
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DISABLED VETERANS.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds a debt of gratitude is
2 owed to those who incur wounds while serving as members of the
3 nation's armed forces, especially those wounds resulting in
4 life-long disabilities.

5 The legislature also finds that if our armed forces are to
6 remain an all-volunteer force in the future, we must take care
7 of our veterans now. Taking care of veterans is critical to the
8 future defense of our nation and should be considered an
9 investment.

10 The legislature further finds that it can never fully repay
11 veterans for their service, but it can offer certain exemptions
12 to disabled veterans as a means of showing gratitude. Disabled
13 veterans currently receive an exemption from annual vehicle
14 registrations fees; however, they must still pay the annual
15 weight tax. The purpose of this Act is to extend the exemption
16 for disabled veterans to the annual vehicle weight tax.



1 SECTION 2. Section 249-31.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "§249-31.5 Exemptions from registration fees and annual
4 weight tax for certain vehicles; disabled veterans. (a) A
5 disabled veteran who:

- 6 (1) Is a resident of Hawaii;
- 7 (2) Has been other than dishonorably discharged from the
8 United States uniformed armed forces; and
- 9 (3) Is determined by the United States Department of
10 Veterans Affairs or its predecessor to have a service-
11 connected one hundred per cent disability rating for
12 compensation or a service-connected disability rating
13 of one hundred per cent,

14 shall be exempt from payment of all annual vehicle registration
15 fees and annual vehicle weight tax as required by [~~section~~]
16 sections 249-31[+] and 249-33; provided that [~~this exemption~~]
17 these exemptions shall not extend to any vehicle used for
18 commercial purposes or to more than one vehicle owned by the
19 disabled veteran.

20 (b) The director of the office of veterans' services, in
21 consultation with the policy advisory board on [+]veterans' [+]



1 services, shall submit a report to the legislature and the
2 department of taxation no later than twenty days prior to the
3 convening of each regular session providing the legislature and
4 the department of taxation with the total number of disabled
5 veterans who qualify under this section for the exemption from
6 annual vehicle registration fees[-] and the annual vehicle
7 weight tax."

8 SECTION 3. Section 249-33, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "**§249-33 State vehicle weight tax, exemptions.** (a) All
11 vehicles and motor vehicles in the State as defined in section
12 249-1, including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise
13 provided in sections 249-4, 249-5.5, 249-6, [~~and~~] 249-6.5, and
14 249-31.5, in addition to all other fees and taxes levied by this
15 chapter, shall be subject to an annual state vehicle weight tax.
16 The tax shall be levied by the county director of finance at the
17 rate of 1.75 cents a pound according to the net weight of each
18 vehicle as the "net weight" is defined in section 249-1 up to
19 and including four thousand pounds net weight; vehicles over
20 four thousand pounds and up to and including seven thousand
21 pounds net weight shall be taxed at the rate of 2.00 cents a



1 pound; vehicles over seven thousand pounds and up to and
2 including ten thousand pounds net weight shall be taxed at the
3 rate of 2.25 cents a pound; vehicles over ten thousand pounds
4 net weight shall be taxed at a flat rate of \$300.

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

18 By the fifteenth day of the month following the month in
19 which taxes under this section are collected, the director of
20 finance of each county shall transmit the taxes collected to the



1 state director of finance for deposit into the state highway
2 fund.

3 ~~[(e) The exemptions provided by sections 249-3 to 249-6~~
4 ~~shall apply to this section. The provisions for refunds, and~~
5 ~~taxes for fraction of years for vehicles removed from or brought~~
6 ~~into the State and for junked vehicles, contained in sections~~
7 ~~249-3 and 249-5 shall apply to the tax levied by this section.~~

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

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



1 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



Report Title:

Disabled Veterans; Vehicle Weight Tax

Description:

Creates an exemption from the annual vehicle weight tax for qualified disabled veterans.

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

