

JAN 20 2012

S.B. NO. 2213

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO VEHICLE PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Chapter 249, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§249- Number plates; county determination. Each county
5 shall determine whether the county shall require two number
6 plates or one number plate for a vehicle registered in the
7 county; provided that if the county determines that one number
8 plate is sufficient, the plate shall be placed on the rear of
9 the vehicle."

10 SECTION 2. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
11 amended as follows:

12 1. By amending subsections (a) and (b) to read:

13 "(a) Upon receipt of the tax the director of finance shall
14 number and register the vehicle in the owner's name in a
15 permanent record or book to be kept by the director for this
16 purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof with a receipt
17 showing upon its face the license number issued for the vehicle
18 and the fact that the license tax has been paid thereon for the



1 whole or the remainder of the current year in which the receipt
2 is issued. The director of finance shall also furnish the
3 owner, upon the original registration of the vehicle, [~~two~~] the
4 appropriate number plate or plates for the vehicle [~~or one plate~~
5 ~~in the case of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles~~] with the
6 registration number marked thereon. Upon the payment of the tax
7 for each year a tag or emblem bearing a serial number and the
8 month and year of expiration shall be provided to the owner.
9 Transfer of the current number plate or plates [~~7~~] and tag [~~7~~] or
10 emblem, except as authorized by this chapter or by chapter 286,
11 is punishable by a fine of not more than \$50 for each offense.

12 (b) Upon an original registration the director of finance
13 shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the
14 cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the
15 administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem
16 and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new
17 series of number plates as determined by the directors of
18 finance of each county through majority consent, the director of
19 finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the
20 number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the
21 plate or plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of
22 finance shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner



1 shall securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on
2 the front and the other on the rear[7] in the case of two
3 plates, or on the rear, in the case of one plate, at a location
4 provided by the manufacturer or in the absence of such a
5 location upon the bumpers of the vehicle and in conformance with
6 section 291-31, in such a manner as to prevent the plates from
7 swinging. Number plates shall at all times be displayed
8 entirely unobscured and be kept reasonably clean. [~~In the case~~
9 ~~of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles, one plate shall be~~
10 ~~used and it shall be fastened to the rear thereof at a location~~
11 ~~provided by the manufacturer or in the absence of such a~~
12 ~~location at the rear thereof, and in the case of motorcycles in~~
13 ~~conformance with section 291-31.] "~~

14 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

15 "(e) If an owner of a vehicle registered in any county,
16 upon the disposition of the vehicle, requests that the [~~license~~]
17 number plate or plates furnished to the owner with respect to
18 the registration of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle
19 subsequently acquired by the owner, the assignment may be made
20 by the director of finance at the director's discretion. To
21 defray additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to
22 those requests, the director of finance shall charge a fee of



1 ~~[\$5]~~ \$75 for each reassignment of ~~[license]~~ number plate or
2 plates, in addition to the fee for registration. The procedure
3 for registering the vehicles shall otherwise be identical with
4 that provided by this section."

5 SECTION 3. Section 249-7.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 **"§249-7.5 New motor vehicle with a temporary number plate.**

8 Any person who has purchased a new motor vehicle which has
9 attached a temporary number plate under section 286-53 shall
10 register the new motor vehicle in accordance with this chapter
11 within thirty days after taking possession of the motor vehicle.
12 For the purposes of this chapter, the registration of such a
13 motor vehicle shall be considered an original registration under
14 section 249-7. Within thirty days of the original registration
15 of such a motor vehicle, the director of finance shall furnish
16 ~~[two]~~ the appropriate number plate or plates and the valid tag
17 or emblem appropriate for the year of registration, if any,
18 which shall be attached to the motor vehicle as provided under
19 section 249-7. Upon attachment of the number plates, the
20 temporary number plate provided under section 286-53 shall be
21 destroyed."



SECTION 4. Section 249-9.2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended as follows:

1. By amending subsection (a) to read:

"(a) In lieu of the number plates contracted on behalf of the counties by the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, the director of finance shall provide, for a fee, ~~[one set of]~~ the appropriate special number plate or plates upon the receipt of an application together with:

- (1) Specific proof that the applicant was awarded the Purple Heart by the United States Department of Defense for wounds received in military or naval combat against an armed enemy of the United States;
- (2) Certification that the applicant is a veteran;
- (3) Specific proof that the applicant was serving the United States in the military or as a civilian, on Oahu, or offshore at a distance of not more than three miles at the time of the December 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor. Certification from the Hawaii state chairperson of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association shall constitute sufficient proof;



(4) Specific proof that the applicant was confined as a prisoner of war while providing military service to the United States;

(5) Certification from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the state office of veterans' services that the applicant is a combat veteran or a veteran of the Vietnam conflict, the Korean conflict, World War II, or the Persian Gulf conflict; or

(6) Specific proof that the applicant would qualify for a gold star lapel button under the criteria established by Title 10 United States Code Section 1126; provided that the applicant shall not be disqualified for the special number plates because the applicant is the grandparent of the deceased member of the United States armed forces;

provided that applicants, except civilian applicants under paragraph (3) and civilian applicants and applicants who are currently serving the United States in the military under paragraph (6), shall also provide a copy of the applicant's most recent discharge paper or separation document that indicates an honorable discharge or general (under honorable conditions) discharge from active duty."



2. By amending subsection (c) to read:

"(c) Registration certificates and license plates issued under this section shall not be transferable to any other person. Special number plates for military service shall be assigned to a noncommercial passenger motor vehicle, a noncommercial motorcycle, or motor scooter registered in the name of the qualified applicant and shall be available in any category of special number plates for military service. Prior to the transfer of the ownership of the qualified person's vehicle to another party, the special number plate or plates shall be surrendered to the director of finance as a condition to the issuance of replacement special number plates; provided that the director of finance shall allow the survivor of the qualified person, upon request, to retain [~~the front~~] one special number plate as a memorial."

SECTION 5. Section 249-9.4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§249-9.4 Special series number plates. A qualified household member, as defined in section 291E-1, or a co-owner of a motor vehicle owned by a respondent under part III of chapter 291E, who has been granted a special motor vehicle registration under section 291E-48, shall apply to the appropriate county



1 director of finance for the appropriate special number plate or
2 plates that shall bear a special series of numbers or letter so
3 as to be readily identifiable by law enforcement officers and
4 readily distinguishable from number plates or special number
5 plates issued under sections 249-9.1, 249-9.2, and 249-9.3. The
6 director of finance may issue the special series number plates
7 only if:

8 (1) The director of finance receives written approval for
9 the issuance of special series number plates from the
10 administrative director of the courts, or the
11 administrative director's appointee pursuant to
12 section 291E-1;

13 (2) The qualified household member or a co-owner of the
14 motor vehicle has a license that has not expired or
15 been suspended or revoked; and

16 (3) The applicant pays a fee for the special series number
17 plates that is equal to the costs of the plates and
18 tag or emblem, plus the administrative costs of
19 furnishing the plates and tag or emblem and effecting
20 the registration for each motor vehicle for which
21 special series number plates are issued."



S.B. NO. 2273

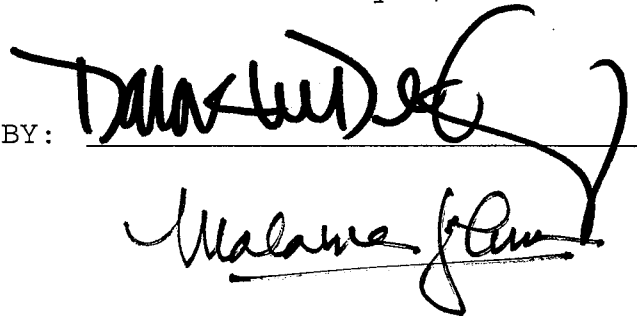
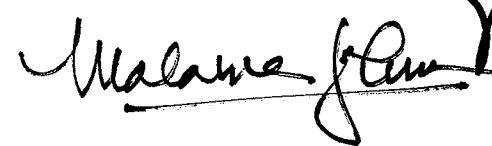
1 SECTION 6. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
2 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
3 begun before its effective date.

4 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
5 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

6 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

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INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 2273

Report Title:

Vehicles; Number Plates; Counties

Description:

Authorizes each county to determine whether the county shall require two number plates or one number plate for a vehicle registered in the county; raises fee for plate reassignment from \$5 to \$75.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

