
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO SPECIAL LICENSE PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that for over eighty
2 years, the civil air patrol has assisted emergency management
3 agencies throughout the nation with response and recovery
4 efforts during and after disasters. The civil air patrol is a
5 non-profit organization and an auxiliary of the United States
6 Air Force. Its missions include emergency services, aerospace
7 education, and cadet programs. Members of the civil air patrol
8 are volunteers who serve as pilots, scanners, and ground crew in
9 fulfilling its mission.

10 The legislature further finds that the civil air patrol's
11 emergency response and recovery activities include, but are not
12 limited to, search and rescue, damage assessments, aerial
13 photographs of affected areas, alerts and notifications, and
14 transportation of supplies. For instance, the civil air patrol
15 conducted aerial reconnaissance for the State after the severe
16 weather incident in December 2021. The photographs were
17 instrumental in documenting the damage to roadways and bridges



1 on the island of Maui and were included in the State's
2 application for a federal disaster declaration. Similar
3 missions were conducted during the Kilauea volcanic eruptions on
4 the island of Hawaii and during flood events on Kauai.

5 When the State has been threatened by a tsunami in the
6 past, the civil air patrol has been called upon to alert remote
7 areas that are not served by the outdoor alert system through
8 speakers that are mounted to civil air patrol aircraft. During
9 the Maui wildfires in August 2023, members of the civil air
10 patrol were in the emergency operations center assisting the
11 Maui emergency management agency and the Federal Aviation
12 Administration in enforcing temporary flight restrictions.

13 As the volunteer members of the civil air patrol respond to
14 emergencies, a civil air patrol special license plate would help
15 make its members more readily identifiable by police and other
16 first responder agencies, thereby allowing passage through
17 roadways that may be closed to the public. During a tsunami
18 warning, civil air patrol pilots, under the direction of the
19 Hawaii emergency management agency, often rush to their planes
20 to take off and provide alerts and notifications to the public.
21 Although civil air patrol members carry appropriate



1 identification, the sight of a civil air patrol special license
2 plate on a vehicle may assist in more quickly identifying the
3 individual as a member of the civil air patrol.

4 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to authorize the
5 issuance of special number license plates for members of the
6 Hawaii civil air patrol.

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

10 "§249- Special number plates; civil air patrol. (a)
11 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the director of finance
12 shall provide, for a fee, one set of special number plates upon
13 the receipt of an application together with specific proof that
14 the applicant was or is a member of the Hawaii civil air patrol.

15 (b) The design of the plates for former and current Hawaii
16 civil air patrol shall include the words "HAWAII CIVIL AIR
17 PATROL". This designation shall be imprinted on the left side
18 of the license plates in a manner similar to congressional and
19 honorary consul license plates.

20 (c) Registration certificates and license plates issued
21 under this section shall not be transferable to any other



1 person. Special number plates for service in the Hawaii civil
2 air patrol shall be assigned to a noncommercial passenger motor
3 vehicle, a noncommercial motorcycle, or motor scooter registered
4 in the name of the qualified applicant. Prior to the transfer
5 of the ownership of the qualified person's vehicle to another
6 party, the special number plates shall be surrendered to the
7 director of finance as a condition to the issuance of
8 replacement special number plates; provided that the director of
9 finance shall allow the survivor of the qualified person, upon
10 request, to retain the front special number plate as a memorial.

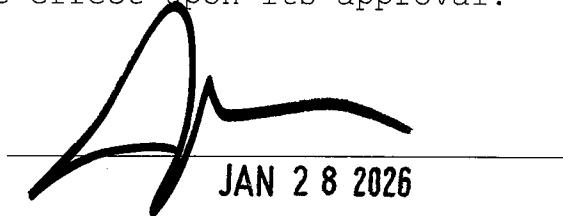
11 (d) The director of finance shall authorize the design of
12 a license plate that is readily identifiable and distinguishable
13 under actual traffic conditions and shall adopt rules pursuant
14 to chapter 91 to carry out this section."

15 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

16 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 28 2026



H.B. NO. 2566

Report Title:

Special Number License Plates; Civil Air Patrol

Description:

Authorizes the issuance of special number license plates for members of the Hawaii Civil Air Patrol.

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