

JAN 28 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 286-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 **"\$286-61 Penalty.** (a) Any person who violates sections
4 286-41, 286-42, 286-44.5 to 286-56.5, and 286-58 to 286-60 shall
5 be fined not less than \$5 nor more than \$1,000; provided that
6 any corporate owner of a motor vehicle who fails to register a
7 motor vehicle as required by section 286-41(a) following a
8 transfer of the vehicle between counties shall be fined \$1,000
9 for each violation.

10 (b) Any person who violates section 286-43, 286-44, or
11 286-57 shall be fined not less than \$5 and not more than \$1,000
12 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

13 (c) In addition to the penalty described in subsection
14 (a), the vehicle of any person who violates section 286-47 by
15 not keeping a certificate of registration within the vehicle for
16 which it is registered to be presented to a police officer upon
17 request, shall be impounded by the applicable county agency at



1 the expense of the vehicle owner. A vehicle impounded in this
2 manner shall remain in the possession of the county until a
3 valid certificate of registration in the vehicle owner's name
4 for the vehicle is presented and any costs related to the
5 towing, storage, processing, and disposal of the vehicle are
6 paid in full."

7 SECTION 2. Section 286-116, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

9 "(b) At any time a law enforcement officer finds a motor
10 vehicle in operation by a driver not in possession of a valid
11 driver's license and the motor vehicle or liability insurance
12 identification card required under section 431:10C-107 and
13 section 431:10G-106, the officer shall issue a citation with the
14 earliest possible date for court appearance in every instance.
15 The vehicle of any person who is issued a citation pursuant to
16 this subsection shall be impounded by the applicable county
17 agency at the expense of the vehicle owner. A vehicle impounded
18 in this manner shall remain in the possession of the county
19 until a valid driver's license in the person's name and the
20 motor vehicle or liability insurance identification card
21 required under section 431:10C-107 and section 431:10G-106 are



1 presented and any costs related to the towing, storage,
2 processing, and disposal of the vehicle are paid in full."

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

5 **"§291-2 Reckless driving of vehicle or riding of animals;**
6 **penalty.** (a) Whoever operates any vehicle or rides any animal
7 recklessly in disregard of the safety of persons or property is
8 guilty of reckless driving of vehicle or reckless riding of an
9 animal, as appropriate, and shall be fined not more than \$1,000
10 or imprisoned not more than thirty days, or both.

11 (b) The vehicle of any person issued a citation or
12 arrested for reckless driving of vehicle shall be immediately
13 impounded by the applicable county agency at the expense of the
14 vehicle owner. A vehicle impounded in this manner shall remain
15 in the possession of the county until a valid driver's license
16 in the person's name, the motor vehicle or liability insurance
17 identification card required under section 431:10C-107 and
18 section 431:10G-106, and a valid certificate of registration in
19 the person's name for the vehicle are presented and any costs
20 related to the towing, storage, processing, and disposal of the
21 vehicle are paid in full; provided that the vehicle shall remain



1 in the possession of the county for at least forty-eight hours
2 from the time of impoundment."

3 SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that
4 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were
5 begun before its effective date.

6 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

8

INTRODUCED BY:

Lynn DeCote



S.B. NO. 3226

Report Title:

Law Enforcement; Driver's License; Motor Vehicle Registration; Motor Vehicle Insurance; Penalties; Reckless Driving

Description:

Adds the penalty of vehicle impoundment to violations of reckless driving and for failure to present a valid driver's license, motor vehicle or liability insurance identification card, or certificate of registration.

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