 "(b) This part shall be administered by the director of  
22 finance in conjunction with the requirements of sections 249-1



1 to 249-13 and shall entail no additional expense or charge to  
2 the person registering the ownership of a motor vehicle other  
3 than as provided by this section or by other laws; provided that  
4 for each new certificate of ownership issued by the director of  
5 finance under section 286-52, the director of finance may charge  
6 a fee which shall be deposited in the general fund. The fees  
7 charged to issue a new certificate of ownership shall be  
8 established by the county's legislative body.

9 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, an  
10 additional fee of not more than \$1 for each certificate of  
11 registration for a U-drive motor vehicle and \$2 for each  
12 certificate of registration for all other motor vehicles may be  
13 established by ordinance and collected annually by the director  
14 of finance of each county, to be used and administered by each  
15 county:

- 16 (1) For the purpose of beautification and other related  
17 activities of highways under the ownership, control,  
18 and jurisdiction of each county; and
- 19 (2) To defray the additional cost in the disposition and  
20 other related activities of abandoned or derelict  
21 vehicles as prescribed in chapter 290. For the  
22 purposes of this paragraph, other related activities



1           shall include but need not be limited to any and all  
2           storage fees that are negotiated between each county  
3           and a towing company contracted by the county to  
4           remove and dispose of abandoned or derelict vehicles.

5 The \$2 fee established pursuant to this subsection for  
6 certificates of registration for motor vehicles other than  
7 U-drive motor vehicles may be increased by ordinance up to a  
8 maximum of [~~\$5+~~] \$ \_\_\_\_\_; provided that all amounts received from  
9 any fee increase over \$2 shall be expended only for the purposes  
10 of paragraph (2). The moneys so assessed and collected shall be  
11 placed in a revolving fund entitled, "the highway beautification  
12 and disposal of abandoned or derelict vehicles revolving fund".

13           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Abandoned Vehicles

**Description:**

Allows counties to increase registration fees to defray costs associated with the storage of abandoned or derelict vehicles.  
(SD1)

