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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LICENSE PLATES.

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

1           SECTION 1. Section 286-26, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended as follows:

3           1. By amending subsection (e) to read:

4           "(e) Upon application for a certificate of inspection to  
5 be issued for a vehicle or moped, an inspection as prescribed by  
6 the director under subsection (g) shall be conducted on the  
7 vehicle or moped. ~~[If] A certificate of inspection shall be~~  
8 issued upon payment of a fee to be determined by the director if  
9 the vehicle or moped is found to be in safe operating condition,  
10 including ~~[adhering to head lamp requirements and specifications~~  
11 ~~pursuant to section 291-25(a), as applicable, and is not]~~;

12           (1) Not being equipped with a muffler or exhaust system  
13 that fails to comply with section 291-24 or 291-24.5,  
14 as applicable~~[, a certificate of inspection shall be~~  
15 ~~issued upon payment of a fee to be determined by the~~  
16 ~~director.]~~;



- 1        (2) Adhering to head lamp requirements and specifications  
2                    pursuant to section 291-25(a), as applicable; and  
3        (3) Not being equipped with any cover or shield installed  
4                    over the license plate pursuant to section 286-73, as  
5                    applicable.

6 The certificate shall state the effective date, termination  
7 date, name of the issuing insurance carrier, policy number of  
8 the motor vehicle insurance identification card for the  
9 inspected motor vehicle as specified by section 431:10C-107 or  
10 state the information contained in the proof of insurance card  
11 as specified by section 431:10G-106, and the odometer reading of  
12 the vehicle on the date of inspection. A sticker, authorized by  
13 the director, shall be affixed to the vehicle or moped at the  
14 time a certificate of inspection is issued. An inspection  
15 sticker that has been lost, stolen, or destroyed shall be  
16 replaced without reinspection by the inspection station that  
17 issued the original inspection sticker upon presentation of the  
18 current certificate of inspection; provided that the current  
19 certificate of inspection and inspection sticker shall not have  
20 expired at the time the replacement is requested. The director



1 shall adopt rules to determine the fee for replacement of lost,  
2 stolen, or destroyed inspection stickers."

3 2. By amending subsection (g) to read:

4 "(g) The director of transportation shall adopt necessary  
5 rules for the administration of inspections and the issuance of  
6 certificates of inspection; provided that the rules shall~~[+]~~, at  
7 a minimum:

8 (1) ~~[At a minimum, require]~~ Require inspections to ensure  
9 that a vehicle or moped is not equipped with a muffler  
10 or exhaust system that fails to comply with section  
11 291-24 or 291-24.5, as applicable; ~~[and]~~

12 (2) Include head lamp requirements that adhere to the  
13 specifications pursuant to section 291-25(a), as  
14 applicable~~[+]~~; and

15 (3) Require inspections to ensure that a vehicle is not  
16 equipped with any cover or shield installed over the  
17 license plate pursuant to section 286-73."

18 SECTION 2. Section 286-73, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "~~[+]~~**\$286-73[+]** **Obstruction of a license plate; prohibited.**

21 (a) The use of any cover or shield installed over a vehicle's



1 license plate, regardless of transparency or intent, shall be  
2 prohibited.

3 (b) Any person, seller, or dealership who violates this  
4 section shall be fined no less than [~~\$500 and no more than~~  
5 \$1,000 for each offense. Each day of violation shall constitute  
6 a separate offense.

7 (c) In addition to any person authorized to enforce this  
8 chapter, any person authorized by the State or a county to  
9 enforce parking violations, including any person authorized by a  
10 state or county law enforcement agency, may issue a citation for  
11 a violation of this section.

12 (d) For the purposes of this section, "cover" or "shield"  
13 means any device, material, or [~~film whether~~] film, whether  
14 clear, tinted, mirrored, reflective, or otherwise, that is  
15 installed over or affixed to a license plate[~~, and is intended~~  
16 ~~to alter or interfere with the visibility, legibility, or~~  
17 ~~identification of the license plate by law enforcement or~~  
18 ~~traffic enforcement systems]."~~

19 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



**1** SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on January 1, 2027.



**Report Title:**

Certificates of Inspection; License Plates; Obstruction;  
Enforcement

**Description:**

Conditions the issuance of a certificate of inspection upon a vehicle not being equipped with any cover or shield installed over the license plate. Amends the penalty for obstruction of a license plate. Allows state or county parking enforcement officers and persons authorized by a state or county law enforcement agency to issue citations for vehicles with a cover or shield obstructing the license plate. Repeals the requirement that a cover or shield be intended to alter or interfere with the visibility, legibility, or identification of a license plate by law enforcement or traffic enforcement systems. Effective 1/1/2027. (SD1)

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