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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 249-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:  
3           "(a) All vehicles taxable under sections 249-1, 249-2,  
4 249-4 and 249-6 to 249-13, which are stored so that they are not  
5 used for transportation, or for the other purposes covered by  
6 section 249-2, shall be exempt from the tax for the period of  
7 storage; provided that the owner of each vehicle shall first  
8 present to the director of finance a signed statement of the  
9 fact of the storage, together with other relevant facts as may  
10 be required by the director of finance and shall surrender the  
11 last issued certificate of registration, license plate or  
12 plates, and emblem for the vehicle. If the affidavit,  
13 certificate of registration, license plate or plates, and emblem  
14 are presented to the director of finance after the expiration of  
15 the vehicle's registration period, then the unpaid tax for each  
16 month the license plate or plates could have been validated with  
17 an emblem plus the fee for the currently issued license plate or



## H.B. NO. 132

1 plates and emblem shall be paid in full upon presenting the  
2 affidavit.

3 (b) The director of finance may dispose of the license  
4 plate or plates for any vehicle whose registration has expired  
5 and the owner shall be required to purchase a new license  
6 [~~plates~~] plate and a new emblem upon removing the vehicle from  
7 storage."

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

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

11 "(a) Upon receipt of the tax the director of finance shall  
12 number and register the vehicle in the owner's name in a  
13 permanent record or book to be kept by the director for this  
14 purpose, and shall furnish the owner thereof with a receipt  
15 showing upon its face the license number issued for the vehicle  
16 and the fact that the license tax has been paid thereon for the  
17 whole or the remainder of the current year in which the receipt  
18 is issued. The director of finance shall also furnish the  
19 owner, upon the original registration of the vehicle, [~~two~~] one  
20 number [~~plates~~] plate for the vehicle [~~or one plate in the case~~  
21 ~~of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles~~] with the registration



1 number marked thereon. Upon the payment of the tax for each  
2 year a tag or emblem bearing a serial number and the month and  
3 year of expiration shall be provided to the owner. Transfer of  
4 current number plates, tag, or emblem, except as authorized by  
5 this chapter or by chapter 286, is punishable by a fine of not  
6 more than \$50 for each offense.

7 (b) Upon an original registration the director of finance  
8 shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the  
9 cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the  
10 administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem  
11 and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new  
12 ~~[series of]~~ number ~~[plates]~~ plate as determined by the directors  
13 of finance of each county through majority consent, the director  
14 of finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of  
15 the number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the  
16 ~~[plates.]~~ plate. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of  
17 finance shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. The owner  
18 shall securely fasten the number ~~[plates]~~ plate on the rear of  
19 the vehicle, ~~[one on the front and the other on the rear,]~~  
20 trailer, semitrailer, or motorcycle at a location provided by  
21 the manufacturer or in the absence of such a location upon the



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

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

12 "(e) If an owner of a vehicle registered in any county,  
13 upon the disposition of the vehicle, requests that the license  
14 plate or plates furnished to the owner with respect to the  
15 registration of the vehicle be assigned to another vehicle  
16 subsequently acquired by the owner, the assignment may be made  
17 by the director of finance at the director's discretion. To  
18 defray additional administrative costs incurred by acceding to  
19 those requests, the director of finance shall charge a fee of \$5  
20 for each reassignment of a license plate or plates, in addition  
21 to the fee for registration. The procedure for registering the



1 vehicles shall otherwise be identical with that provided by this  
2 section."

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

5 **"§249-7.5 New motor vehicle with a temporary number plate.**

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

19 SECTION 4. Section 286-22, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:



## H.B. NO. 132

1           "(c) If upon inspection, the chief of police or any police  
2 officer determines that any vehicle or moped is in such unsafe  
3 condition as to constitute a menace to the public or is not  
4 equipped as required and cannot reasonably be restored to a safe  
5 condition as required in this part, the chief of police or  
6 police officer shall remove the sticker which signifies the  
7 certificate of inspection and inform the director of finance who  
8 shall immediately suspend the registration of the vehicle or  
9 moped and give notice of the suspension to its owner. Whenever  
10 the director of finance has suspended the registration of any  
11 vehicle or moped under this part, the owner of the vehicle or  
12 moped shall immediately surrender and forward to the director of  
13 finance the certificate of registration and the license plate or  
14 plates last issued upon registration of the vehicle for the  
15 current year."

16           SECTION 5. Section 286-48, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17 amended by amending subsections (a) and (b) to read as follows:

18           "(a) Whenever a motor vehicle subject to registration  
19 under this part is sold as salvage or conveyed to an insurance  
20 company, in the ordinary course of business or as the result of  
21 a total loss insurance settlement where the insurance company



1 receives the certificates of registration and ownership, the  
2 purchaser or, if an insurance company its authorized agent,  
3 shall within ten days from the purchase, or the settlement of  
4 the insurance loss, forward the motor vehicle's endorsed  
5 certificate of ownership or other evidence of title, certificate  
6 of registration, license plate or plates, and an application for  
7 a salvage certificate as provided for in section 286-44.5, to  
8 the director of finance. If the certificate of registration or  
9 ~~[one or both]~~ any license [plates are] plate is lost, an  
10 affidavit, duly notarized and signed by the party responsible  
11 for the compliance of this section stating that the party has no  
12 knowledge of the location of the certificate of registration or  
13 the license plates, shall be filed with the director of finance  
14 of the county having jurisdiction over the vehicle. In any  
15 event the certificate of ownership or other evidence of title  
16 shall be forwarded to the director of finance.

17 (b) Upon receipt of the certificate of ownership,  
18 certificate of registration, license plate or plates, and  
19 application for a salvage certificate, the director of finance  
20 shall issue a salvage certificate in the name of the purchaser  
21 or insurance company."



# H.B. NO. 132

1 SECTION 6. Section 290-8, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"§290-8 Derelict vehicle.** A vehicle shall be deemed a  
4 derelict vehicle by the administrative head of the county agency  
5 designated to carry out section 290-1, or by the executive  
6 director or a representative of the executive director of the  
7 Hawaii public housing authority in the case of a vehicle that  
8 has been abandoned on property owned, managed, or administered  
9 by the authority, if a part has been removed or material damage  
10 to the vehicle has rendered the vehicle inoperable and one of  
11 the following conditions exists:

12 (1) The vehicle is registered for the current registration  
13 period and the registered and legal owners no longer  
14 reside at the addresses on record with the county  
15 director of finance;

16 (2) The vehicle has been registered for the current or  
17 previous registration period and the registered and  
18 legal owners disclaim ownership, or a notice of  
19 transfer has been submitted by the registered and  
20 legal owners and recorded with the director of finance  
21 and the new owner has not transferred the title or



# H.B. NO. 132

1 registration into the new owner's name within thirty  
2 days of release;

3 (3) The vehicle identification number and any license  
4 [~~plates have~~] plate has been removed so as to nullify  
5 efforts to locate or identify the current registered  
6 and legal owners;

7 (4) The vehicle has not been registered for the previous  
8 twelve month period; or

9 (5) The vehicle registration records of the county  
10 director of finance contain no record that the vehicle  
11 has ever been registered in the county.

12 Prior to authorizing the removal of a derelict vehicle, the  
13 administrative head of the county agency designated to carry out  
14 section 290-1 or the executive director or a representative of  
15 the executive director of the Hawaii public housing authority in  
16 the case of vehicles that have been abandoned on property owned,  
17 managed, or operated by the authority, shall notify the county  
18 chief of police only if the vehicle is reported stolen or  
19 otherwise needed for police investigation."

20 SECTION 7. Section 431:10C-114, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
21 is amended to read as follows:



1           "§431:10C-114 Insured's obligations upon termination of  
2 **insurance.** An owner of a motor vehicle registered in this State  
3 who fails to maintain insurance as required by section 431:10C-  
4 104 shall:

- 5           (1) Immediately surrender the registration certificate and  
6           license plate or plates for the vehicle to the county  
7           director of finance; and  
8           (2) Not operate or permit operation of the vehicle in this  
9           State until insurance has again been obtained."

10          SECTION 8. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
11 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
12 begun before its effective date.

13          SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15          SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: Jack Czym  
JAN 21 2021



# H.B. NO. 132

**Report Title:**

License Plates; Issuance

**Description:**

Requires the director of finance to furnish to an owner of a vehicle one, rather than two, number plate for the vehicle. Makes conforming amendments.

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

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