

---

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL NUMBER PLATES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Keawalau o Puuloa,  
2 also known as Puuloa or Pearl Harbor, was first settled around  
3 400 A.D. and is a place of cultural significance that  
4 exemplifies the power of positive, community-led change. The  
5 Maweke family, one of the original families who settled in the  
6 area, is credited with bringing sweet potato from Peru to Ewa  
7 and dredging an entrance to allow large voyaging canoes to pass  
8 over the shallow entrance to Puuloa. Puuloa's ancient  
9 settlements near present-day Honouliuli, also known as West  
10 Loch, represent the first and oldest settlements on the island  
11 of Oahu. The area near Puuloa also served as a major political  
12 capital in Ewa that governed the island of Oahu.

13           The legislature also finds that Puuloa was an abundant  
14 water resource that contained at least thirty loko ia,  
15 traditional Hawaiian fishponds, and loi kalo, patches of land  
16 for taro cultivation. A convergence of estuaries, perennial  
17 freshwater springs, shallow aquifers, and healthy nutrient



1 runoff provided loko ia and loi kalo with regenerative resources  
2 needed to feed surrounding settlements. However, Puuloa's  
3 aquatic resources have been exposed and contaminated with  
4 mercury, polychlorinated biphenyls, dioxins, pesticides,  
5 microplastics, lead, and other harmful chemicals and materials  
6 from multiple polluted runoff sources. Many toxins present in  
7 Puuloa persist in the environment for significant periods of  
8 time and bioaccumulate in the tissues of fish, aquatic plants,  
9 and wildlife that live in the local ecosystems.

10 The legislature further finds that Hui o Ho'ohonua is a  
11 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization doing business under the trade  
12 name Mālama Pu'uloa, with a mission to address the historical  
13 trauma to the land, water, and people in the Ewa Moku on Oahu.  
14 Created by the members of the Ewa community, this mission was  
15 motivated by the environmental neglect and pollution in Pearl  
16 Harbor.

17 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
18 issuance of special number plates to recognize and honor Malama  
19 Puuloa.



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

4 "§249- Special number plates for Malama Puuloa;  
5 authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the  
6 director of finance shall issue to any registered owner of a  
7 motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State and has completed  
8 the application and paid the required fees, a special number  
9 plate for the registered owner's motor vehicle that commemorates  
10 Malama Puuloa and observes the organization's contributions to  
11 the restoration of Puuloa, also known as Pearl Harbor.

12 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of  
13 Honolulu, in consultation with the directors of finance of the  
14 counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; the chiefs of police of the  
15 city and county of Honolulu and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and  
16 Hawaii; and the chief executive officer of Hui o Ho'ohonua shall  
17 establish a special number plate design that:

18 (1) Contains words, images, or both, that indicate the  
19 special number plate is issued to recognize Malama  
20 Puuloa;



1       (2) Is similar in shape and size to the uniform state  
2       number plate prescribed by law;

3       (3) Does not exceed four and one-half inches in height by  
4       four and one-half inches in width;

5       (4) Complies with all other requirements in section 249-  
6       9(a); and

7       (5) Does not obstruct the visibility of the number or  
8       letters or any other information that is required by  
9       law to be on a number plate and is readily  
10       identifiable and distinguishable under actual traffic  
11       conditions;

12       provided that the director of finance of the city and county of  
13       Honolulu may also establish additional special number plate  
14       designs in conformance with this subsection and subsection (c)  
15       that jointly or separately recognize Malama Puuloa.

16       (c) The special number plate design shall not:

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

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



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

3       (4) Promote any religious belief; or

4       (5) Promote any philosophy based on prejudice or that is  
5           contrary to state civil rights laws.

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

8       (e) The director of finance shall charge a special number  
9           plate fee at least equal to the county's cost of providing the  
10          special number plate and administrative costs, if any, plus a  
11          fundraising fee to be determined by the director of finance in  
12          consultation with the chief executive officer of Hui o Ho'ohonua.  
13       The fundraising fee shall be in addition to any other state or  
14          county fees collected for a motor vehicle registration or  
15          license plate.

16       (f) The director of finance may charge an additional  
17          fundraising fee, of the same or a different amount as the  
18          fundraising fee established pursuant to subsection (e), for the  
19          renewal of a special number plate. If an additional fundraising  
20          fee is implemented pursuant to this subsection, the director of  
21          finance shall not renew and instead shall revoke the special



1 number plate of the registered owner of a motor vehicle who  
2 fails to pay the additional fundraising fee imposed by this  
3 subsection.

4 (g) The revenue generated by the fundraising fees, or a  
5 portion of the revenue generated by the fundraising fees as  
6 determined by the director of finance, shall be deposited in the  
7 name of Malama Puuloa in a separate county budget account. The  
8 director of finance shall determine the most efficient means of  
9 directing the net revenue generated by the fundraising fees to  
10 Malama Puuloa, as appropriate, to fund the restoration of  
11 Puuloa, or Pearl Harbor.

12 (h) The director of finance may revoke all special number  
13 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of  
14 registered owners of motor vehicles who obtain the special  
15 number plates is less than one hundred fifty within three years  
16 of issuance of the first special number plate.

17 (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to apply to  
18 any plates issued pursuant to section 249-9.2.

19 (j) For the purposes of this section, unless a different  
20 meaning appears from the context, "special number plate" means a  
21 license plate that commemorates Malama Puuloa."



- 1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.
- 2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



H.B. NO. 2715  
H.D. 1  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Special Number Plates; Malama Puuloa; Motor Vehicles

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Malama Puuloa. (CD1)

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

2024-3020 HB2715 CD1 HMSO

