
HOUSE RESOLUTION

URGING THE COUNTIES TO DEVELOP AN OPTION THAT ALLOWS STATE
RESIDENTS TO REMIT THEIR MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION TAXES
AND FEES ON A PRO-RATED SEMIANNUAL BASIS.

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

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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29 WHEREAS, if an individual is unable to pay for the taxes
30 and fees associated with motor vehicle registration and incurs a
31 penalty for late registration of the motor vehicle, the cycle of
32 financial hardship on the individual continues and the fiscal



1 responsibilities increase as delinquent fees and other costs
2 continue to mount; and
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4 WHEREAS, while a statewide moratorium was established
5 during the height of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 pandemic on
6 evictions for nonpayment of rent, no moratorium was established
7 for nonpayment of motor vehicle registration taxes and fees; and
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9 WHEREAS, a possible solution to alleviate the financial
10 hardships experienced by low-income individuals and other
11 qualified individuals is to allow these individuals to pay their
12 motor vehicle registration taxes and fees on a pro-rated
13 biannual basis; now, therefore,
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15 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
16 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
17 of 2022, that the counties are urged to develop an option that
18 allows state residents to remit their motor vehicle registration
19 taxes and fees on a pro-rated semiannual basis; and
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21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
22 Resolution be transmitted to the Mayors and Council Chairpersons
23 of the City and County of Honolulu and the counties of Hawaii,
24 Kauai, and Maui; Director of the Department of Customer Services
25 of the City and County of Honolulu; Administrator of the Vehicle
26 Registration and Licensing Division of the County of Hawaii;
27 Administrator of the Driver License Division and Motor Vehicle
28 Division of the County of Kauai; and Administrator of the Motor
29 Vehicle and Licensing Division of the County of Maui.

