
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 January 4, 2026,
2 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the first successful landing
3 on Kaho'olawe by nine courageous individuals, known as the
4 "Kaho'olawe 9," in support of Native Hawaiian sovereignty and
5 self-determination, initiating an island wide movement to "Stop
6 the Bombing" and the United States' military use of the island
7 of Kaho'olawe.

8 The legislature further finds that in 1976, the Protect
9 Kaho'olawe 'Ohana was formed and took legal action by filing a
10 federal lawsuit against the United States Navy, citing
11 violations of environmental laws, historic preservation, and
12 religious freedom, thus highlighting the cultural and ecological
13 significance of the island.

14 The legislature additionally finds that on October 22,
15 1990, President George Bush ordered the cessation of bombing and
16 target practice on Kaho'olawe, and in November 1990, the United



1 States Congress established the Kaho'olawe island conveyance
2 commission to facilitate the return of Kaho'olawe to the State,
3 leading the state legislature and Governor John Waihee III to
4 create the Kaho'olawe island reserve under chapter 6K, Hawaii
5 Revised Statutes.

6 The legislature recognizes that Kaho'olawe, long scarred by
7 ranching and military activities, has become a profound symbol
8 of aloha 'āina, or love of the land, and environmental
9 resilience, representing the collective effort to heal the
10 island through reforestation, soil conservation, and cultural
11 renewal.

12 The legislature notes that the Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana,
13 Kaho'olawe island reserve commission, and department of land and
14 natural resources have undertaken the stewardship of the island,
15 restoring vital cultural practices such as the Makahiki
16 ceremony, which embodies the relationship between the Hawaiian
17 people and the land, as well as ongoing conservation efforts to
18 restore Kaho'olawe's natural ecosystem.

19 The legislature believes that the efforts over the past
20 fifty years to restore and steward Kaho'olawe exemplify the



1 practice of aloha 'āina and the resilience of the Hawaiian
2 community to protect and care for their land. The legislature
3 further believes that the many individuals who have engaged in
4 stewardship of Kaho'olawe have been inspired to provide
5 stewardship of 'āina on their home islands.

6 The purpose of this Act is to authorize the issuance of
7 special number plates to recognize the island of Kaho'olawe.

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

11 **"§249- Special number plates for the recognition of the**
12 **island of Kaho'olawe authorized.** (a) Notwithstanding any law to
13 the contrary, the director of finance shall issue to any
14 registered owner of a vehicle, who is a resident of the State,
15 upon completed application and payment of required fees, a
16 special number plate for the registered owner's vehicle
17 commemorating the island of Kaho'olawe.

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



1 and Hawaii; and the board of directors of the Kohe Mālamalama o
2 Kanaloa Protect Kaho‘olawe Fund, shall establish a special number
3 plate design that:

4 (1) Contains words, images, or both, that indicate the
5 special number plate is issued to recognize the island
6 of Kaho‘olawe;

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

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

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

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

18 (2) Represent any obscene or degrading image, idea, word,
19 or phrase;

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



1 (4) Promote any religious belief; or

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

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

6 (e) The director of finance shall charge a special number
7 plate fee at least equal to the county's cost of providing the
8 special number plate and administrative costs, if any, plus a
9 fundraising fee to be determined by the director of finance in
10 consultation with the board of directors of the Kohe Mālamalama
11 o Kanaloa Protect Kaho'olawe Fund. The fundraising fee shall be
12 in addition to any other state or county fees collected for a
13 motor vehicle registration or license plate.

14 (f) The director of finance may charge an additional
15 fundraising fee of the same or a different amount as the
16 fundraising fee established pursuant to subsection (e), for the
17 renewal of a special number plate. If an additional fundraising
18 fee is implemented pursuant to this subsection, the director of
19 finance shall revoke the special number plate of the registered
20 owner of a motor vehicle who fails to pay the additional
21 fundraising fee imposed by this subsection.



1 (g) The revenue generated by the fundraising fees, or a
2 portion of the revenue generated by the fundraising fees as
3 determined by the director of finance, shall be deposited in the
4 name of the Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa Protect Kaho'olawe Fund in
5 a separate county budget account. The director of finance shall
6 determine the most efficient means of directing the revenue
7 generated by the fundraising fees to the Kohe Mālamalama o
8 Kanaloa Protect Kaho'olawe Fund.

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

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

16 (j) For purposes of this section, unless a different
17 meaning appears from the context, "special number plate" means a
18 license plate that represents the island of Kaho'olawe."

19 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

Special Number Plates; Kaho'olawe; Kohe Mālamalama o Kanaloa
Protect Kaho'olawe Fund

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of special number plates to recognize
the island of Kaho'olawe. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

