

JAN 23 2026

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:



1 (1) From each annual motor vehicle registration fee, the
2 director shall deposit \$40 into the state highway
3 fund, \$5 into the emergency medical services special
4 fund, and \$1 into the accessible parking special
5 account[-];

6 (2) Annual vehicle registration surcharge fees collected
7 pursuant to subsection (a)(1) shall be deposited into
8 the state highway fund established under
9 section 248-8; and

10 (3) Annual vehicle registration surcharge fees collected
11 pursuant to subsection (a)(2) shall be deposited into
12 the safe routes to school program special fund
13 established under section 291C-4."

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

16 "**§291C-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;



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.*

