
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii is one of the
2 most beautiful places on the planet, with breathtaking
3 landscapes, lush tropical forests, and rich ocean resources.
4 The State is home to amazing ecosystems that include a unique
5 mix of flora and fauna, including dozens of endemic Hawaiian
6 birds that can be found nowhere else on earth; approximately
7 one thousand four hundred species of native plants,
8 ninety per cent of which are endemic to the State; and familiar
9 marine mammals that are closely associated with the State,
10 including the Hawaiian monk seal and humpback whale.

11 The legislature also finds that state residents understand
12 the importance of these unique resources and appreciate their
13 value. More specifically, residents appreciate the beloved
14 native and endemic plants and animals of Hawaii, strongly
15 believe that these resources must be preserved for future
16 generations, and support opportunities to directly contribute to
17 the conservation of these critical resources.

18 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:



- 1 (1) Establish special number motor vehicle license plates
- 2 that commemorate the importance of environmental
- 3 conservation, and use proceeds from the special number
- 4 plate program to fund conservation and protection
- 5 efforts; and
- 6 (2) Increase initial application and renewal fees for
- 7 special number plates.

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

11 "§249- Special number plates for environmental
 12 conservation; authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the
 13 contrary, the director of finance shall issue to any registered
 14 owner of a motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State and has
 15 completed the application and paid the required fees, special
 16 number plates that commemorate the importance of environmental
 17 conservation, for the registered owner's motor vehicle.

18 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of
 19 Honolulu shall establish special number plate designs that
 20 commemorate the importance of environmental conservation. The
 21 design shall:



1 (1) Contain words or images, or both, that indicate that
2 the special number plate is being issued to
3 commemorate the importance of environmental
4 conservation;

5 (2) Be similar in shape and size to the uniform state
6 number plate prescribed by law; and

7 (3) Be readily identifiable and distinguishable under
8 actual traffic conditions.

9 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall
10 consult with the directors of finance of the counties of Kauai,
11 Maui, and Hawaii; the chiefs of police of the city and county of
12 Honolulu and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; and the
13 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources in
14 establishing the special number plate design, which shall be
15 visually attractive and highlight Hawaii's environment, native
16 species, or both.

17 (c) Each special number plate design shall not:

18 (1) Infringe upon or otherwise violate any trademark,
19 trade name, service mark, copyright, or other
20 proprietary or property right;



1 (2) Represent any obscene or degrading image, idea, word,
2 or phrase;

3 (3) Advertise or endorse a product, brand, or service that
4 is provided for sale;

5 (4) Promote any religious belief;

6 (5) Promote any philosophy based on prejudice or that is
7 contrary to state civil rights laws; or

8 (6) Obstruct the visibility of the number plate's numbers
9 or letters or any other information that is required
10 by law to be on a number plate.

11 (d) Each special number plate shall be securely fastened
12 to the motor vehicle in lieu of the uniform state number plate.

13 (e) The director of finance shall charge a special number
14 plate fee at least equal to the county's cost of providing the
15 special number plate and administrative costs, if any, plus a
16 fundraising fee to be set by the department of land and natural
17 resources. The fundraising fee established by this subsection
18 shall be in addition to any other state or county fees collected
19 for a motor vehicle registration or license plates.

20 (f) The revenue generated by the fundraising fees
21 established pursuant to subsection (e) shall be deposited into



1 the conservation and resources enforcement special fund
2 established under section 199-1.5.

3 (g) The director of finance may revoke all special number
4 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of
5 registered owners of motor vehicles that obtain the special
6 number plates is less than one hundred fifty within three years
7 of issuance of the first special number plate.

8 (h) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to
9 any plates issued pursuant to section 249-9.2.

10 (i) For the purposes of this section, unless a different
11 meaning appears from the context, "special number plate" means a
12 license plate that is not a uniform state number plate."

13 SECTION 3. Section 199-1.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

15 "(b) The following shall be deposited into the
16 conservation and resources enforcement special fund:

17 (1) Grants, awards, donations, gifts, transfers, or moneys
18 derived from public or private sources for the
19 purposes of enforcing the provisions of title 12;
20 chapters 6D, 6E, and 6K; or any rule adopted
21 thereunder;



1 (2) Fees, reimbursements, administrative charges, and
2 penalties collected for activities related to the
3 enforcement of natural, cultural, and historic
4 resources protection laws and rules, except as
5 otherwise provided by law that provides for deposits
6 into other special funds administered by the
7 department;

8 (3) Moneys derived from interest, dividends, or other
9 income from the above-mentioned sources; ~~and~~

10 (4) Revenues generated from section 249- ; and

11 ~~[-(4)]~~ (5) Appropriations by the legislature to the special
12 fund."

13 SECTION 4. Section 249-9.1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§249-9.1 Special number plates.** In addition to the
16 number plates contracted on behalf of the counties by the
17 director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu, the
18 director of finance may provide, upon request, special number
19 plates. The special number plates shall conform to the
20 requirements provided for the uniform number plates except that
21 the owner may request the choice and arrangement of letters and



1 numbers. The maximum number of letters and numbers shall be six
2 and only one hyphen will be allowed in addition to and in lieu
3 of the six letters and numerals. No other punctuation marks
4 shall be allowed. The director of finance shall not issue
5 special number plates which have the letter and numeral
6 combination of regular plates, are misleading or publicly
7 objectionable. The fee for special number plates shall be [~~\$25~~]
8 \$60 upon initial application and [~~\$25~~] \$60 upon each annual
9 renewal of the vehicle registration. This fee shall not be
10 refundable. Re-application for special number plates must be
11 made upon a change in design of regular plates. The director of
12 finance may discard and allow for new applications of inactive
13 special number plates that have not been assigned or registered
14 during the preceding three years. The director of finance shall
15 adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to carry out this section."

16 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
19 provided that section 4 shall take effect on January 1, 2022.



S.B. NO. 772
S.D. 2
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

Report Title:

Counties; Board of Land and Natural Resources; Special Number Plates; Environmental Conservation

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to support environmental conservation, with proceeds from the program to be used to fund conservation efforts. Adjusts the initial application and renewal fees for special number plates beginning 1/1/22. (CD1)

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

