



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION

NEWS RELEASE

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FIRST QUARTER COUNTY SURCHARGE COLLECTIONS TOTAL \$14.2 MILLION

HONOLULU – The State of Hawai'i Department of Taxation announced today that the first quarter receipts for the half-percent county surcharge tax for O'ahu, which took effect January 1, 2007, totaled \$14.2 million. The amount represents the county surcharge taxes processed as of March 31, 2007.

Of the \$14.2 million, approximately \$12 million was for the month of January 2007. The February General Excise Tax (GET) returns were not due until April 2, 2007. Thus, the majority of February's county surcharge taxes were received or processed on or after April 2, 2007. Quarterly tax filers' returns (January 1 – March 31, 2007) are not due until April 30, 2007.

An additional reason for lower than expected county surcharge collections is the higher than normal error rate on the GET returns. Approximately 15 percent of the GET returns received through March 2007 left blank the section where taxpayers report their county surcharge tax.

Last week the Department of Taxation mailed monthly and quarterly filers a "common errors" flyer to inform them of the most frequent errors being made and the correct way to complete the GE tax return. Semi-annual filers will receive this educational flyer in May. The information will be posted on the Department's Web site at www.hawaii.gov/tax.

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