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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DEAF INDIVIDUALS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the dangers  
2 associated with a routine traffic stop can increase if a law  
3 enforcement officer is not aware that the driver is deaf. A  
4 deaf driver's failure to respond to verbal commands or an  
5 officer's misinterpretation of a deaf individual's gestures can  
6 lead to undesired outcomes.

7 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to prevent  
8 miscommunication between deaf drivers and law enforcement  
9 officers by providing law enforcement officers with a  
10 notification that a driver is deaf when the officer conducts an  
11 electronic check of the motor vehicle's registration.

12 SECTION 2. Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately  
14 designated and to read as follows:

15 "§286- Deaf owner; registration. (a)  
16 Beginning \_\_\_\_\_, upon application by a motor vehicle owner  
17 who is deaf, the director of finance of the county where the



1 vehicle is to be operated shall add a designation to the  
2 registration of the motor vehicle bearing the international  
3 symbol for deafness or a numerical code designating deafness.

4 (b) For the purposes of this section, the impairment of  
5 deafness shall be certified by a qualified otolaryngologist or  
6 an audiologist licensed under chapter 468E.

7 (c) The deafness designation shall appear when a law  
8 enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information and  
9 shall be used to alert the law enforcement officer that the  
10 owner of the motor vehicle is deaf.

11 (d) Except as provided by subsection (c), the director of  
12 finance of the county where the vehicle is to be operated shall  
13 restrict access to the motor vehicle owner's deafness  
14 designation, as required by law.

15 (e) For purposes of this section, "deaf" means a person  
16 with a hearing loss of a pure tone average of forty-one decibels  
17 or greater."

18 SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

Deaf; Hearing Impaired; Disability; Motor Vehicle Registration;  
Law Enforcement

**Description:**

Authorizes deaf motor vehicle owners to register their vehicle as being owned by a deaf individual so that a deafness designation appears when a law enforcement officer accesses the motor vehicle's information. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

