

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TOW TRUCK PRICING.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 290-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:

3           1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

4           "(b) Towing companies engaged by the owner, occupant, or  
5 person in charge of the property shall:

6           (1) Charge not more than [~~\$65~~] \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a tow, [~~or~~  
7           ~~\$75~~] \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a tow using a dolly, or  
8           \$\_\_\_\_\_ for a tow using a flatbed, plus [a]:

9           (A) A mileage charge of \$7.50 per mile towed; and  
10           [\$25]

11           (B) A storage charge of \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day or  
12           fraction thereof [~~for storage for the first seven~~  
13           days and \$20 per day thereafter.], unless the  
14           vehicle occupies more than one stall because of  
15           its size, in which case a storage charge of  
16           \$\_\_\_\_\_ per day or fraction thereof.



1 In the case of a difficult hookup, a towing surcharge  
2 of \$30 shall apply. When the tow occurs between the  
3 hours of six o'clock p.m. and six o'clock a.m., from  
4 Monday through Thursday and from six o'clock p.m.  
5 Friday to six o'clock a.m. Monday, the towing company  
6 shall be entitled to an overtime charge of [~~\$15.~~]  
7 \$ . If the towing company is required to  
8 clean up the road at the scene of the tow, the towing  
9 company shall be entitled to a clean-up charge of  
10 \$ . Unless otherwise compensated pursuant to  
11 subsection (d), the towing company shall be entitled  
12 to a documentation fee of \$ to comply with  
13 the written notification and, if necessary,  
14 advertising, title transfer, and other documentation  
15 requirements of this part. The charges listed in this  
16 paragraph shall be the only charges tow companies are  
17 authorized to charge vehicle owners. For purposes of  
18 this paragraph, "difficult hookup" shall mean an above  
19 or below ground hookup in a multilevel facility;

20 (2) If the vehicle is in the process of being hooked up,  
21 meaning up to the point when the tow truck is driving



1 away, and the vehicle owner appears on the scene, the  
2 tow company shall release the vehicle to the vehicle  
3 owner at a location that ensures the safety of all  
4 persons and property involved, regardless of whether  
5 the release occurs on the scene or if the vehicle must  
6 be removed from the scene to be safely released;  
7 provided that no fee will be charged to the vehicle  
8 owner under this paragraph;

9 (3) Determine the name of the legal owner and the last  
10 registered owner of the vehicle from the department of  
11 transportation or the county department of finance.  
12 The legal owner and the last registered owner shall be  
13 notified in writing at the address on record with the  
14 department of transportation or with the county  
15 department of finance by registered or certified mail  
16 of the location of the vehicle, together with a  
17 description of the vehicle, within a reasonable period  
18 not to exceed fifteen days following the tow. The  
19 notice shall state:

20 (A) The maximum towing charges and fees allowed by  
21 law;



1 (B) The telephone number of the consumer information  
2 service of the department of commerce and  
3 consumer affairs; and

4 (C) That if the vehicle is not recovered within  
5 thirty days after the mailing of the notice, the  
6 vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and will be  
7 sold or disposed of as junk.

8 Where the legal owner and the last registered owner  
9 have not been notified pursuant to this paragraph, the  
10 vehicle may be recovered by the vehicle owner from the  
11 towing company without paying tow or storage fees.

12 The notice need not be sent to a legal owner or last  
13 registered owner or any person with an unrecorded  
14 interest in the vehicle whose name or address cannot  
15 be determined. Absent evidence to the contrary, a  
16 notice shall be deemed received by the legal owner or  
17 last registered owner five days after the mailing;

18 (4) Provide, when a vehicle is recovered by the vehicle  
19 owner, the vehicle owner with a receipt stating:

20 (A) The maximum towing charges and fees allowed by  
21 law; and



1 (B) The telephone number of the consumer information  
2 service of the department of commerce and  
3 consumer affairs; and

4 (5) Accommodate payment by the vehicle owner for charges  
5 under paragraph (1) by cash, credit card, or debit  
6 card."

7 2. By amending subsection (f) to read:

8 "(f) Notwithstanding any law or ordinance to the contrary,  
9 including subsection (h) and section 46-20.5, any towing company  
10 engaged in towing in a county with a population greater than  
11 five hundred thousand shall offer towing services to consumers  
12 twenty-four hours per day every day of the week. The towing  
13 services shall include the release of vehicles kept in storage  
14 to an insurer, vehicle owner, or a designated representative."

15 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Abandoned Vehicles; Tow Truck Pricing

**Description:**

Adjusts towing company charges and fees for vehicles left unattended or abandoned. Establishes a clean-up charge and documentation fee. (SD1)

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

