**bit.ly/opposebiketax** (link to this doc)

You might also like [bit.ly/btrthawaii](http://bit.ly/btrthawaii) (a sub group of the mayor’s advisory committe on bicycling) Other related docs (newer) at: [bike registration fee](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1J82xwJOOQlh34ugq64ly-7Eaq460pd3BcDQyh9L1hWE/edit?usp=sharing) and [Bike registration improvement](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1f5nrCuzMQ1NyUrKJx8mMxOgvQ0cvNhsMGiUTaIiXRgk/edit?usp=sharing).

**FYI, two bills are in the Legislature to increase bicycle registration fees to $25 from $15.**

These are:

**HB1425, SB1371**

[**http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/HB1425\_.pdf**](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/HB1425_.pdf)

[**http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/SB1371\_.pdf**](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2015/bills/SB1371_.pdf)

Here's the link to get hearing notifications on these bills:

**http://capitol.hawaii.gov/hearingnotice/hearingnotice.aspx**

(you may need to create an account there first to see it).

Current bill status:

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=1371&year=2015>

<http://capitol.hawaii.gov/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1425&year=2015>

Use “**Oppose HB1425, SB1371**” as the heading / subject for your testimony to make it easy to see you oppose these bills.

To get the fee repealed, which it should be, we may need to wait until next year--bills only get introduced and passed in the first half of each year.

Believe it or not, the bills are supported, apparently, by HBL (the Hawaii Bicycling League). This is because they get funding from the fees. But there are other ways to get that funding. (Update 2/7/2015: HBL is not trying to get these passed but they are not opposing them either. If you want to get on the email list for the HBL advocacy team, contact daniel@hbl.org )

**Several reasons to oppose the bills (and to introduce bills to remove the required fee):**

* Bike registration should be a service to help people get stolen bikes back and to cut down on bicycle theft, not a fundraiser for bike infrastructure and education.
* You're taxing something you want to encourage: bicycling.
* Hawaii is already one of the most regressive states in the USA when it comes to taxation-- this increases that disparity. (i.e. poor people pay a higher percentage of their income in taxes than rich) [google.com/#q=hawaii+regressive+tax](http://www.google.com/#q=hawaii+regressive+tax)
* The main use and enforcement of these initiatives may come when police raid homeless camps and take unregistered bicycles. (Ask a homeless person about this)
* If you want funding for bicycle education and infrastructure write a bill legislating specifically that funding, not a general bicycle tax such as this. (As the example I'm most familiar with, the Santa Barbara bike organization got funding for their education programs through a local initiative funding transportation improvements (and prior to that, through grants I believe): cf. <http://bicicentro.org/PP> )

**You can do a search on bicycle registration to come up with other talking points.**

* <https://www.google.com/#q=bicycle+registration+fees>
* http://www.seattlepi.com/local/transportation/article/Should-bicyclists-be-licensed-to-ride-1259833.php
* http://www.activetrans.org/print/blog/jmerrell/petition-keep-biking-free-oppose-bike-registration-fee

**Registration programs in bike friendly/ bike progressive areas:**

* **UC Santa Barbara** ($10 fee, not mandatory or at least rarely enforced--) <http://www.police.ucsb.edu/cso/bicycle-program>
* **Davis** (one exception) (mandatory $10 fee for three years, but mildly enforced; perhaps not used to take homeless people’s bikes) <http://taps.ucdavis.edu/bicycle/licenses>
* **San Francisco** has free online registration: <http://www.safebikes.org/>
* **UK / London:** <https://www.bikeregister.com/news/two-thousand-eleven/metropolitan-police-service-endorses-new-cycle-register-for-london>
* **American & Canadian** registration: <https://www.nationalbikeregistry.com/register.html>
* **Portland!! + US Wide:**  <http://bikeportland.org/register-your-stolen-bike>
* **Vancouver**’s bike registration appears to be free as well. <http://www.vancouversun.com/news/Protect+your+bicycle+from+theft/8533525/story.html> They also have a site for reporting all bike incidents on a map: <http://vancitybikewatch.ca/>

**And, going forward, perhaps do some research on how to reduce bicycle theft:**

* <https://www.google.com/#q=reducing+bicycle+theft>
* <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/jdibrief/crime/bicycle-theft>
* <http://www.sfexaminer.com/sanfrancisco/san-francisco-expected-to-set-goal-of-reducing-bike-thefts-by-50-percent-in-5-years/>

**And more research on how to establish a progressive tax system:**

* <https://www.google.com/#q=progressive+tax+system>
* Some discussion about how to fund infrastructure in Portland: <http://bikeportland.org/2014/05/22/mayor-pbot-announce-plans-push-forward-transportation-user-fee-106335>

**If you really get into this, the Victoria Transport Policy Institute should be helpful!!**

* <http://www.vtpi.org/documents/walking.php>
* <http://www.pedbikeinfo.org/planning/sample_policies.cfm>
* <http://www.bikewalk.org/links.php>
* the work of Dan Burden: <http://www.walkable.org/bio.html>
* Richard Register: <http://www.ecocitybuilders.org/richard-register/>
* Joel Crawford: <http://carfree.com/>
* **World Carfree Network**: <http://www.worldcarfree.net/links/cycl.php>
* Institute for Transportation and Development Policy: <https://www.itdp.org/>
* World Transport Policy and Practice: <http://www.ecoplan.org/wtpp/>
* Surface Transportation Policy: <http://transact.org/category/stpp-topics/>
* Todd Litman on Planetizen: <http://www.planetizen.com/blog/2394>

**Earn-a-Bike programs** (wouldn’t these be nice to have here!)

* Boulder: <http://communitycycles.org/eab/>
* Santa Barbara: <http://bicicentro.org/shop> (not advertised on the site, but you refurbish two bikes, then you can work on your own from their parts).
* Knoxville, TN: <http://www.knoxbikecollective.com/bikegiveaways.html>

Now imagine if those people who all earned their own bikes then had to pay $25 registration fees!

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