
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE WEIGHT TAX REDUCTION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Act 86 of 2011
2 amended section 249-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to effectively
3 double the state vehicle weight tax, thus placing an undue
4 financial burden on the citizens of Hawaii. This remarkable
5 increase was the result of an administration initiative to make
6 up for the extreme reduction in general fund and capital
7 improvement project budget allocations to the state highway fund
8 from 2005 through 2010. Hawaii taxpayers already suffer from a
9 significant tax and fee burden. The doubling of the vehicle
10 weight tax during an economic downturn showed a lack of fiscal
11 discipline in the State's leadership, as well as indifference to
12 the financial burdens of the people of Hawaii.

13 The legislature also finds that taxing vehicle ownership by
14 the pound is unprecedented in the United States. This method
15 does not take into account the vehicle's make and model,
16 condition, age, or depreciation. Given this static method of



1 taxation, increasing the per-pound tax significantly and
2 negatively impacts citizens' financial well-being.

3 The purpose of this Act is to return the vehicle weight tax
4 cost structure to the 2010 level.

5 SECTION 2. Section 249-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 "**§249-33 State vehicle weight tax, exemptions.** (a) All
8 vehicles and motor vehicles in the State as defined in section
9 249-1, including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise
10 provided in sections 249-4, 249-5.5, 249-6, and 249-6.5, in
11 addition to all other fees and taxes levied by this chapter,
12 shall be subject to an annual state vehicle weight tax. The tax
13 shall be levied by the county director of finance at the rate of
14 [~~1.75~~] .75 cents a pound according to the net weight of each
15 vehicle as the "net weight" is defined in section 249-1 up to
16 and including four thousand pounds net weight; vehicles over
17 four thousand pounds and up to and including seven thousand
18 pounds net weight shall be taxed at the rate of [~~2.00 cents~~]
19 1.00 cent a pound; vehicles over seven thousand pounds and up to
20 and including ten thousand pounds net weight shall be taxed at
21 the rate of [~~2.25~~] 1.25 cents a pound; vehicles over ten



1 thousand pounds net weight shall be taxed at a flat rate of
2 [~~\$300~~] \$150.

3 (b) The tax shall become due and payable in each year
4 together with all other taxes and fees levied by this chapter on
5 a staggered basis as established by each county as authorized by
6 section 286-51, the state vehicle weight tax shall likewise be
7 staggered so that the state vehicle weight tax is collected
8 together with the county fee. The state vehicle weight tax
9 shall be deemed delinquent if not paid with the county
10 registration fee. The tax shall be paid by the owner of each
11 vehicle to the director of finance of the county in which the
12 vehicle is registered and shall be collected by the director of
13 finance of such county together with all other fees and taxes
14 levied by this chapter from the owner of each vehicle and motor
15 vehicle registered in the county.

16 By the fifteenth day of the month following the month in
17 which taxes under this section are collected, the director of
18 finance of each county shall transmit the taxes collected to the
19 state director of finance for deposit into the state highway
20 fund.



1 (c) The exemptions provided by sections 249-3 to 249-6
2 shall apply to this section. The provisions for refunds, and
3 taxes for fraction of years for vehicles removed from or brought
4 into the State and for junked vehicles, contained in sections
5 249-3 and 249-5 shall apply to the tax levied by this section.

6 (d) If it is shown to the satisfaction of the department
7 of transportation of the State, based upon proper records and
8 from such other evidence as the department of transportation may
9 require, that any vehicle with a net vehicle weight of six
10 thousand pounds or over is used for agricultural purposes the
11 owner thereof may obtain a refund of all taxes thereon imposed
12 by this section. The department of transportation shall
13 prescribe rules to administer such refunds.

14 (e) The counties shall be reimbursed the incremental costs
15 incurred in the collection and administration of taxes and fees
16 imposed under section 249-31 and this section; the amount of
17 reimbursement shall be determined by the director of
18 transportation."

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

21 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2017.



H.B. NO. 354

INTRODUCED BY:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "A. ...", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "...", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. ...", written over a horizontal line.

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JAN 20 2017



H.B. NO. 354

Report Title:

Motor vehicles; Annual Vehicle Weight Tax

Description:

Reduces the annual vehicle weight tax and maintains allocation of the tax to the state highway fund.

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

