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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MOTOR VEHICLE REGISTRATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that electric motor  
2 vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles, and plug-in hybrid motor  
3 vehicles decrease vehicle emissions, helping the State progress  
4 toward its clean energy goals. However, the legislature notes  
5 concerns that electric motor vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles,  
6 and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles may not be contributing their  
7 fair share to the state highway fund since they do not consume,  
8 or consume limited quantities, of gasoline. The state highway  
9 fund depends on three primary fee sources: the fuel tax, weight  
10 tax, and vehicle registration fees. The fuel tax paid by a  
11 driver is closely related to the amount of driving done by the  
12 driver of non-electric, non-hybrid motor vehicles, and non-plug-  
13 in hybrid motor vehicles. Thus, these drivers pay a fee that is  
14 related to the amount of road degradation they contribute to  
15 when they drive. Because drivers of electric motor vehicles,  
16 hybrid motor vehicles, and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles pay



1 little to no gas tax, these drivers do not pay for the road  
2 degradation they contribute to.

3 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to increase the  
4 registration fees for electric motor vehicles, hybrid motor  
5 vehicles, and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles such that, in  
6 addition to the annual motor vehicle registration fee, drivers  
7 of electric motor vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles, and plug-in  
8 hybrid motor vehicles are assessed an additional annual  
9 registration fee that is approximately equivalent to the gas tax  
10 they would have paid if they drove a regular motor vehicle. The  
11 additional registration fee is based on the average driving  
12 miles of all vehicles, the average fuel efficiency of regular  
13 motor vehicles, and the amount of the fuel tax.

14 SECTION 2. Section 249-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15 amended as follows:

16 1. By adding three new definitions to be appropriately  
17 inserted and to read:

18 "Electric motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle powered  
19 solely by an electric motor that draws electric current from  
20 rechargeable storage batteries, fuel cells, photovoltaic arrays,  
21 or other sources of electric current.



1        "Hybrid motor vehicle" means a motor vehicle powered by an  
2 internal combustion engine and other propulsion that may be  
3 dependent or independent in providing propulsion to the vehicle  
4 in any forward or reverse gear.

5        "Plug-in hybrid motor vehicle" means a hybrid motor vehicle  
6 with rechargeable batteries that can be restored to full charge  
7 by connecting a plug to an external electric power source."

8        2. By amending the definition of "motor vehicle" to read:

9        "Motor vehicle" means every vehicle which is self-  
10 propelled [and every vehicle which is propelled by electric  
11 power but], including electric motor vehicles, hybrid motor  
12 vehicles, and plug-in hybrid motor vehicles, which is not  
13 operated upon rails, but excludes mopeds."

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

16        **"§249-31 State registration fee.** (a) All vehicles and  
17 motor vehicles in the State as defined in section 249-1,  
18 including antique motor vehicles, except as otherwise provided  
19 in sections 249-4, 249-6, and 249-31.5, shall be subject to a  
20 \$45 annual vehicle registration fee. Electric motor vehicles in  
21 the State shall be subject to an additional \$            annual



1 vehicle registration fee. Hybrid motor vehicles in the State  
2 shall be subject to an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annual vehicle  
3 registration fee. Plug-in hybrid motor vehicles in the State  
4 shall be subject to an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_ annual vehicle  
5 registration fee. The [~~fee~~] fees shall be paid 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, and the state registration for that county shall  
9 likewise be staggered so that the state registration [~~fee is~~  
10 fees are due and payable at the same time and shall be collected  
11 together with the county fee. The state registration [~~fee~~] fees  
12 shall be deemed delinquent if not paid with the county  
13 registration fee. The respective counties shall collect [~~this~~  
14 fee] these fees together with the vehicle registration tax  
15 collected for the county and shall transfer the moneys collected  
16 under this section to the State.

17 (b) From each annual motor vehicle registration fee, the  
18 director shall deposit \$40 into the state highway fund and \$5  
19 into the emergency medical services special fund. From the  
20 additional annual motor vehicle registration fees for electric  
21 motor vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles, and plug-in hybrid motor



1 vehicles, the director shall deposit the entire amount of the  
2 fee into the state highway fund."

3 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the state highway  
4 fund the sum of \$ or so much thereof as may be necessary  
5 for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the operations and maintenance of  
6 the state highways program.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
8 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Electric Motor Vehicles; Hybrid Motor Vehicles; Annual  
Registration Fees; State Highway Fund; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes an additional motor vehicle registration fee for  
electric motor vehicles, hybrid motor vehicles, and plug-in  
hybrid motor vehicles, and deposits the money into the State  
Highway Fund. Appropriates funds for the operation and  
maintenance of the State Highway Program. (SB1011 HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

