Hawaii Car Registration Fees (2026)

Fee summary from vehiclefeecalculator.com/hawaii/ · Rates checked October 21, 2026 · Next monthly check: November 2026

How much does it cost to register a car in Hawaii? It depends on weight and county. In Honolulu a 3,320 lb car pays $367 a year: $46 state registration, $20 county registration, $58.10 state weight tax, $232.40 county weight tax, $10 beautification and a $0.50 emblem. Buying adds the $10 title, $5 plates and the general excise tax a dealer passes on (up to 4.712%). Electric cars pay nothing extra at purchase and a $50 road usage charge from the first renewal.

Fees at a glance (2026)

State registration fee	$46/yr
State weight tax	1.75 cents/lb to 4,000 lbs, 2 cents to 7,000, 2.25 cents to 10,000
County fees, Honolulu	$20 registration + 7 cents/lb weight tax ($12 min) + $10 beautification + $0.50 emblem
Electric vehicles	Nothing at purchase; $50 road usage charge from the first renewal
Title fee	$10 (Honolulu, Kauai)
Plates	$5 when issued
General excise tax	4.712% maximum pass-on (4% + 0.5% county surcharge)
Safety inspection	$25.75 car, $17.75 motorcycle (paid to the station)

Starting example

Example for a $30,000 car. Change the inputs on the calculator page for your own figures.

Title fee	$10.00
State registration fee	$46.00
County registration fee	$20.00
State weight tax 3,320 lbs x 1.7500000000000002 cents	$58.10
County weight tax 3,320 lbs x 7 cents	$232.40
Highway beautification fee	$10.00
Annual emblem	$0.50
Plates	$5.00
Safety inspection Paid to the inspection station; not in this total	$25.75
General excise tax (passed on) 4.712% maximum pass-on	$1,413.60
Estimated total	**$1,795.60**

What this estimate does and does not include

• Hawaii charges by weight at two levels: the state weight tax (HRS 249-33: 1.75 cents a pound up to 4,000 lbs, 2 cents to 7,000, 2.25 cents to 10,000; $300 over 10,000) and the county weight tax (Honolulu 7 cents a pound for cars and noncommercial trucks up to 6,500 lbs, 7.5 cents for other trucks, $12 minimum). The default weight is the 3,320 lb car in Honolulu's own worked example, which totals $367 a year.

• Counties: Honolulu's fees are complete. Maui's are from its FY2025 schedule (the latest found) and include the Highway Improvement Fee ($100 electric, $50 hybrid); its county registration fee, title and emblem amounts weren't confirmed. Kauai's title, plates and $20 county fee are confirmed, its weight tax isn't. Hawaii County's county fees weren't found on an official page. Unconfirmed lines show as not available.

• Electric vehicles: the old $50 EV surcharge was replaced on July 1, 2025 by the Hawaii Road Usage Charge. Nothing is owed at purchase; at the first renewal it defaults to $50 (or $8 per 1,000 miles, capped at $50), credited toward the second renewal for EVs bought since July 2025. Hybrids and plug-in hybrids aren't in the program; whether the state's $50 alternative fuel surcharge applies to them isn't clear in the official texts, so it shows as not available at renewal.

• Tax: Hawaii has no sales tax. Dealers owe the general excise tax and usually pass it on, at most 4.712% (4% + 0.5% county surcharge, grossed up). The calculator assumes the maximum pass-on. No official guidance allows a trade-in deduction on a dealer sale, so there is no trade-in input. The tax on a private in-state sale wasn't confirmed and shows as not available.

• Motorcycles: Honolulu's ordinance names no motorcycle rate, so the $12 minimum county weight tax is used; one plate is issued. Other counties' motorcycle weight tax shows as not available.

• The safety inspection ($25.75, motorcycles $17.75) is required before registering and renewing but is paid to the inspection station, so it's shown separately and not counted in the total. Late renewal in Honolulu adds $16 ($40 commercial); a title transfer filed more than 30 days late adds $50. Not included: plate transfer ($5), duplicate title ($10).

Official sources

Honolulu CSD - Motor vehicle registration (state registration $46, county registration $20, highway beautification $10, emblem $0.50, plates $5; worked example 3,320 lb = $367; late renewal $16 passenger, $40 commercial)
https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/motor-vehicle-registration/
Checked October 21, 2026

Honolulu CSD - Dealer resources (highway beautification fee $7 -> $10, Ordinance 25-37)
https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/dealer-resources/
Checked October 21, 2026

Honolulu ROH 41-17.1 via Bill 10 (2017) CD1 (county weight tax 7.0 cents/lb passenger and noncommercial trucks up to 6,500 lbs, 7.5 cents other trucks, $12 minimum)
https://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-192263/Bill%2010%20(2017)%20CD1.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

Honolulu CSD - HiRUC program (newly purchased EVs owe no road usage charge at purchase; $50 flat at the first renewal; hybrids and plug-in hybrids not eligible)
https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/hiruc-program/
Checked October 21, 2026

Honolulu CSD - Vehicle title information (duplicate title $10)
https://www.honolulu.gov/csd/vehicle-title-information/
Checked October 21, 2026

City and County of Honolulu user-fee inventory, Feb 2017 (title transfer $10, $50 penalty if not filed in 30 days; plate transfer $5)
https://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Rendition-8902567/USER%20FEE%202016%20UPDATE%20021717.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

HDOT - Hawaii Road Usage Charge begins for electric vehicles July 1 ($8 per 1,000 miles capped at $50, or $50 flat; replaces the $50 EV surcharge)
https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/hawaiis-state-road-usage-charge-begins-for-electric-vehicles-on-july-1/
Checked October 21, 2026

HDOT - Safety inspection fees 2025 ($25.75 cars and trucks, $17.75 motorcycles, paid to the station)
https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/updates-to-motor-vehicle-safety-inspection-fees-for-2025/
Checked October 21, 2026

Hawaii Revised Statutes 249-31, 249-33, 249-36, 249-7, 286-52 (state registration fee; state weight tax 1.75 / 2.00 / 2.25 cents per lb; road usage charge; plates; late title)
https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/
Checked October 21, 2026

State Procurement Office - pass-on tax rate chart, Price List 25-15 (GET 4.0% + 0.5% county surcharge, maximum visible pass-on 4.7120% in all four counties)
https://spo.hawaii.gov/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Price-List-No.-25-15-Coarse-Paper-Products-part-2-signed.pdf
Checked October 21, 2026

County of Maui - FY2025 rates and fees, Appendix B (county weight tax 3.5 cents/lb passenger, 5.41 cents other, $15 minimum; beautification $10; Highway Improvement Fee EV $100, hybrid $50; late $8 / $20)
https://www.mauicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/145995/005---FY-2025-App-B_Rates--Fees_Clean
Checked October 21, 2026

County of Kauai - Bill No. 2832 fee amendments (title $10, plates $5, county registration fee $20)
https://kauai.granicus.com/
Checked October 21, 2026

Before you pay

This is an estimate. Confirm the final amount with Hawaii counties' motor vehicle offices (Honolulu Customer Services Department). The free calculator, with every fee worked out for your own car: https://vehiclefeecalculator.com/hawaii/