

MAR 11 2022

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AN OPTION THAT ALLOWS STATE RESIDENTS TO REMIT THEIR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAXES AND FEES ON A PRO-RATED BIENNIAL BASIS AND CONSIDER A PROCESS THAT ESTABLISHES A MORATORIUM ON MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAXES AND FEES.

1 WHEREAS, the high costs of housing, food, health care,
2 transportation, and other goods and services in the State are
3 felt by Hawaii residents statewide, but particularly by low-
4 income individuals; and

5
6 WHEREAS, household spending on transportation represents a
7 primary expense for households in the State and the rest of the
8 nation; and

9
10 WHEREAS, according to the United States Department of
11 Transportation, households spent an average of \$9,826 on
12 transportation in 2020, the second largest household expenditure
13 category after housing when spending on behalf of households,
14 such as health care benefits, is excluded; and

15
16 WHEREAS, all motor vehicles in the State, including motor
17 vehicle ownership transfers, are subject to registration taxes
18 and fees; and

19
20 WHEREAS, low-income individuals may not be able to pay the
21 taxes and fees associated with motor vehicle registration in
22 lump sum or may experience financial hardship in doing so; and

23
24 WHEREAS, motor vehicles are necessary for travel to and
25 from work and to carry out other daily activities even if the
26 owner of the motor vehicle is unable to afford the motor vehicle
27 registration taxes and fees; and

28



S.C.R. NO. 234

1 WHEREAS, if an individual is unable to pay for the taxes
2 and fees associated with motor vehicle registration and incurs a
3 penalty for late registration of the motor vehicle, the cycle of
4 financial hardship on the individual continues and the fiscal
5 responsibilities increase as delinquent fees and other costs
6 continue to mount; and
7

8 WHEREAS, while a statewide moratorium was established
9 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic on evictions for
10 nonpayment of rent, no moratorium was established for nonpayment
11 of motor vehicle registration taxes and fees; and
12

13 WHEREAS, a possible solution to alleviate the financial
14 hardships experienced by low-income individuals and other
15 qualified individuals is to allow these individuals to pay their
16 motor vehicle registration taxes and fees on a pro-rated
17 biannual basis; and
18

19 WHEREAS, establishing a moratorium on payments of motor
20 vehicle registration taxes and fees, similar to the moratorium
21 on rent and mortgage payments that existed during the height of
22 the COVID-19 pandemic in the State, would also enable
23 individuals to recover financially as the pandemic improves;
24 now, therefore,
25

26 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first
27 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the
28 House of Representatives concurring, that the counties are urged
29 to develop an option that allows state residents to remit their
30 motor vehicle registration taxes and fees on a pro-rated
31 biannual basis; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are also urged to
34 consider a process that establishes a moratorium on motor
35 vehicle registration taxes and fees; and
36

37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
38 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and Council
39 Chairpersons of the City and County of Honolulu and the counties
40 of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of
41 Customer Services of the City and County of Honolulu;
42 Administrator of the Vehicle Registration and Licensing Division



S.C.R. NO. 234

1 of the County of Hawaii; Administrator of the Driver License
2 Division and Motor Vehicle Division of the County of Kauai; and
3 Administrator of the Motor Vehicle and Licensing Division of the
4 County of Maui.

5
6
7

OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a horizontal line.