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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NUMBER PLATES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 249-9, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

3 "(a) The number plates hereinabove referred to shall be  
4 used upon all vehicles for which a tax has been paid pursuant to  
5 sections 249-1 to 249-13. All ~~[such]~~ number plates shall:

6 (1) ~~[Bear]~~ If issued before January 1, 2025, bear the word  
7 "Hawaii" along the upper portion of the plate and the  
8 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the  
9 plate;

10 (2) If issued on or after January 1, 2025, bear the word  
11 "Hawai'i" along the upper portion of the plate and the  
12 words "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the  
13 plate; provided that both "Hawai'i" and "Aloha State"  
14 may either contain all uppercase or lowercase letters  
15 or have the first letter of each word be uppercase;

16 ~~[-2-]~~ (3) Have a distinct contrast between the color of the  
17 plate and the numerals and letters thereon; and



1       ~~(3)~~ (4) Be of ~~such~~ any shape, size, and color, and with  
2           ~~such~~ any arrangements of letters and numbers as may,  
3           subject to sections 249-1 to 249-13, be determined by  
4           the directors of finance of each county through  
5           majority consent.

6       The numerals on all ~~such~~ number plates shall be ~~not~~ no less  
7       than three inches in height and the strokes thereof ~~not~~ no  
8       less than three-eighths inch in width, except in the case of  
9       motorcycles, in which case the numerals shall ~~not~~ be no less  
10       than one inch in height and the strokes thereof ~~not~~ no less  
11       than one-eighth inch in width.

12       The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu  
13       shall contract annually on behalf of the counties for the  
14       purchase of all number plates, tags, or emblems required. The  
15       council of each county shall appropriate and cause to be paid  
16       over to the party with whom the director of finance of the city  
17       and county of Honolulu shall contract, or to the director of  
18       finance of the city and county of Honolulu as the director may  
19       direct, ~~such~~ the sum or sums as the director of finance of the  
20       city and county of Honolulu shall determine to be the county's  
21       proportionate share of the expense of ~~such~~ the contract and



1 the charges connected therewith. The contract shall be made by  
2 the director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu as  
3 agent of the several counties, and the proportionate liability  
4 of each county shall be stated in the contract. Notwithstanding  
5 any other provision of the law, the contract shall constitute a  
6 valid obligation of each county for its proportionate share."

7 SECTION 2. Section 249-9.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended as follows:

9 1. By amending its title and subsections (a) and (b) to  
10 read:

11 "[+]§249-9.7[+] Special number plates for environmental  
12 conservation; authorized. (a) Notwithstanding any law to the  
13 contrary, the director of finance shall issue to any registered  
14 owner of [~~a meter~~] an electric vehicle, who is a resident of the  
15 State and has completed the application and paid the required  
16 fees, special number plates that commemorate the importance of  
17 environmental conservation, for the registered owner's motor  
18 vehicle. The special number plates shall be granted the same  
19 benefits and restrictions granted to any other electric vehicle  
20 special number plates.



1 (b) The director of finance of the city and county of  
2 Honolulu shall establish special number plate designs that  
3 commemorate the importance of environmental conservation. The  
4 design ~~[shall]~~:

5 (1) ~~[Contain]~~ Shall contain words or images, or both, that  
6 indicate that the special number plate is being issued  
7 to commemorate the importance of environmental  
8 conservation;

9 (2) ~~[Be]~~ Shall be similar in shape and size to the uniform  
10 state number plate prescribed by law; ~~[and]~~

11 (3) ~~[Be]~~ Shall be readily identifiable and distinguishable  
12 under actual traffic conditions~~[-]~~; and

13 (4) May, but shall not be required to, bear the words  
14 "Aloha State" along the lower portion of the plate.

15 The director of finance of the city and county of Honolulu shall  
16 consult with the directors of finance of the counties of Kauai,  
17 Maui, and Hawaii; the chiefs of police of the city and county of  
18 Honolulu and the counties of Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii; and the  
19 chairperson of the board of land and natural resources in  
20 establishing the special number plate design, which shall be



1 visually attractive and highlight Hawaii's environment, native  
2 species, or both."

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

4 "(d) Each special number plate shall be securely fastened  
5 to the [~~motor~~] electric vehicle in lieu of the uniform state  
6 number plate."

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

8 "(g) The director of finance may revoke all special number  
9 plates issued pursuant to this section if the total number of  
10 registered owners of [~~motor~~] electric vehicles that obtain the  
11 special number plates is less than one hundred fifty within  
12 three years of issuance of the first special number plate."

13 4. By amending subsection (i) to read:

14 "(i) For the purposes of this section [~~, unless a different~~  
15 ~~meaning appears from the context, "special~~]:

16 "Special number plate" means a license plate that is not a  
17 uniform state number plate, unless a different meaning appears  
18 from the context.

19 "Electric vehicle" shall have the same meaning as the term  
20 is defined in section 196-2 and produce zero emissions."



1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



**Report Title:**

City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Package; Motor Vehicles;  
Number Plates; Hawaiian Diacritical Marks; Electric Vehicles

**Description:**

Requires each number plate issued on or after 1/1/2025 to include an 'okina in the word "Hawai'i". Authorizes the use of all uppercase letters, all lowercase letters, or initial capital letters for the words "Hawai'i" and "Aloha State" in motor vehicle number plates. Limits application of special number plates for environmental conservation to electric vehicles. Specifies that the design for special number plates for environmental conservation does not require the words "Aloha State". (SD2)

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