A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CAR REGISTRATION FEE EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS.

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

SECTION 1. Section 249-31.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended to read as follows:

"[4][§249-31.5[] Exemptions [4]from registration fees[4]]

for certain vehicles; disabled veterans. (a) A disabled veteran who:

(1) Is a resident of Hawaii;

(2) Has been other than dishonorably discharged from the United States uniformed armed forces; and

(3) Is determined by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-connected one hundred per cent disability rating for compensation or a service-connected disability rating of one hundred per cent; and

(4) Is in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed forces,

shall be exempt from payment of all annual vehicle registration fees as required by section 249-31[.] and the tax imposed under this chapter. This exemption shall not extend to vehicles used
for commercial purposes, nor to more than one vehicle owned by the disabled veteran.

(b) The director of the office of veterans' services, in consultation with the policy advisory board on veterans' services, shall submit a report to the legislature and the department of taxation no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session providing the legislature and the department of taxation with the total number of disabled veterans who qualify under this section for the exemption from annual vehicle registration fees and the tax imposed under this chapter."

SECTION 2. This Act shall apply to motor vehicle registrations issued or renewed after July 1, 2019.

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 Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken.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

SECTION 4. This Act upon its approval, shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

INTRODUCED BY:

BY REQUEST
JAN 22 2019
Report Title:
Car Registration Fee Exemption For Disabled Veterans

Description:
Repeals requirement that a disabled veteran be in receipt of disability retirement pay in order to be exempt from the payment of annual vehicle registration fees.

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

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO CAR REGISTRATION FEE EXEMPTION FOR DISABLED VETERANS

PURPOSE: Repeal requirement that a disabled veteran be in receipt of disability retirement pay in order to be exempt from the payment of annual vehicle registration fees.


JUSTIFICATION: Current section 249-31.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, allows exemption from registration fees for those who (1) are residents of Hawaii, (2) received an other than dishonorable discharge characterization from the US Armed Forces, (3) are determined to have a disability rating of 100 percent determined by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and (4) are in receipt of disability retirement pay from any branch of the uniformed armed forces. If the legislative intent was to offer this exemption to 100 percent eligible disabled Veterans, because of the restrictive language with the "disability retirement pay" clause, only 120 eligible Veterans (4%) have qualified out of 3,075 VA 100 percent disabled rated in Hawaii. Striking the "disability retirement pay" clause from the current statute will allow more Veterans to receive this $45-dollar registration fee exemption on their car registration for one vehicle and will better align with the Legislature's intent.
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<th><strong>Impact on the public:</strong></th>
<th>None.</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Impact on the department and other agencies:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>GENERAL FUND:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>OTHER FUND:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
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<td><strong>EFFECTIVE DATE:</strong></td>
<td>Upon adoption.</td>
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