

MAR 11 2022

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

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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  
29 WHEREAS, if an individual is unable to pay for the taxes  
30 and fees associated with motor vehicle registration and incurs a



1 penalty for late registration of the motor vehicle, the cycle of  
2 financial hardship on the individual continues and the fiscal  
3 responsibilities increase as delinquent fees and other costs  
4 continue to mount; and

5  
6 WHEREAS, while a statewide moratorium was established  
7 during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic on evictions for  
8 nonpayment of rent, no moratorium was established for nonpayment  
9 of motor vehicle registration taxes and fees; and

10  
11 WHEREAS, a possible solution to alleviate the financial  
12 hardships experienced by low-income individuals and other  
13 qualified individuals is to allow these individuals to pay their  
14 motor vehicle registration taxes and fees on a pro-rated  
15 biannual basis; and

16  
17 WHEREAS, establishing a moratorium on payments of motor  
18 vehicle registration taxes and fees, similar to the moratorium  
19 on rent and mortgage payments that existed during the height of  
20 the COVID-19 pandemic in the State, would also enable  
21 individuals to recover financially as the pandemic improves;  
22 now, therefore,

23  
24 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-first  
25 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022,  
26 that the counties are urged to develop an option that allows  
27 state residents to remit their motor vehicle registration taxes  
28 and fees on a pro-rated biannual basis; and

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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the counties are also urged to  
31 consider a process that establishes a moratorium on motor  
32 vehicle registration taxes and fees; and

33  
34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
35 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and Council Chairpersons  
36 of the City and County of Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii,  
37 Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of Customer Services  
38 of the City and County of Honolulu; Administrator of the Vehicle  
39 Registration and Licensing Division of the County of Hawaii;  
40 Administrator of the Driver License Division and Motor Vehicle  
41 Division of the County of Kauai; and Administrator of the Motor  
42 Vehicle and Licensing Division of the County of Maui.



S.R. NO. 135

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OFFERED BY:

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