

JAN 20 2023

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii's rainbow
2 license plate design is nearing the end of its current numbering
3 pattern and will need to be changed. The legislature further
4 finds that electric vehicle adoption is growing exponentially,
5 with many major car manufacturers phasing out gasoline-powered
6 cars completely by 2035. As a result, Hawaii's temporary
7 electric vehicle license plate numbering scheme will also soon
8 need to be changed.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Replace the electric vehicle special number plate with
11 a new, standard zero-emission vehicle number plate
12 that will eventually apply to nearly all new vehicles;
- 13 (2) Renumbering and extending the run of the current
14 rainbow design-bearing number plates for gasoline-
15 powered and hybrid vehicles; and
- 16 (3) Requiring the department of transportation to amend
17 its administrative rules to authorize the use of high-



1 occupancy vehicle lanes by zero-emission vehicles and
2 subsequently repeal on January 1, 2035, any provisions
3 authorizing the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by
4 zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicles.

5 SECTION 2. Section 249-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

7 "(a) The number plates hereinabove referred to shall be
8 used upon all vehicles for which a tax has been paid pursuant to
9 sections 249-1 to 249-13. All [~~such~~] number plates shall:

10 (1) [~~Bear~~] If issued before January 1, 2025, bear the word
11 "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the
12 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the
13 plate;

14 (2) If issued on or after January 1, 2025, for affixture
15 on:

16 (A) A zero-emission vehicle, bear the word "Hawaii"
17 along the upper portion of the plate and the
18 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of
19 the plate and contain a colorful design
20 reflecting the State's unique environment;



1 The numerals on all such plates shall be not less than three
2 inches in height and the strokes thereof not less than three-
3 eighths inch in width, except in the case of motorcycles, in
4 which case the numerals shall not be less than one inch in
5 height and the strokes thereof not less than one-eighth inch in
6 width. The directors of finance of each county through majority
7 consent may include on any number plate appropriate diacritical
8 marks.

9 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu
10 shall contract annually on behalf of the counties for the
11 purchase of all number plates, tags, or emblems required. The
12 council of each county shall appropriate and cause to be paid
13 over to the party with whom the director of finance of the city
14 and county of Honolulu shall contract, or to the director of
15 finance of the city and county of Honolulu as the director may
16 direct, such sum or sums as the director of finance of the city
17 and county of Honolulu shall determine to be the county's
18 proportionate share of the expense of such contract and the
19 charges connected therewith. The contract shall be made by the
20 director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu as agent
21 of the several counties, and the proportionate liability of each



1 county shall be stated in the contract. Notwithstanding any
2 other provision of the law, the contract shall constitute a
3 valid obligation of each county for its proportionate share."

4 SECTION 3. The directors of finance of each county shall
5 issue a new series of number plates for any number plates issued
6 pursuant section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for affixture
7 to hybrid vehicles pursuant to section 249-9(a)(2)(B), Hawaii
8 Revised Statutes, or gasoline-powered vehicles pursuant to
9 section 249-9(a)(2)(C), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 4. The department of transportation shall adopt or
11 amend its rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes,
12 to:

13 (1) Authorize the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes by
14 zero-emission vehicles regardless of the number of
15 persons in the vehicle; and

16 (2) On January 1, 2035, repeal any provision authorizing
17 the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes by
18 zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicles
19 regardless of the number of persons in the vehicles.

20 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval;
2 provided that section 3 of this Act shall take effect on
3 January 1, 2025.

4

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 1090

Report Title:

DOT; Number Plates; Zero-Emission Vehicles; Hybrid Vehicles; Gasoline-Powered Vehicles; Rules; High Occupancy Vehicle Lanes

Description:

Establishes requirements for number plates issued for zero-emission, hybrid, and gasoline-powered vehicles beginning 1/1/2025. Requires the continued use of the rainbow number plate design for hybrid and gasoline-powered vehicles. Requires the Department of Transportation to adopt or amend its administrative rules to authorize the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by zero-emission vehicles and repeal on 1/1/2035 any provision authorizing the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes by zero-emission vehicles and electric vehicles.

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

