

JAN 21 2026

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that when used motor  
2 vehicles are transferred from one individual owner to another,  
3 the transferor often remains exposed to liability during the  
4 time period between the vehicle being physically transferred and  
5 the buyer officially updating the vehicle's registration. The  
6 legislature believes that transferors should not be held  
7 responsible if the new owner is involved in an accident, commits  
8 a traffic infraction, or otherwise uses the vehicle in an  
9 unlawful manner before completing the required registration.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to facilitate the  
11 transfer of ownership of used motor vehicles between individuals  
12 and reduce the risk of liability for transferors by requiring  
13 new number plates and tags or emblems for those motor vehicles.

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



1        "S249-        Used motor vehicles; individuals; number plates;  
2        new plate numbers, tags and emblems; transferred motor vehicles;  
3        registration.    (a)    This section shall only apply to used motor  
4        vehicles transferred between individuals and not to new motor  
5        vehicles or to used vehicles sold by any dealer.

6        (b)    Upon the completion of the bill of sale in a form  
7        approved by the director of finance and that shows the date of  
8        sale, and the transfer of title to or interest in a motor  
9        vehicle pursuant to section 286-52, an individual transferor  
10      shall remove the number plates and registration tag or emblem  
11      from the motor vehicle and submit the plates and the tag or  
12      emblem to the director of finance for disposal.

13      (c)    Within seven days of the removal of the number plates,  
14      an individual transferee shall register the motor vehicle  
15      pursuant to 249-7 and obtain new number plates with new numbers  
16      and a registration tag or emblem for the motor vehicle by  
17      submitting proof of the transfer by showing the director of  
18      finance the certificate of title, the dated bill of sale, and  
19      any other documentation required by the director of finance.

20      (d)    The director of finance may adopt rules pursuant to  
21      chapter 91 as necessary to implement this section.



1           (e) Any person who violates this section shall be fined  
2           not more than \$ \_\_\_\_\_."

3           SECTION 3. Section 249-7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4           amended by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

5           "(d) After the initial payment of the tax and the original  
6           registration of a vehicle as herein specified, a motor vehicle  
7           shall not be required to be reweighed in any succeeding year  
8           unless it has been so altered or changed as to increase or  
9           diminish its weight. No new number plates shall, however, be  
10          issued to a new owner except as provided in sections 249-7.5  
11          [and], 249-8[–], and 249-\_\_\_\_\_."

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

15          SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
16          and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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

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INTRODUCED BY:





# S.B. NO. 2009

**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicles; Private Parties; Registration; Transfer; Plates; Tags; Emblems

**Description:**

Requires new number plates and tags or emblems for used motor vehicles transferred between private individuals.

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

