

HDOE
ERT

ACT 290

S.B. NO.

1160
S.D. 1
H.D. 3
C.D. 1

THE SENATE
NINETEENTH LEGISLATURE, 1997
STATE OF HAWAII

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State relies
2 primarily on the consumption of imported oil to satisfy its
3 energy needs. The legislature further finds that because oil is
4 a limited resource, the State must develop and implement
5 mechanisms to reduce the consumption of oil and other petroleum-
6 based products in Hawaii.

7 The legislature further finds that the residents of the
8 State consume a large quantity of gasoline for motor vehicle use.
9 According to recent statistics, there are over nine hundred
10 thousand registered motor vehicles on Hawaii's roads and
11 highways. Because of this, Hawaii's drivers consumed over three
12 hundred seventy-five million gallons of gasoline in 1990.

13 One possible mechanism of reducing the consumption of
14 petroleum products is to promote the use of newer technologies in
15 everyday life. The legislature recognizes that many advances
16 have already been made in the field of transportation. The
17 emergence of alternatives to fossil-fueled vehicles has the
18 potential to significantly reduce our dependency on petroleum-
19 based products.

1997-2733 SB1160 CD1 SMA

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1 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 2 (1) Improve the transportation of people and goods through
3 the expanded use of electric vehicles by undertaking a
4 program of financial and regulatory incentives designed
5 to promote the purchase or lease of such vehicles;
- 6 (2) Obtain the benefits to the state economy of lessened
7 dependence on imported petroleum products through
8 greater reliance on vehicles that utilize domestically-
9 produced electricity as a source of energy; and
- 10 (3) Preserve and enhance air quality by encouraging the
11 widespread use of vehicles that are emissions-free in
12 operation.

13 SECTION 2. It is the policy of the State to support the
14 development and widespread consumer acceptance of electric
15 vehicles within the State. This policy is intended to accelerate
16 the use of a substantial number of electric vehicles in the State
17 to attain significant reductions in air pollution, improve energy
18 efficiency in transportation, and reduce the State's dependence
19 on imported oil or petroleum products. Exempting electric
20 vehicles from various requirements applicable to conventional,
21 internal combustion engine-powered vehicles may encourage
22 operators to choose electric vehicles.

23 SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall:

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1 (1) Establish and adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91,
2 Hawaii Revised Statutes, for the registration of an
3 electric vehicle in this State; and

4 (2) Establish and issue a special license plate to
5 designate that the vehicle to which the license plate
6 is affixed is an electric vehicle.

7 SECTION 4. An electric vehicle on which a license plate
8 described in section 3 is affixed shall be exempt from:

9 (1) The payment of parking fees, including those collected
10 through parking meters, charged by any governmental
11 authority, other than a branch of the federal
12 government, when being operated in this State; and

13 (2) High occupancy vehicle restrictions or other traffic
14 control measures.

15 SECTION 5. For a period of five years from the effective
16 date of this Act, the motor vehicle registration fee and other
17 fees, if any, assessed upon or associated with the registration
18 of an electric vehicle in this State, including any fees
19 associated with the issuance of a license plate described in
20 section 3, shall be waived; provided that the department of
21 transportation shall review the incentive program every two years
22 to determine the proper level of incentives for continuation of
23 the program.

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1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 1997.

APPROVED BY THE
GOVERNOR ON

JUN 21 1997