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Hawaii road tax hike falls heavily on business

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Transportation businesses say they were staggered by the amount of the tax and fee increases proposed by state officials to pay for a \$4.2 billion plan to rebuild and expand Hawaii's highways.

While state officials say the average Hawaii driver will pay \$170 more a year under the plan, businesses that use buses or heavy trucks will pay significantly more to register and refuel their vehicles.

Under the proposed legislation, the state fuel tax will increase nearly 60 percent, motor vehicle registration fees will rise by 80 percent and the vehicle weight tax will more than triple.

Raising the weight tax alone will increase the fee for a heavy vehicle from \$150 a year to \$450. The registration fee for all vehicles will go from \$20 to \$45 per year.



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The state says its analysis finds that companies would save \$3,300 to \$8,000 a year if roads were smoother and less congested.

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