

JAN 23 2026

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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO TRANSPORTATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that a recent Insurance  
2 Institute for Highway Safety study of nearly 18,000 pedestrian  
3 crashes concluded that vehicles having a hood height greater  
4 than forty inches are approximately forty-five per cent more  
5 likely to cause fatalities in pedestrian crashes when compared  
6 with cars and other vehicles with hood heights of thirty inches  
7 or less. The legislature also finds that, in 2020, more than  
8 42,000 people were killed and 4,800,000 seriously injured on  
9 United States roadways, an eight per cent increase from the year  
10 before. The legislature further finds that recent consumer  
11 trends indicate increasing sales of larger vehicles, which poses  
12 a risk to pedestrians. The legislature further finds that  
13 school areas are at particular risk of drivers of larger and  
14 taller vehicles being unable to see pedestrians.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish an  
16 annual vehicle registration surcharge for vehicles having a hood



1 height greater than forty inches, for deposit into the safe  
2 routes to school program special fund.

3 SECTION 2. Section 249-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended to read as follows:

5 **"§249-31 State registration fee.** (a) All vehicles and  
6 motor vehicles in the State as defined in section 249-1,  
7 including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise provided  
8 in sections 249-4, 249-6, and 249-31.5, shall be subject to a \$46  
9 annual vehicle registration fee; provided that [alternative]:

10 (1) Alternative fuel vehicles shall pay an annual vehicle  
11 registration surcharge of \$50[, which]; and

12 (2) Vehicles having a hood height greater than forty  
13 inches shall pay an annual vehicle registration  
14 surcharge of \$20 for each inch that the vehicle's hood  
15 height exceeds forty inches; provided that this  
16 paragraph shall not apply to buses, ambulances, or  
17 vehicles categorized by the Federal Highway  
18 Administration as class 5 or greater.

19 Annual vehicle registration surcharges shall be assessed and  
20 collected beginning with the first registration renewal for  
21 every [alternative fuel] vehicle [and shall be deposited into



1 ~~the state highway fund established under section 248-8. The~~  
2 ~~surcharge]~~ subject to paragraphs (1) and (2). Surcharges shall  
3 be paid each year together with all other taxes and fees levied  
4 by this chapter on a staggered basis as established by each  
5 county as authorized by section 286-51, and the state  
6 registration for that county shall likewise be staggered so that  
7 the state registration fee is due and payable at the same time  
8 and shall be collected together with the county fee. The state  
9 registration fee shall be deemed delinquent if not paid with the  
10 county registration fee. The respective counties shall collect  
11 this fee together with the vehicle registration tax collected  
12 for the county and shall transfer the moneys collected under  
13 this section to the State.

14 For the purposes of this subsection, "alternative fuel  
15 vehicle" means a vehicle powered by a non-petroleum-based fuel,  
16 but excludes an electric vehicle as defined in  
17 section 249-36(g).

18 (b) ~~[In addition to the annual vehicle registration~~  
19 ~~surcharge fee, for]~~ Fees collected under this section shall be  
20 disposed of as follows:

14 SECTION 3. Section 291C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 "S291C-4 Safe routes to school program special fund;

17 **establishment.** There is established in the state treasury the  
18 safe routes to school program special fund, into which shall be  
19 deposited:

20 (1) Vehicle registration surcharge fees collected pursuant  
21 to section 249-31;



1 [+] (2) Assessments collected for speeding in a school  
2 zone, pursuant to section 291C-104; and  
3 [+] (3) Safe routes to school program surcharges  
4 collected in accordance with sections 291-16 and  
5 291C-5."

6 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
7 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

8 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

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INTRODUCED BY:

SB LRB 26-0053-1.docx



S.B. NO. 2558

**Report Title:**

Motor Vehicles; State Registration Fee; Tall Vehicles; Surcharge; Safe Routes to School Program Special Fund

**Description:**

Establishes an annual vehicle registration surcharge for vehicles having a hood height greater than 40 inches for deposit into the safe routes to school program special fund.

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

