
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE INSPECTIONS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, in order to
2 optimize the effectiveness of highway safety programs, the
3 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration recommends that
4 each state have a program for periodic safety inspections of all
5 registered motor vehicles. Motor vehicle safety inspections are
6 intended to reduce the number of vehicles with existing or
7 potential conditions that may contribute to crashes or increase
8 the severity of crashes that do occur. The legislature agrees
9 that oversight is needed to ensure motor vehicles are kept in
10 good working order so as not to endanger the driver, any other
11 occupant of the motor vehicle, or any other person upon the
12 roadway.

13 In an August 2015 report entitled "*Vehicle Safety*
14 *Inspections: Improved DOT Communication Could Better Inform*
15 *State Programs*", the United States Government Accountability
16 Office found that only sixteen states currently require periodic
17 motor vehicle safety inspections. Of those sixteen states,



1 Hawaii is one of eleven that require inspections to be conducted
2 on an annual basis, while five states require inspections to be
3 conducted on either a biennial or other basis. Further, sixteen
4 of the thirty-four states with no motor vehicle safety
5 inspection requirement once required these inspections but have
6 since repealed the programs. The Government Accountability
7 Office also notes that while officials in states with existing
8 motor vehicle safety inspection programs contend that the
9 programs improve vehicle safety conditions, data on crash rates
10 in relation to the programs are insufficient or inconclusive.
11 For example, the Government Accountability Office analyzed crash
12 rates before and after the elimination of motor vehicle safety
13 inspection programs and found that rates varied little from year
14 to year, even after the elimination of the inspection programs.

15 The legislature further finds that the decreased
16 availability of safety inspectors, compounded by the
17 increasingly limited number of hours offered to the public to
18 receive the services, has caused annual motor vehicle safety
19 inspections to become an undue hardship on Hawaii's residents,
20 particularly residents living in rural areas. Amending the
21 motor vehicle safety inspection requirements from an annual to a



1 biennial basis, while maintaining the rate of fees charged per
2 year, would enable the State to maintain high vehicle safety
3 standards while addressing the needs of safety inspectors and
4 drivers.

5 The purpose of this Act is to reduce the frequency of motor
6 vehicle safety inspections for certain vehicles from every
7 twelve months to every twenty-four months.

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

10 1. By amending subsection (b) to read:

11 "(b) All other vehicles, including motorcycles, mopeds,
12 trailers, semitrailers, and pole trailers having a gross vehicle
13 weight rating of 10,000 pounds or less, and antique motor
14 vehicles as defined in section 249-1, except those in
15 subsections (c) and (d), shall be certified as provided in
16 subsection (e) [~~every twelve months, provided that any vehicle~~
17 ~~to which this subsection applies, except a moped, shall not~~
18 ~~require inspection within~~]; provided that:

19 (1) No vehicle shall require inspection until two years
20 [~~of~~] after the date on which the vehicle was first
21 sold[-];



- 1 (2) Any vehicle with a model year ten years of age or
2 newer shall be certified every twenty-four months; and
3 (3) Any vehicle with a model year older than ten years of
4 age shall be certified every twelve months.

5 For the purposes of this section, vehicle model year shall be
6 calculated from the last day in December of the designated model
7 year of the vehicle."

8 2. By amending subsection (e) to read:

9 "(e) Upon application for a certificate of inspection to
10 be issued for a vehicle or moped, an inspection as prescribed by
11 the director under subsection (g) shall be conducted on the
12 vehicle or moped, and if the vehicle or moped is found to be in
13 a safe operating condition, a certificate of inspection shall be
14 issued upon payment of a fee to be determined by the
15 director[-]; provided that the fee for a vehicle with a model
16 year ten years of age or newer shall be twice that of the fee
17 charged for a vehicle with a model year older than ten years of
18 age. The certificate shall state the effective date, the
19 termination date, the name of the issuing insurance carrier, and
20 the policy number of the motor vehicle insurance identification
21 card for the inspected motor vehicle as specified by section



H.B. NO. 1758

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Report Title:

Motor Vehicle Inspection; Safety Checks

Description:

Requires a two-year motor vehicle inspection safety check for vehicles ten years of age or newer. Doubles the inspection fee for the two-year motor vehicle inspection safety check.

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