
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

PART I

SECTION 1. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

"(b) Upon ~~[an original registration]~~ a legally authorized registration, the director of finance shall fix, and shall charge to the owner, a fee equal to the cost of the number plate and tag or emblem plus the administrative cost of furnishing the plate and tag or emblem and effecting the registration. Upon the issuance of a new series of number plates as determined by the directors of finance of each county through majority consent, the director of finance shall charge the owner a fee equal to the costs of the number plate plus the administrative cost of furnishing the plates. Upon issuing a tag or emblem, the director of finance shall charge the owner a fee of 50 cents. A seller or licensed dealer shall ensure that a motor vehicle is equipped with a front number plate mounting bracket or device securely affixed to the vehicle before sale or



1 delivery to the purchaser. The licensed dealer or owner shall
2 securely fasten the number plates on the vehicle, one on the
3 front and the other on the rear, at a location provided by the
4 manufacturer or, in the absence of such a location, upon the
5 bumpers of the vehicle and in conformance with section 291-31,
6 in ~~[such]~~ a manner ~~[as to prevent]~~ that prevents the plates from
7 swinging. Number plates shall at all times be displayed
8 entirely unobscured and be kept reasonably clean. In the case
9 of trailers, semitrailers, or motorcycles, one plate shall be
10 used and ~~[it shall be]~~ fastened to the rear thereof at a
11 location provided by the manufacturer or, in the absence of such
12 a location, at the rear thereof, and in the case of motorcycles
13 in conformance with section 291-31."

14 PART II

15 SECTION 2. Section 291C-103, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended to read as follows:

17 "**§291C-103 Racing on highways.** (a) Except as provided in
18 section 291C-149, no person shall recklessly or negligently
19 drive any vehicle in any race, speed competition or contest,
20 drag race or acceleration contest, test of physical endurance,
21 exhibition of speed or acceleration, or for the purpose of



1 making a speed record, and no person shall in any manner
2 participate in or organize any race, competition, contest, test,
3 street takeover, or exhibition prohibited by this section.

4 (b) Any person who violates this section[~~, except in the~~
5 ~~case of an exhibition of speed or acceleration,~~] shall be fined
6 ~~[not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more than six months, or~~
7 ~~both. Any person who violates this section by way of an~~
8 ~~exhibition of speed or acceleration shall be fined not more than~~
9 ~~\$500 or]~~ \$1,000 and be sentenced to perform forty hours of
10 community service[~~, or both~~].

11 (c) Any person who violates this section while operating a
12 vehicle at a speed exceeding the posted speed limit by thirty
13 miles per hour or more shall be subject to a fine of [~~not more~~
14 ~~than~~] \$2,000, a term of imprisonment of not more than one year,
15 or both[~~+~~], and be sentenced to perform eighty hours of
16 community service; provided that the following additional
17 penalties shall also apply:

18 (1) For an offense that occurs within five years of a
19 prior conviction, a one-year license suspension;

20 (2) For an offense that occurs within five years of two
21 prior convictions:



1 (A) A three-year license suspension; and

2 (B) A vehicle owned by the defendant and used in the
3 commission of the offense which has been used in
4 at least two prior offenses that resulted in
5 convictions may be ordered by the court to be
6 subject to forfeiture under chapter 712A; and

7 (3) For all offenses under this section, a surcharge of up
8 to [~~\$100~~] \$500 may be deposited in the trauma system
9 special fund [~~if the court so orders~~].

10 (d) As used in this section:

11 "Drag race" means the operation of two or more vehicles
12 from a point side by side at accelerating speeds in a
13 competitive attempt to outdistance each other, or the operation
14 of one or more vehicles over a common selected course, from the
15 same point to the same point, for the purpose of comparing the
16 relative speeds or power of acceleration of the vehicle or
17 vehicles within a certain distance or time limit.

18 "Exhibition of speed or acceleration" means the sudden
19 acceleration of a vehicle resulting in the screeching of the
20 vehicle's tires that is done to intentionally draw the attention
21 of persons present toward the vehicle. "Exhibition of speed or



1 acceleration" includes burnouts, donuts, drifting, wheelies, or
2 other stunts intended to demonstrate speed or control.

3 "Racing" means the use of one or more vehicles in an
4 attempt to outgain, outdistance, or prevent another vehicle from
5 passing, to arrive at a given destination ahead of another
6 vehicle or vehicles, or to test the physical stamina or
7 endurance of drivers over long distance driving routes.

8 "Street takeover" means the intentional obstruction of a
9 public highway or street by using motor vehicles to facilitate a
10 speed contest or exhibition of speed, including blocking traffic
11 or creating a barricade."

12 PART III

13 SECTION 3. Section 291L-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended to read as follows:

15 "[+]§291L-2[+] **Automated speed enforcement systems**
16 **program; established.** There shall be established the automated
17 speed enforcement systems program, which shall be implemented by
18 the State to enforce the speed restriction laws of the State.
19 The automated speed enforcement ~~[system]~~ systems program ~~[shall~~
20 ~~be limited to only those locations where a photo red light~~
21 ~~imaging detector system has been implemented pursuant to chapter~~



291J.] may be implemented in any high-risk location of a state
or county highway as determined by the department based on an
analysis of the studies conducted pursuant to section 291L-
3(c)."

SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the state highway
fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be
necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to be deposited into the
automated speed enforcement systems program special fund.

SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the automated
speed enforcement systems program special fund the sum
of or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
year 2026-2027 for the expanded implementation of automated
speed enforcement systems and operation of the automated speed
enforcement systems program.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
transportation for the purposes of this part.

PART IV

SECTION 6. Chapter 291C, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
and to read as follows:



1 "§291C- Automatic license plate recognition; citations.

2 (a) A county may use automatic license plate recognition
3 systems to identify vehicles that do not properly display a
4 current certificate of inspection or certificate of
5 registration.

6 (b) A county may issue a citation to the registered owner
7 of a vehicle identified under subsection (a). The citation
8 shall include a fine of no less than \$75 and no more than \$200;
9 provided that the fine shall be waived if the registered owner
10 demonstrates that the vehicle properly displays a current
11 certificate of inspection or certificate of registration within
12 thirty days after issuance of the citation. Any fines collected
13 pursuant to this subsection shall be used for the maintenance of
14 the automatic license plate recognition systems and public
15 education regarding the use of the systems and vehicle
16 inspection and registration requirements.

17 (c) All data collected by an automatic license plate
18 recognition system under this section shall be used only for the
19 purposes for which the data was collected and shall be destroyed
20 or permanently erased within ninety days if the data is not part
21 of an ongoing investigation, enforcement action, or citation



1 record. Access to automatic license plate recognition system
2 data shall be strictly limited to authorized personnel and be
3 subject to strict privacy controls.

4 (d) A county, in coordination with the department of
5 transportation, may utilize any system installed or operated
6 under chapter 291J or 291L for purposes of identifying vehicles
7 under this section that do not properly display current
8 certificates of inspection or registration; provided that:

9 (1) The county and department of transportation shall
10 enter into a written memorandum of agreement
11 specifying roles, responsibilities, data-sharing
12 protocols, access rights, permissible uses, and cost
13 allocation;

14 (2) All data captured for the purposes of this section
15 shall be handled in accordance with subsection (c);
16 and

17 (3) Costs incurred by a county for use of a system
18 installed or operated under chapter 291J or 291L
19 pursuant to this section may be reimbursed from fines
20 collected under this section.



(e) For the purposes of this section, "automatic license plate recognition system" means a technology system that scans the rear license plates of vehicles, automatically compares the plate information in real time against the applicable motor vehicle databases to determine whether the vehicle properly displays a current certificate of inspection and certificate of registration, and facilitates the issuance of citations or notifications to the registered owner when a vehicle is not in compliance."

PART V

SECTION 7. Section 291C-95, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"§291C-95 Overtaking and passing school bus. (a)

Whenever a school bus is stopped on a highway or road in a residential area with its visual signals actuated as described in subsection (g), the driver of any motor vehicle on the same highway or road in a residential area in the lane occupied by the school bus and all lanes adjacent to the lane occupied by the school bus, regardless of the direction of traffic in those lanes, shall stop the driver's vehicle not less than twenty feet



1 from the school bus and shall not proceed until the school bus
2 resumes motion and the visual signals are turned off.

3 (b) Subsection (a) shall not apply to a vehicle when the
4 school bus and the vehicle are on different roadways; except
5 that where a highway or road in a residential area has been
6 divided into two or more lanes by an intervening space, a
7 physical barrier, or a clearly indicated dividing section,
8 subsection (a) shall apply to all drivers of motor vehicles in
9 all lanes on the same side as a school bus which is stopped with
10 visual signals actuated as required under subsection (c).

11 (c) The driver of the school bus shall actuate the visual
12 signals described in subsection (g) only when the school bus is
13 stopped for the purpose of receiving or discharging school
14 children.

15 (d) The front and rear of every school bus shall be marked
16 with the words "SCHOOL BUS" in plainly visible letters not less
17 than eight inches in height and strokes not less than three-
18 fourths of an inch in width.

19 (e) No vehicle, other than a school bus, shall display a
20 "SCHOOL BUS" sign.



1 (f) When a school bus is being operated upon a highway for
2 purposes other than as an incident to the transportation of
3 children, all marking thereon indicating "SCHOOL BUS" shall be
4 covered or concealed.

5 (g) The visual signals actuated as required under
6 subsection (c) shall consist of four red signal lamps meeting
7 the following requirements:

8 (1) Two lamps shall face forward and two shall face the
9 rear;

10 (2) The two forward lamps shall flash alternately and
11 shall be mounted at the same level, but as high and as
12 widely spaced as practical;

13 (3) The two rear lamps shall flash alternately and shall
14 be mounted at the same level but as high and as widely
15 spaced as practical; and

16 (4) Each of the lamps shall be of sufficient intensity as
17 to be plainly visible at a distance of five hundred
18 feet in normal sunlight and shall be capable of being
19 actuated from the driver's seat by a single switch.

20 (h) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a school bus
21 from installing a camera on the stop arm of the school bus to



1 record photographs, microphotographs, video, or other recorded
2 images to be used for proof of a violation of this section;
3 provided that any photographs, microphotographs, video, or other
4 recorded images produced by a camera pursuant to this subsection
5 shall be reviewed by either a county police officer, department
6 of law enforcement officer, or authorized department of
7 transportation employee.

8 ~~[(h)]~~ (i) Any ~~[person]~~ registered owner who violates this
9 section shall be ~~[fined not]~~ penalized as follows:

10 (1) For a first offense, no more than \$250 or sentenced to
11 perform community service, or both;

12 (2) For a second offense, no more than \$300 or sentenced
13 to perform community service, or both; and

14 (3) For a third or subsequent offense, no more than \$500
15 or sentenced to perform community service, or both;

16 provided that any person who violates subsection (a) on a state
17 highway shall be fined ~~[not]~~ no more than \$1,000 or sentenced to
18 perform community service, or both."

19 SECTION 8. Section 302A-407, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1 "(a) Any school bus contract between the State and the
2 contractor shall include a provision requiring the contractor to
3 equip the contractor's vehicles with the signs and visual
4 signals described in section 291C-95(d) and (g) [~~+~~] and
5 authorizing the contractor to equip a camera on the stop arm of
6 the contractor's vehicles pursuant to section 291C-95(h). The
7 contract shall also include other provisions as may be deemed
8 necessary by the State for the safety of school bus passengers
9 and shall include provisions requiring compliance with the rules
10 and standards described in section 286-181."

11 SECTION 9. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 for
14 the department of education to provide funding for the
15 installation of cameras on the stop arms of school buses.

16 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
17 education for the purposes of this part.

18 PART VI

19 SECTION 10. This Act does not affect rights and duties
20 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
21 were begun before its effective date.



1 SECTION 11. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 12. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

4

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 23 2026



Report Title:

Transportation; DOT; Sellers; Licensed Dealers; Front Number Plate; Mounting Device; Traffic Code; Racing; Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program; High-risk Locations; Highway Safety; Counties; Automatic License Plate Recognition Systems; Inspections; Registration; School Bus; Passing; Overtaking; Cameras; Installation; Penalty; Appropriation

Description:

PART I: Requires sellers and licensed dealers to ensure that a motor vehicle is equipped with a front number plate mounting bracket or device. Requires a licensed dealer or owner to securely fasten number plates on vehicles. PART II: Amends the Traffic Code relating to street racing. PART III: Expands the Automated Speed Enforcement Systems Program to high-risk locations of state or county highways as determined by the Department of Transportation. Appropriates funds. PART IV: Allows counties to use automatic license plate recognition systems to identify vehicles without current inspection or registration certificates and issue citations with fines waivable if compliance is demonstrated. Establishes data privacy and retention requirements. Allows counties, in coordination with the Department of Transportation, to use red light and speed camera systems for enforcement. PART V: Authorizes the installation of cameras on the stop arm of a school bus to record footage for evidence of a violation for passing or overtaking a school bus while the bus is stopped and its visual signals are turned on. Amends the fines for passing or overtaking a school bus while the bus is stopped and its visual signals are turned on.

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