



GOV. MSG. NO. 1160

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA

June 5, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate,
and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

✓The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, and Members of the
House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 5, 2023, the following bill was signed into law:

HB494 HD1 SD1 CD1

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.
ACT 060

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.
Governor, State of Hawai'i

on JUN 5 2023

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023
STATE OF HAWAII

H.B. NO. 494
H.D. 1
S.D. 1
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 286-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§286-52 Procedure when title or interest of vehicle
4 transferred; delivery of certificate mandatory. (a) Upon a
5 transfer of the title or interest of a legal owner in or to a
6 vehicle registered under this part, the person whose title or
7 interest is to be transferred and the transferee shall write
8 their signatures with pen and ink upon the certificate of
9 ownership issued for the vehicle, together with the addresses of
10 the person whose title or interest is to be transferred and the
11 transferee in the appropriate spaces provided upon the
12 certificate. The signature of the person whose title or
13 interest is to be transferred and signature of the transferee
14 shall each serve as an attestation by that respective party that
15 the information provided on the certificate is correct. Any
16 person who provides false or fraudulent information under this



1 subsection shall be fined no less than \$500 and no more than
2 \$1,000.

3 (b) Within thirty calendar days thereafter, the transferee
4 shall forward the certificate of ownership so endorsed to the
5 director of finance who shall file the same; provided that if
6 the recorded lien holder does not have an office in the State,
7 the applicable period shall be sixty days. Whenever a
8 transferee fails to comply with these provisions, the director
9 of finance shall charge a fee of \$50, in addition to the fee
10 provided in section 286-51, for a new certificate of ownership.

11 (c) Subsection (b), requiring a transferee to forward the
12 certificate of ownership after endorsement to the director of
13 finance, shall not apply to the transferee of a vehicle who was
14 not intending to and does not drive the vehicle or permit the
15 vehicle to be driven upon the public highways, but ~~[every such]~~
16 the transferee, upon transferring the transferee's interest or
17 title to another, shall give notice of the transfer to the
18 director of finance and endorse the certificate of ownership to
19 the new legal owner and the certificate of registration to the
20 new owner. If the director of finance has ascertained as of the
21 date of the application that the registered owner has not



1 deposited or paid bail with respect to any summons or citation
2 issued to the registered owner for stopping, standing, or
3 parking in violation of traffic ordinances within the county or
4 has outstanding charges and fines owed to the county relating to
5 the disposition of an abandoned vehicle under the registered
6 owner, including for costs related to towing, storage,
7 processing, and disposal, the director may require, as a
8 condition precedent to the transfer, that the registered owner
9 deposit or pay bail with respect to ~~[all-such]~~ the summons or
10 citations or pay all outstanding charges and fines relating to
11 the disposition of the abandoned vehicle; provided that payment
12 of all outstanding charges and fines relating to the disposition
13 of the abandoned vehicle shall not be a condition precedent to
14 the transfer if the abandoned vehicle was stolen or taken from
15 the registered owner without permission or authorization and a
16 police report for the abandoned vehicle is filed within a period
17 of time, to be determined by the director of finance of each
18 county, after discovery of the abandoned vehicle.

19 (d) The director of finance, upon receipt of the
20 certificate of ownership properly endorsed, shall register the
21 vehicle, and shall issue to the owner and legal owner entitled



1 thereto by reason of the transfer a new certificate of
2 registration and the certificate of ownership, respectively, in
3 the manner and form hereinabove provided for original
4 registration.

5 (e) Until the director of finance has issued the new
6 certificate of registration and certificate of ownership as in
7 subsection (d) provided, delivery of [~~such~~] the vehicle shall be
8 deemed not to have been made and title thereto shall be deemed
9 not to have passed, and the intended transfer shall be deemed to
10 be incomplete and not to be valid or effective for any purpose,
11 notwithstanding any provision of the Uniform Commercial Code;
12 provided that a security interest in a motor vehicle shall be
13 perfected as provided in the Uniform Commercial Code, section
14 490:9-311 and that the validity, attachment, priority, and
15 enforcement of [~~such~~] the security interest shall be governed by
16 Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code.

17 (f) In the event of the transfer by operation of law of
18 the title or interest of a legal owner in and to a vehicle
19 registered under this part, as upon inheritance, devise, [~~or~~]
20 bequest, order in bankruptcy, [~~or~~] insolvency, execution sale,
21 repossession upon default in performance of the terms of a lease



1 or executory sales contract, or otherwise than by the voluntary
2 act of the person whose title or interest is so transferred, the
3 certificate of ownership shall be signed upon the spaces
4 provided by the personal representative, receiver, trustee,
5 sheriff, or other representative, or successor in interest of
6 the person whose title or interest is so transferred in lieu of
7 ~~[such]~~ that person. Every personal representative, receiver,
8 trustee, sheriff, or other representative or successor
9 hereinabove referred to shall file with the director of finance
10 a notice of any transfer by sale, lease, or otherwise by ~~[such]~~
11 the person, of ~~[any-such]~~ the vehicle, together with evidence
12 satisfactory to the director of finance of all facts entitling
13 ~~[such-representative]~~ the person to make the transfer. Upon
14 notice given to the director of finance that transfer by
15 operation of law of the title or interest of a legal owner or a
16 registered owner has been effected pursuant to any provision of
17 law, the director of finance shall send to the legal owner or
18 the registered owner or both a notice by registered mail of
19 ~~[such]~~ the action and requesting the delivery to the director of
20 finance of the certificate of ownership or the certificate of
21 registration, as the case may be, within ten days after date of



1 mailing of the notice, and any person who refuses or neglects to
2 deliver the same to the director of finance pursuant to the
3 notice shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and ~~[shall be]~~ punished
4 as provided in section 286-61.

5 (g) Nothing in the foregoing subsections shall prevent a
6 legal owner from assigning the title or interest in or to a
7 vehicle registered under this part to another legal owner at any
8 time without the consent of and without affecting the interest
9 of the holder of the certificate of registration thereof. Upon
10 filing with the director of finance of a certificate of
11 ownership endorsed by the legal owner and a transferee of legal
12 ownership, the director of finance shall, regardless of whether
13 the certificate of registration has expired ~~[or not]~~, enter the
14 name of the new legal owner upon the records of the director's
15 office and shall forthwith issue a new certificate of ownership
16 to the new legal owner in the form for original registration.
17 Upon so doing, the director of finance shall send to the
18 registered owner a notice by mail of the action.

19 (h) Any person who refuses or neglects to deliver a
20 certificate of ownership to a transferee entitled thereto under
21 this part, shall be punished as provided in section 286-61.



1 (i) Every dealer, upon transferring a motor vehicle,
2 whether by sale, lease, or otherwise, shall immediately give
3 notice of the transfer to the director of finance upon the
4 official form provided by the director of finance. [~~Every such~~]
5 Each notice shall contain the date of the transfer, the names
6 and addresses of the transferor and transferee, and [~~such~~] a
7 description of the vehicle as may be called for in the official
8 form.

9 (j) Every person, other than a dealer, upon transferring a
10 motor vehicle, whether by sale, lease, or otherwise, shall
11 within ten days give notice of the transfer to the director of
12 finance upon the official form provided by the director of
13 finance. Every notice shall contain the date of transfer, the
14 names and addresses of the transferor and transferee, and [~~such~~]
15 a description of the vehicle as may be called for in the
16 official form. Any person who violates this subsection shall be
17 fined [~~not~~] no more than \$100.

18 (k) Whenever the registered owner of any motor vehicle or
19 any licensed dealer has given notice to the director of finance
20 of a transfer of the title or interest in the motor vehicle, as
21 provided in subsection (i) or (j), and has delivered the



1 certificate of ownership bearing the transferor's signature to
2 the transferee as required by subsection (a), the transferor
3 shall be relieved from any liability, civil or criminal, from
4 the date the transferor delivers the motor vehicle into the
5 transferee's possession, which the transferor might otherwise
6 subsequently incur by reason solely of being the registered
7 owner of the vehicle.

8 (1) A licensed dealer who has forwarded a properly
9 endorsed certificate of ownership to the director of finance
10 shall be relieved of any civil liability, from the date the
11 transferor delivers the motor vehicle into the transferee's
12 possession, which the transferor might otherwise subsequently
13 incur by reason solely of being the registered owner of the
14 vehicle; provided that a specific written authorization to
15 forward the certificate has been obtained from the transferee.

16 (m) Any person who falsely or fraudulently gives notice to
17 the director of finance of a transfer of title or interest in a
18 motor vehicle shall be subject to the penalty provided in
19 section 286-61.

20 (n) Any organization that receives a motor vehicle as a
21 charitable donation shall be deemed, upon receipt of the motor

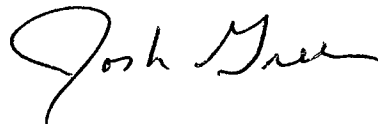


1 vehicle, to be a transferee for purposes of this section and
2 shall be subject to all of the applicable rights,
3 responsibilities, and liabilities of a transferee under this
4 section."

5 SECTION 2. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

APPROVED this 5th day of June , 2023



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII



HB No. 494, HD 1, SD 1, CD 1

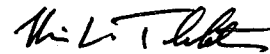
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 2, 2023
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023.



Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives




Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 2, 2023
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Second Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2023.


President of the Senate


Clerk of the Senate