



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION  
P.O. BOX 259  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

## COUNTY SURCHARGE INFORMATION

### *Kauai & Hawaii Counties Begin New County Surcharges on January 1, 2019*

The Legislature authorized county governments to adopt county surcharges on state general excise (GE) tax and use tax.<sup>1</sup> To establish the surcharge, the county must adopt a surcharge by ordinance. The City and County of Honolulu has levied a surcharge since 2007.<sup>2</sup> The Counties of Kauai and Hawaii have adopted county surcharges that will be effective beginning on January 1, 2019.<sup>3, 4</sup> The County of Maui has not adopted a surcharge.

The county surcharge only applies to transactions subject to the 4.0% GE and use tax rate. The county surcharge does not apply to activities taxed at the 0.5% rate (e.g., wholesaling) or the 0.15% rate (i.e., insurance commissions). Taxpayers are required to allocate their gross proceeds and gross income to the designated taxation districts. Revised general excise tax forms for tax year 2019 will be available in January 2019 on the Department's website at <http://tax.hawaii.gov/forms>. For your convenience, you may also file returns online using the Department's e-filing portal, Hawaii Tax Online at <https://hitax.hawaii.gov>.

A seller may choose to visibly pass on the GET and any applicable county surcharge to its customers, but is not required to do so. The following table shows each county's surcharge rate, maximum pass-on rate, and effective date.

COUNTY SURCHARGE AND GENERAL EXCISE TAX RATES				
COUNTY	COUNTY SURCHARGE TAX RATE	STATE GENERAL EXCISE TAX RATE	MAX PASS-ON TAX RATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
City & County of Honolulu <sup>2</sup>	0.50%	4.0%	4.7120%	January 1, 2007 to December 31, 2030
County of Kauai <sup>3</sup>	0.50%	4.0%	4.7120%	January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2030
County of Hawaii <sup>4</sup>	0.25%	4.0%	4.4386%	January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2020
County of Maui	0.00%	4.0%	4.1666%	No county surcharge

For more information on county surcharges, please visit the Department's website at <http://tax.hawaii.gov/geninfo/countysurcharge>

Updated November 19, 2018

<sup>1</sup> [Section 46-163.8, Hawaii Revised Statutes](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Section 6-60, Revised Ordinances of Honolulu](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Section 5-3, Kauai County Code](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Chapter 2, Article 45, Hawaii County Code](#)