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# 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 Keawalauopuuloa,  
2 also known as Puuloa or Pearl Harbor, is a place of cultural  
3 significance and now exemplifies the power of positive,  
4 community-led change. First settled around 400 A.D., the Maweke  
5 family, one of the original families who settled in the area, is  
6 credited with bringing sweet potato from Peru to Ewa and  
7 dredging an entrance to allow large voyaging canoes to pass over  
8 the shallow entrance to Puuloa. Puuloa's ancient settlements  
9 near present-day Honouliuli, also known as West Loch, represent  
10 the first and oldest settlements on the island of Oahu. The  
11 area near Puuloa also served as major political capitals in Ewa  
12 that also 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 (PCBs), 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 Mālama Pu'uloa is a  
11 501(c)3 nonprofit organization established in 2015 with a  
12 mission to restore Puuloa to abundance. Through a community-  
13 driven approach such as workdays, education, partnerships with  
14 the community, and land-based programs, Mālama Pu'uloa focuses on  
15 rebuilding relationships between people and the land to heal  
16 impacted waters and land. Since its inception, Mālama Pu'uloa  
17 hosted over ten thousand community and school volunteers to  
18 restore Puuloa's natural resources. It is therefore appropriate  
19 that Mālama Pu'uloa be honored with a special license plate to  
20 further promote the organization's legacy of natural resource  
21 management, perpetuation of Native Hawaiian culture, and



1 environmentalism through community-based volunteer programs and  
2 education.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the  
4 issuance of special number plates to recognize and honor Mālama  
5 Pu'uloa.

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

9 "§249- Special number plates for Mālama Pu'uloa  
10 authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the  
11 director of finance shall issue to any registered owner of a  
12 motor vehicle, who is a resident of the State, upon completed  
13 application and payment of required fees, a special number plate  
14 for the registered owner's motor vehicle commemorating Mālama  
15 Pu'uloa, to observe the organization's contributions to the  
16 restoration of Puuloa, also known as Pearl Harbor.

17 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of  
18 Honolulu, in consultation with the directors of finance of the  
19 counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; the chiefs of police of the  
20 city and county of Honolulu and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and



1 Hawaii; and the executive director of Mālama Pu‘uloa shall  
2 establish a special number plate design that:

3 (1) Contains words, images, or both, that indicate the  
4 special number plate is issued to recognize Mālama  
5 Pu‘uloa; provided that the director of finance of the  
6 city and county of Honolulu may establish special  
7 number plate designs to jointly or separately  
8 recognize Mālama Pu‘uloa;

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

11 (3) Does not obstruct the visibility of the number or  
12 letters or any other information that is required by  
13 law to be on a number plate and is readily  
14 identifiable and distinguishable under actual traffic  
15 conditions.

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 executive director of Mālama Pu‘uloa. The  
13       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 Mālama Pu'uloa 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 Mālama Pu'uloa, 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 Mālama Pu'uloa."



1 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

2 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

3



**Report Title:**

Special Number Plates; Malama Puuloa; Motor Vehicles

**Description:**

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to commemorate Mālama Pu'uloa. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

