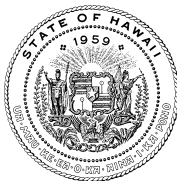


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Kāne'ohe Neighborhood Board Meeting
August 20, 2026

1. Governor Green's Monthly Newsletter – Ke Ala Hou (A New Path Forward)

Read latest edition and sign up here: <https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsletter/>

2. Board member Donald Sakamoto asked what the state is doing to eliminate overcrowding at the State Hospital and to stop any abuse of employees.

The Hawai'i State Hospital (HSH) says it has been increasing efforts to care for patients in the most appropriate setting. Appropriate discharges to group homes, returning patients who have been restored to fitness to the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation and compassionately placing frail and elderly patients in skilled nursing and long-term care facilities help reduce the hospital's average daily census.

The safety of patients and staff remains a top priority. HSH continues to evaluate and strengthen its safety practices, staff training and incident response procedures. HSH has expanded staff training in nonviolent crisis intervention techniques to help de-escalate situations before they become assaultive.

3. Board member Donald Sakamoto asked why is the state levying such a high tax on electric vehicles?

The State Department of Transportation says, "The comments by Donald Sakamoto regarding a tax increase for electric vehicles are in reference to proposed legislation by Congress to establish a new federal registration fee for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to help support the federal Highway Trust Fund.

The proposed fee is part of the **DRAFT Reauthorization Bill H.R. 8870: BUILD America 250 Act**, specifically Section 1129.

Link to the BUILD America 250 Act: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr8870/text>

Link to Section 1129 - Registration fee on motor vehicles:

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/119/hr8870/text#H55B400D55D034CC2948E41C8C0301AC1>

Below are some summation notes on the Reauthorization Bill, Section 1129:

- Establishes a new annual **federal** registration fee for electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to help support the Highway Trust Fund.
- The provision requires states to collect an annual fee of **\$130 for electric vehicles (EVs)** and **\$35 for plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs)**.
- The years **2030** and **2045** are tied to the fee escalation schedule established in Section 1129. Beginning in **2029**, the fee increases by **\$5 every two years** until it reaches the statutory maximums of **\$150 for EVs** and **\$50 for PHEVs**.

Year	EV Fee	PHEV Fee
Before 2029	\$130	\$35
2029	\$135	\$40
2031	\$140	\$45
2033	\$145	\$50 (cap reached)
2035	\$150 (cap reached)	\$50
2045	\$150	\$50

- States are responsible for collecting and remitting the fees, and failure to comply may result in the Federal Highway Administration withholding 125% of the amount owed from the state's federal highway apportionment.
- The intent of the provision is to ensure that owners of vehicles that pay little or no federal motor fuel tax contribute toward the maintenance and improvement of the nation's transportation infrastructure.

The bill was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on May 19, 2026, and was advanced by the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. It awaits consideration and passage by the full House of Representatives and Senate before it can be sent to the President.

Hawai'i Road Usage Charge

Separate from the proposed federal EV registration fee, in 2023, the Hawai'i State Legislature passed legislation ([Act 222](#)) to implement the state road usage charge (RUC) program starting with electric vehicles (EVs).

As of July 1, 2025, the Hawai'i Department of Transportation (HDOT) implemented the Hawai'i Road Usage Charge or HiRUC for light-duty passenger EVs. Under this program, EV owners have the option to pay a state per-mile road usage charge of \$8 per \$1,000, capped at \$50, or a flat annual state road usage charge of \$50. Both options replace the state \$50 EV registration surcharge.

Beginning July 1, 2028, all EV drivers will automatically be enrolled in the state per-mile RUC. The option of the state flat annual RUC of \$50 will be removed.

Act 222 also directed the HDOT to develop a [Long-Term Transition Plan](#) to transition all light-duty vehicles to RUC by 2033. The plan includes findings, recommendations, implementation phase schedules and proposed legislation for the deployment of a state mileage-based road usage charge program to encompass all passenger vehicles and light duty trucks by December 31, 2033.

As more drivers in Hawai'i choose more fuel-efficient, hybrid, or all-electric vehicles, revenues from motor fuel taxes and other vehicle registration fees have declined, resulting in less funding to maintain Hawai'i's roads, bridges and infrastructure. The Hawai'i Road Usage Charge is a step to ensure long-term, sustainable funding for transportation.

Instead of paying based on what type of car you drive, a road usage charge means vehicle owners pay only for how much they actually drive.

For additional information about the HiRUC program, including a calculator to estimate potential RUC charges, please visit <https://www.hiruc.org>."

4. Board member Adriel Lam asked for information about how he can get involved with a UH civics grant.

The Governor's representative connected him to the professors who wrote the grant.

5. Kona Low disaster relief requests

The Hawai'i Department of Taxation (DOTAX) reminds taxpayers affected by the March 2026 Kona Low Storm that the August 20, 2026, deadline to request a waiver of penalties and interest for late filing or payment of income taxes for the affected period of April 20, 2026 through August 20, 2026, is approaching.

The Internal Revenue Service extended certain federal tax deadlines to August 20, 2026, for taxpayers affected by the disaster, and DOTAX has aligned with this date for purposes of waiving penalties and interest for late filing and late payment of income taxes.

Taxpayers may request a waiver of late file and/or late pay penalties and interest by completing and filing Form L-115, Tax Relief Request for State Declared Disasters ("Form L-115") by August 20, 2026, but taxpayers are urged to file as soon as possible.

To ensure timely and accurate processing, DOTAX recommends that affected taxpayers file Form L-115 electronically via Hawaii Tax Online, at <https://hitax.hawaii.gov>, by selecting "2026 Disaster Relief Request."

For more information on the filing deadline, including forms and specific filing instructions, please refer to DOTAX's Tax Announcements 2026-03 (Amended) and 2026-04, accessible on its website at <https://tax.hawaii.gov/news/announce/>, and Form L-115, available at https://files.hawaii.gov/tax/forms/current/l115_i.pdf.

If you have questions regarding electronically filing, please contact Taxpayer Services at 808-587-4242 or by email at taxpayer.services@hawaii.gov.