

Recipe for Success: HiRUC Implementation

Hawai‘i’s Road Usage Charge Program

Vermont Senate Transportation Committee
January 7, 2025

Mindy Kimura, HiRUC Program Manager
Hawai‘i Department of Transportation



From Foundations to Program Launch

HiRUC Demonstration

Pilot engagement led to broad understanding and acceptance.

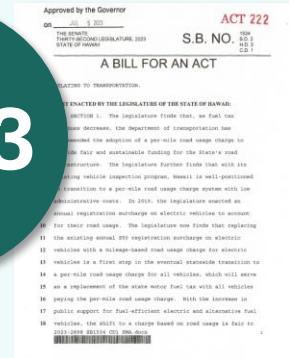
2018



Act 222

Hawai‘i becomes the fourth state to adopt RUC.

2023



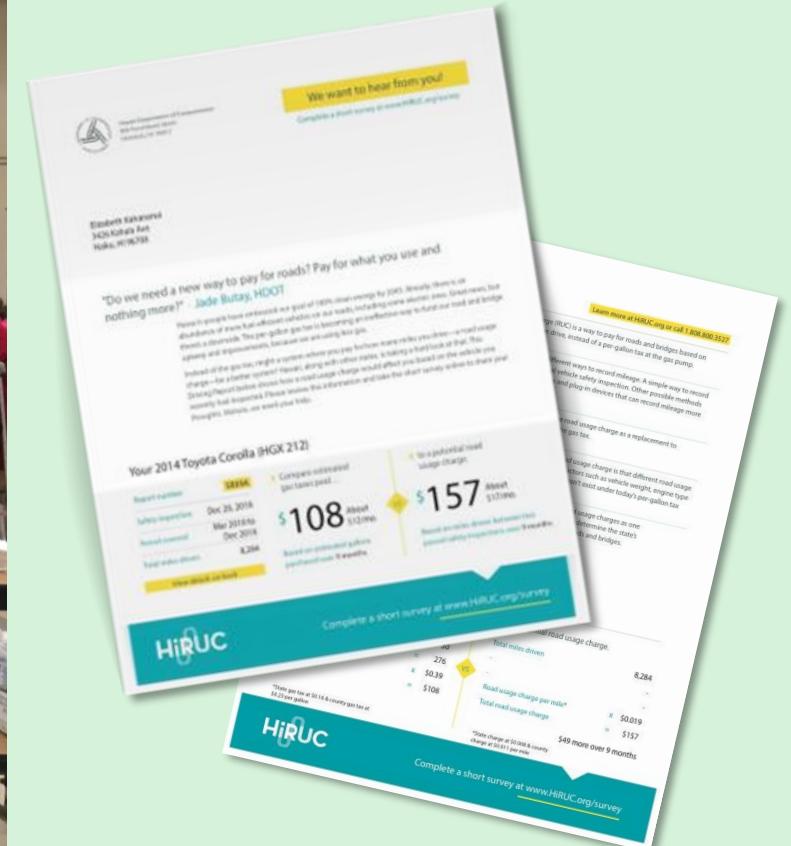
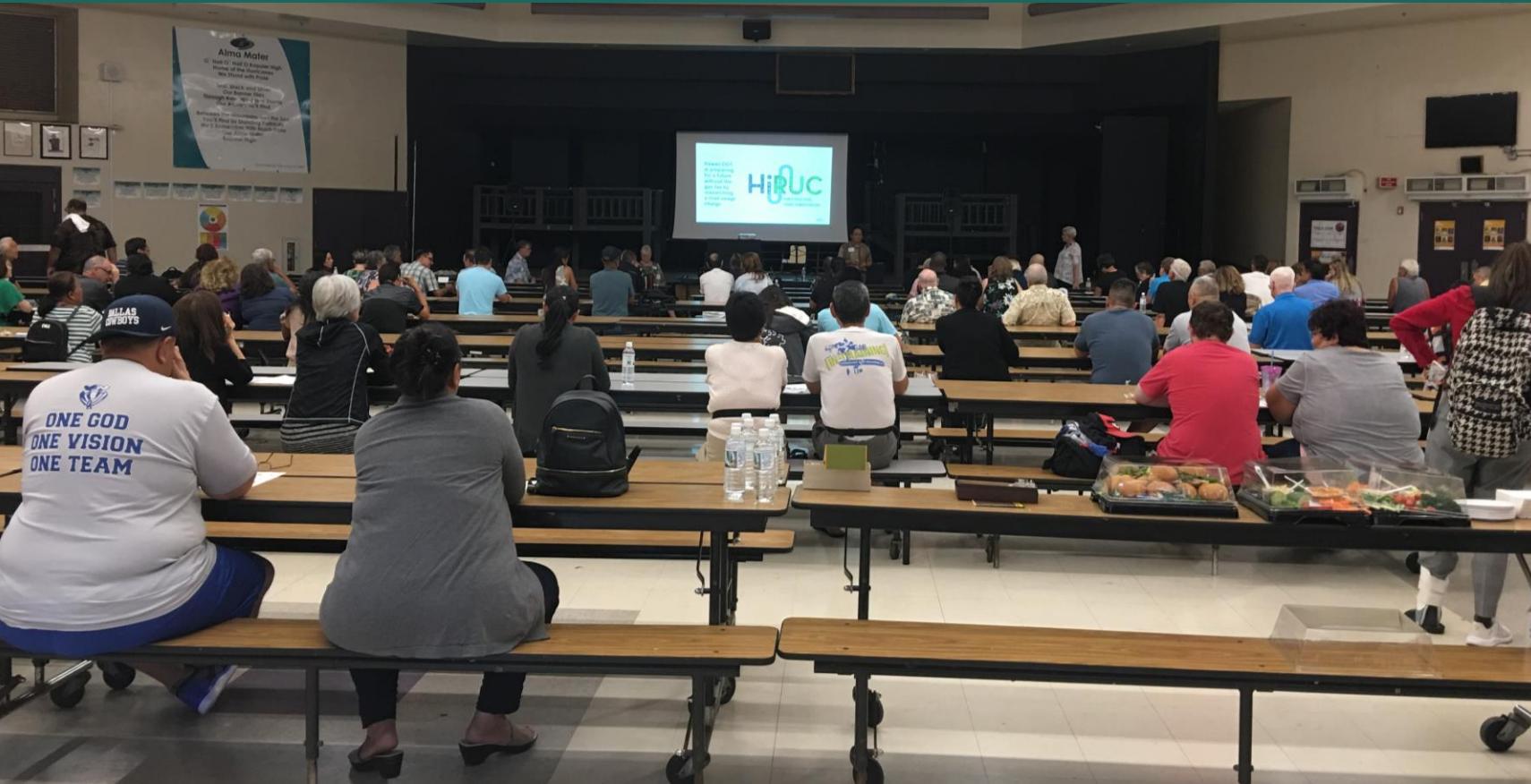
PROGRAM LAUNCH!

HiRUC is the country’s first mandatory program.

July 1,
2025



Hawai‘i’s STSFA-funded Road Usage Demonstration Project laid a **foundation** for **successful legislation and implementation.**



From Pilot to Policy: How we enacted RUC legislation:



A strong foundation of research, analysis, and feedback.



Regular communication and briefings with legislative stakeholders.

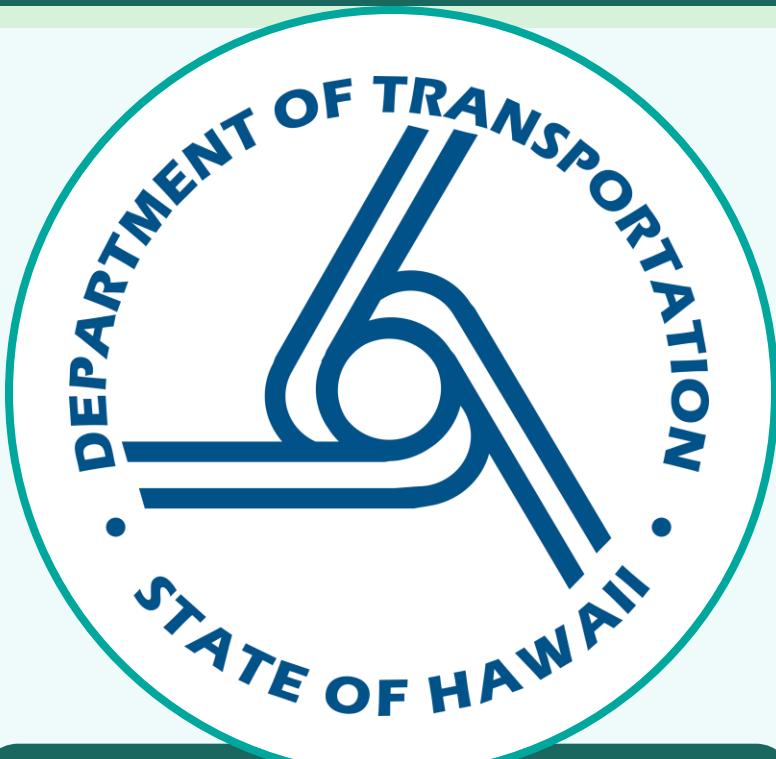


Pilot and research were thorough and **focused on robust stakeholder outreach.**



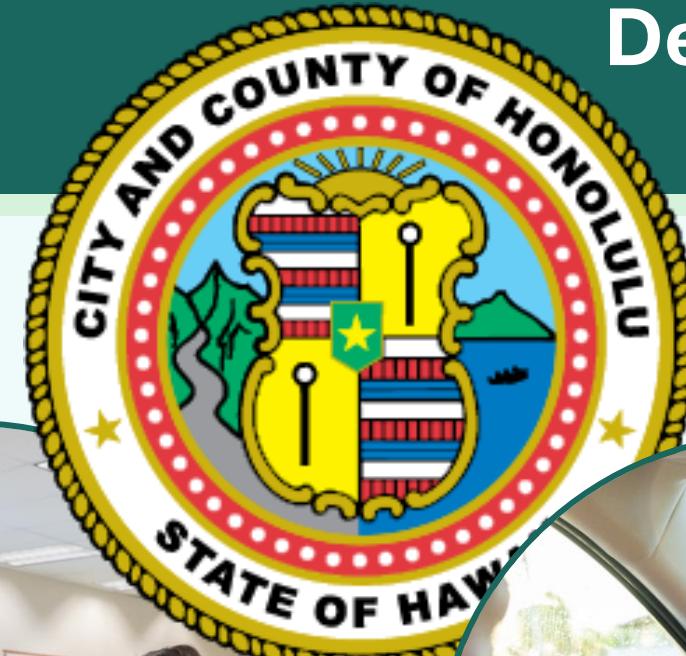
Developed modest, **well-crafted legislation.**

Program Administration and Partners



Program
Administrator

Honolulu
Department
of IT



County DMVs



EV Owners

Partners in Implementation

STATE OF HAWAII



Department of
Transportation

HDOT Departments:

- Motor Vehicle Safety Office (MVSO)
- Finance
- Highways
- Administration

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU



Department
of Customer Service
**Motor Vehicle,
Licensing and Permits**

Public Comms. Division

Department of
Information Technology
(DIT)

Department of Budget
and Fiscal Services

COUNTY OF KAUAI



Department
of Finance
**Department of
Motor Vehicles**

Information Technology Division

COUNTY OF HAWAII



Department
of Finance
**Vehicle Registration
and Licensing**

Department of
Information Technology
(DIT)

COUNTY OF MAUI



Department
of Finance

**Motor Vehicle and Licensing
Division**

Information Technology
Services Division
(ITSD)

Supporting Vendors for Implementation

Periodic Motor Vehicle Inspections

Inspection Stations & Agents

Inspection System
Administrator

Registration Management

Renewal Notice Mailing

Print On-Demand

Kiosk Provider

Bulk Registration Certificate
& Decal Fulfillment

Online Registration Website Host

Financial & Cashiering

Cashiering System

Merchant Services Provider

Implementation Working Group

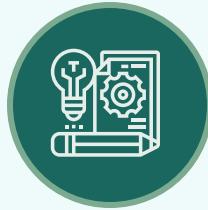


- Met **13 times** over an 18-month period.
- Provided a venue for **problem solving** during launch.
- Enabled **active engagement** and **collaboration**.



Implementation Working Group

Key Takeaways



Adapting Over Time

DMV leadership enabled collaborative adaptation (e.g., **interim solution**) throughout implementation.



Connecting Agencies

The IWG actively bridged gaps between county DMVs, DIT, and the Program Team.

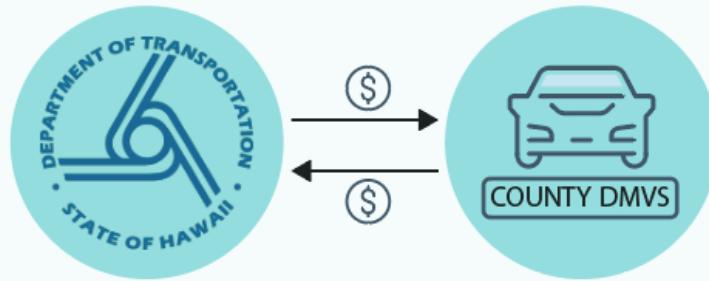


Effective Communication

Open, flexible communication channels kept implementation on track.

RUC INVOICING AND PAYMENT

Hawai'i Vehicle Registration and Renewal Process



Hawai'i, Honolulu,
Kaua'i, Maui

Register/Renew EV

Customer Service



Drive



Annual Vehicle Inspection



PMVI Inspection

HiRUC Processing by C&C Honolulu DIT



Inspection Data

PMVI Servers

How does
HiRUC work?



**No enrollment
needed!**

Vehicle
odometer
recordings
captured at
annual safety
inspections
inform the HiRUC
choice.

HiRUC Program EV Owner Experience

Notice

Starting July 1, 2025, eligible EV owners will see **RUC on their registration renewal notice.**



Choose

Most EV drivers may be offered a choice:

- Default per-mile RUC (capped at \$50)
- Flat annual RUC choice (\$50)



Pay

RUC owed will be added to the vehicle registration payment process.



Complete

Registration renewal can be completed using **any existing renewal method.**



EV Drivers: Registration Renewal Notice

RUC024 TSTAUTOSBLITIA024
NISS IND 2018

**TO AVOID PENALTY,
RENEW ON OR BEFORE:**

06/30/2025

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE:
\$313.02

The following additional form(s) must be submitted to renew your vehicle registration:

***SUBMIT CURRENT SAFETY CHECK IF REGISTERING AFTER JUN 2025** The motor vehicle computer files indicate that the vehicle's safety inspection has expired or will expire on the last day of the month indicated above. Submit a photocopy of the current Hawaii Vehicle Inspection certificate if renewing the registration after the safety inspection Expiration Date indicated on the inspection certificate.



****IMPORTANT EV ACTION REQUIRED** for STATE ROAD USAGE CHARGE (RUC)** As of July 1, 2025, a charge of \$8 for every 1,000 miles driven (0.8¢ per mile) is active for all electric vehicles. Learn more at <https://hiruc.org/>. Based on your most recent vehicle safety inspection, you drove 5,955 miles in your current registration period (calculated as of May 19, 2025). Your total amount due of \$313.02 includes a per-mile RUC of \$47.64 this year, which is capped at \$50 per year.

() I prefer to pay a \$50 flat annual RUC instead (a payment of \$315.38 must be included).

Once you choose the per-mile RUC program, this vehicle will remain in per-mile RUC which is capped at \$50 per year.

() YES! I'll Give the Gift of Life. I have added \$1 to my registration fee to support Organ/Tissue donation education in HI.



TSTAUTOSBLITIA02400313020031538106

**15,000+ HiRUC
eligible vehicles
received registration
renewals for the first 4-
months of the program**



**CHOICE
SHOWN**

HiRUC Program Implementation Communications



Ensure EV drivers
understand
Hawai‘i’s RUC
program.



Support a **positive**
customer
experience.



Encourage EV
drivers to
choose RUC.



Inform, educate, and
engage all audiences
about road usage
charging in Hawai‘i.

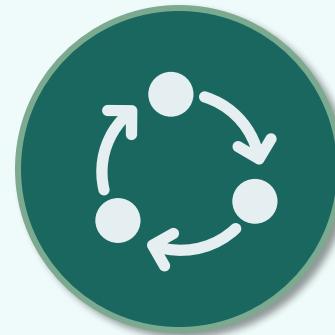
HiRUC Program Communications Approach



**County-based
outreach and
focus.**



**Partner with
County
DMVs.**



**Integrate
into existing
systems and
processes.**

HiRUC Estimator

@

www.hiruc.org



EV ROAD USAGE CHARGE ESTIMATOR

Compare for yourself

How many miles do you drive each year?

8900 miles

Average miles driven in Hawaii

In each county:

- Hawaii
- Honolulu
- Maui
- Kauai

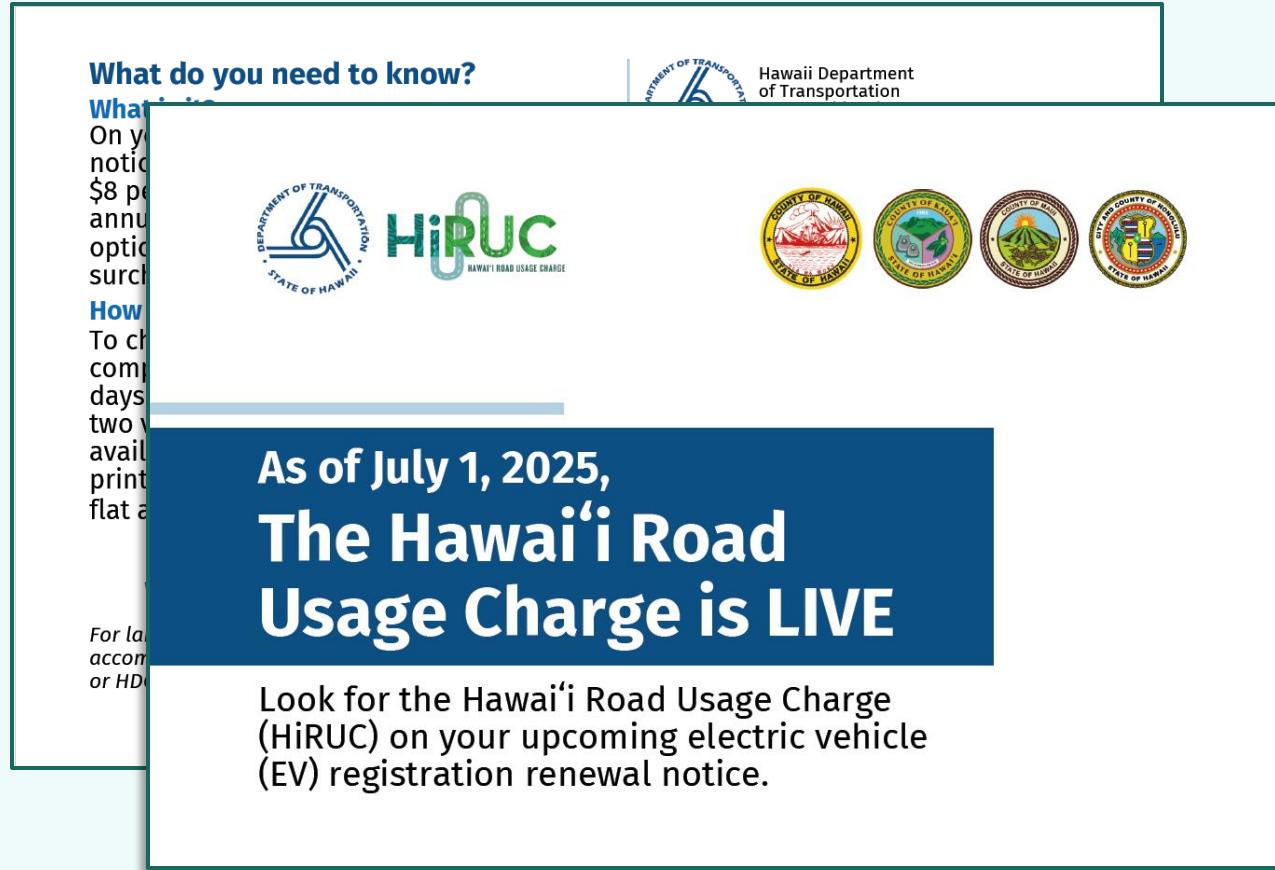
Estimate

YOUR ESTIMATED ANNUAL RUC COST

Based on **8,900 miles** driven each year:

State per-mile RUC	\$50	\$71	OR	State flat annual RUC	\$50
Per-mile state RUC capped at \$50			Flat rate no longer available June 30, 2028		
Total miles driven	8,900		Flat rate road usage charge	\$50	
Per mile RUC rate	x \$0.008		Total annual RUC	\$50	
<hr/>			<hr/>		
Total annual RUC	\$50		Total annual RUC	\$50	

HiRUC Postcards



Monthly postcards distributed to EV drivers.

Adapted over time based on inquiries received.

24,000+ postcards sent to date.

DMV Customer Communications Materials



**Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC)
For Electric Vehicle Drivers**

What is RUC?
A road usage charge (RUC) is a per-mile fee drivers pay to fund roads and bridges.

HiRUC HAWAII ROAD USAGE CHARGE

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
STATE OF HAWAII
COUNTY OF KAHULUI
STATE OF HAWAII

www.hiruc.org



Hawai'i Road Usage Charge

Hawai'i RUC Update

- In 2022, the Hawaii State Legislature passed, and the governor signed, Act 222, which creates a small-scale road usage charge (RUC) program for electric vehicles and requires the Hawaii Department of Transportation (HDOT) to develop a plan to transition all light-duty vehicles to a RUC by 2025.
- Beginning July 1, 2025, most electric vehicle (EV) owners will have 2 choices to pay a state per-mile RUC (\$8 per 1,000 miles driven, capped at \$50) or a state flat annual RUC of \$50.
- The RUC Program will utilize the existing annual vehicle inspection process, also known as a "safety check" to report annual miles driven. The RUC amount will be applied to the time of vehicle registration renewal, and payments can be processed by any existing registration renewal method (kiosk, online, in-person, mail/drop box).
- Beginning July 1, 2025, the state per-mile RUC becomes mandatory for all EV drivers. The option of the state flat annual RUC of \$50 will be removed.

What does this mean for EV owners?

Vehicle registration renewal can be completed as usual, using any existing renewal method (kiosk, online, in-person, or mail/drop box).

Notice

Starting July 1, 2025, eligible EV owners will see a choice on their vehicle registration renewal notice.

Choose

EV owners to choose State per-mile RUC (\$8 per 1,000 miles driven, capped at \$50)

OR

State flat annual RUC (\$50)

Pay

RUC amount owed will be added to the vehicle registration payment process.

Complete

RUC choice captured and registration certificate printed.

Learn more

www.hiruc.org to learn more.



For EV drivers!

Hawai'i Road Usage Charge Begins July 1, 2025

Look for the Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) choice on your upcoming electric vehicle (EV) registration renewal notice.

What does this mean for EV drivers?

Vehicle registration renewal can be completed as usual, using any existing renewal method (kiosk, online, in-person, or mail/drop box).

Notice

Starting July 1, 2025, eligible EV owners will see a road usage charge (RUC) on their vehicle registration renewal notice.

Choose

At the time of annual registration renewal, most EV drivers will have the choice between paying:

State per-mile RUC (\$8 per 1,000 miles driven, capped at \$50) **OR** **State flat annual RUC** (\$50)

Both options replace the state's current \$50 EV registration surcharge.

Pay

RUC amount owed will be added to the vehicle registration payment process.

Complete

RUC choice captured and registration certificate printed.

Why is Hawai'i doing this?

Hawaii has had to turn significant revenue to maintain roads and bridges. EV drivers are not paying their fair share of the road usage surcharge, which did not connect to how much As our state's cars become more electric, it is important to maintain and continue to decline. A RUC helps ensure fair, sustainable funding for roads.

HiRUC HAWAII ROAD USAGE CHARGE

www.hiruc.org

✓ **DMV Customer Service Training & Materials**
✓ **Customer Facing Communications**

Stakeholder Engagement



Elected Official Briefings



Stakeholder Briefings

Program rollout was driven by **policymaker leadership** and is strengthened by ongoing collaboration.

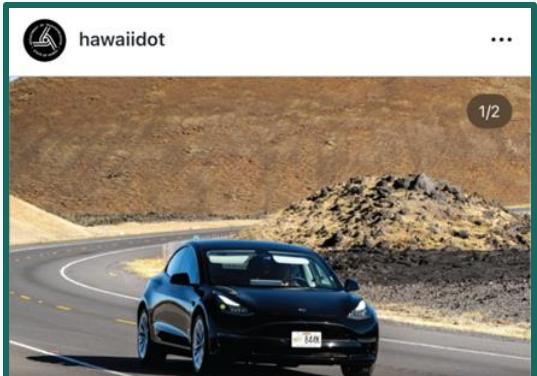


HAWAII APPLESEED
CENTER FOR LAW & ECONOMIC JUSTICE



**Hawaiian
Electric**

Social Media



The Hawai'i Road Usage Charge begins on July 1st.

Electric vehicle owners: Look for the Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) choice on your upcoming registration renewal notice.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.HIRUC.ORG

HiRUC

19 likes, 1 comment, 29 shares

hawaiidot Starting today, EV drivers will have the option to chose to enroll in the Hawaii Road Usage Charge or pay a \$50 flat rate when they register their vehicle. Learn more at <http://HiRUC.com> or by watching this video.

HDOT, July 1



Hawaii Department of Transportation

Electric vehicle owners! The Hawai'i Road Usage Charge is LIVE. Eligible EVs with an August registration expiration can select between the state per-mile RUC and the state flat annual RUC at the time of vehicle registration renewal. Visit www.hiruc.org to learn more. #HiRUC

Electric vehicle (EV) owners with an August registration expiration: It's time to make your Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) choice!

Eligible EV owners can choose between:

- ① State per-mile RUC \$8 per 1,000 miles driven, capped at \$50
- ② State flat annual RUC of \$50

HiRUC

HDOT, July 29



The Hawai'i Road Usage Charge begins on July 1st.

Electric vehicle owners: Look for the Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) choice on your upcoming registration renewal notice.

LEARN MORE AT WWW.HIRUC.ORG

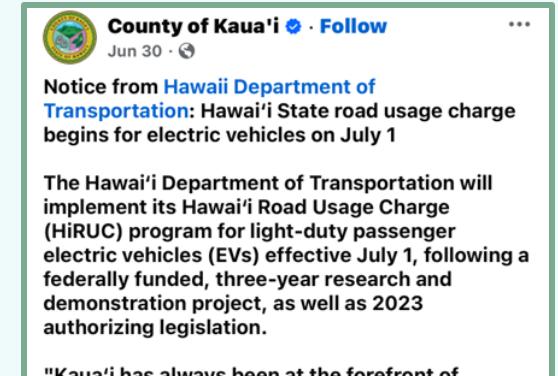
HiRUC

27 likes, 6 comments, 14 shares

honolulu_gov Repost from @hawaiidot:

Starting today, July 1, EV drivers will have the option to chose to enroll in the Hawaii Road Usage Charge or pay a \$50 flat rate when they register their vehicle. Learn more at <http://HiRUC.com> or by watching this video.

Counties post & increase visibility



County of Kaua'i • Follow

Jun 30

Notice from **Hawaii Department of Transportation**: Hawai'i State road usage charge begins for electric vehicles on July 1

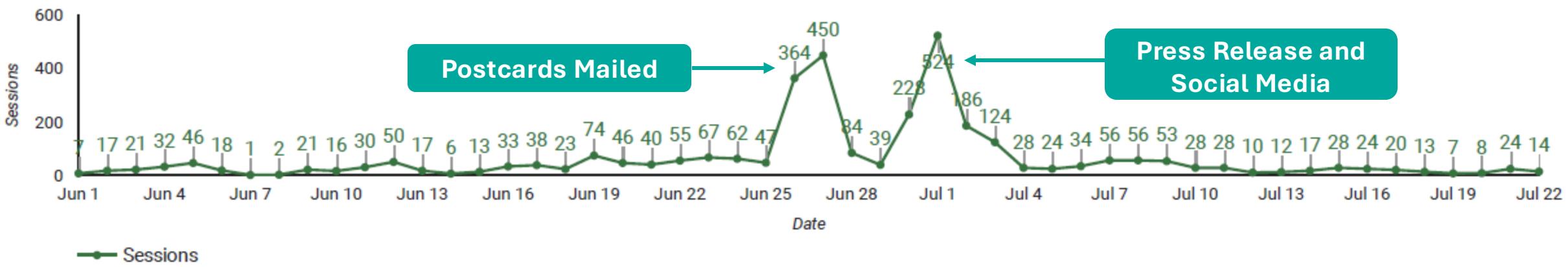
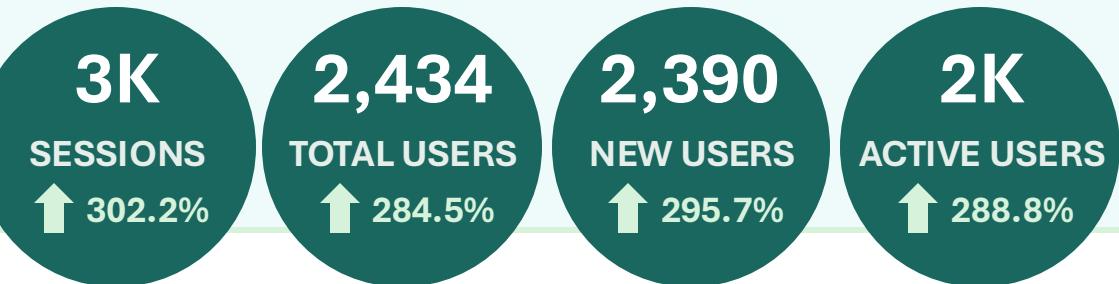
The Hawai'i Department of Transportation will implement its Hawai'i Road Usage Charge (HiRUC) program for light-duty passenger electric vehicles (EVs) effective July 1, following a federally funded, three-year research and demonstration project, as well as 2023 authorizing legislation.

"Kaua'i has always been at the forefront of sustainability and innovation, and the Hawai'i Road Usage Charge reflects that," said County of Kaua'i Mayor Derek S.K. Kawakami. "As more of our residents transition to electric vehicles, it's important that we modernize the way we invest in the roads and bridges we all rely on. This forward-thinking approach ensures everyone contributes based on how much they drive, not what they drive, so we can maintain a safe and resilient transportation system for our island communities."

On the next registration renewal received after July 1, eligible EV owners will have the option to pay a state per-mile road usage charge (RUC) of \$8 per 1,000 miles, capped at \$50, or a state flat annual state RUC of \$50. Both options replace the

HiRUC.org: Web Stats

HiRUC web sessions during launch **(June 1 to July 22)**



HiRUC.org: Customer Inquiries

87+ questions since launch
92% of inquiries neutral



31 Safety check timing



26 General / other



12 New EV renewals

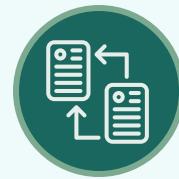


11 Mileage calculations

Key Ingredients for Successful Implementation



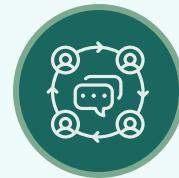
Just because it is run directly via
DMV(s), doesn't mean it's easy.



Use pilot insights to shape
program concepts.



Test as much as possible!



**Transparent and responsive
communication** helps customers.

Long-Term Transition Advisory Group

The HDOT's **Long-Term Transition Advisory Group (LTAG)** helped inform the LTTP.

LTAG Members

Not all listed



The Long-Term Transition Plan “North Star”

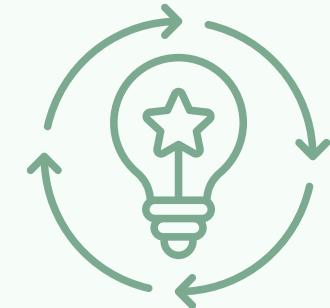
The Long-Term Transition Plan (LTTP) proposes to the Legislature a **transition plan for all light-duty vehicles to a per-mile road usage charge** by 2033, that is:



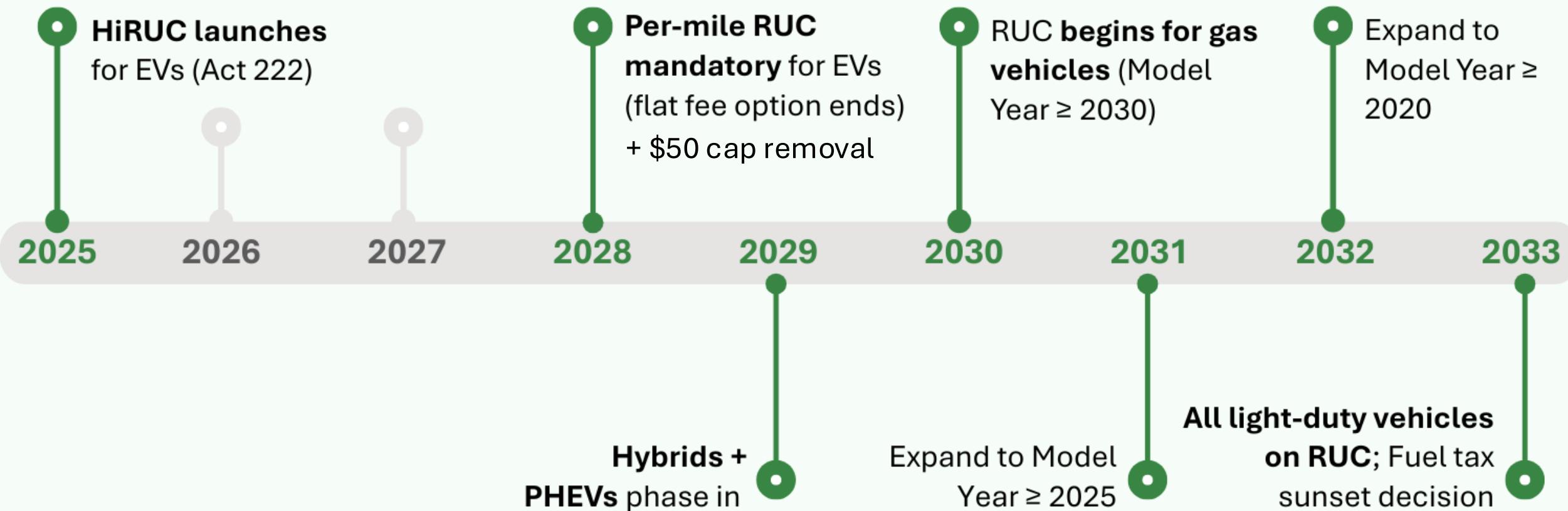
Financially sustainable,
Operationally feasible, and
Publicly acceptable.

LTTP Recommendations Summary

- PHEVs and hybrids next, then all other light-duty vehicles by 2033.
- Continue with \$8 per 1,000 mile state RUC rate, revenue neutral with gas tax at first, then indexed to inflation.
- Remove the existing \$50 cap.
- Credit fuel tax payments made against the RUC owed.
- Integrate consistent rate-setting methodologies across the state and counties (if a county RUC is enacted in the future).
- No new exemptions, discounts, or refunds.
- Monitor and revisit future possible changes related to compliance, fuel tax removal, and installment payments.

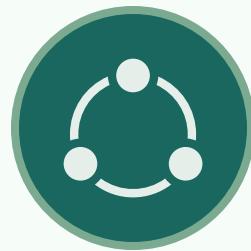


Recommended Implementation Timeline



What's next for HiRUC research?

HDOT is the recipient of a \$5.76M **Strategic Innovation for Revenue Collection (SIRC) grant** that will assist with expanding RUC in Hawai'i. The funding will support:



Technical implementation of key program features



Policy research and analysis



Continued stakeholder outreach and education

Mahalo!

Mindy Kimura

HiRUC Program Manager
Hawai'i Department of Transportation



Learn more at:
www.hiruc.org

