



**GOV. MSG. NO. 1114**

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA

April 10, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi  
President of the Senate,  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura  
Speaker, and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on April 10, 2025, the following bill was signed into law:

SB1291 SD1

**RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC  
ACCOUNTANTS.  
ACT 014**

Sincerely,

Josh Green, M.D.  
Governor, State of Hawai'i

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that business and  
2 commerce continue to grow more complicated, increasing the need  
3 for well-qualified certified public accountants in the State and  
4 nationwide. At the same time, however, a declining percentage  
5 of students in accounting classes are pursuing certified public  
6 accountant (CPA) licenses. In part, this decline is due to the  
7 requirement of thirty additional semester hours of education,  
8 beyond the requirements of a bachelor's degree, to obtain a CPA  
9 license. The time and monetary costs of this additional  
10 education can be a serious obstacle for many students. Thus,  
11 the additional education requirement effectively blocks many  
12 potential candidates from obtaining CPA licenses, at a time when  
13 more qualified CPAs are needed.

14           The purpose of this Act is to generate more qualified CPAs  
15 by establishing alternative pathways to licensure that eliminate  
16 certain barriers for eligible applicants.



1 SECTION 2. Section 466-5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsections (a) through (d) to read as  
3 follows:

4 "(a) A license and a permit are required to practice  
5 public accountancy. The board may license and grant the  
6 designation of "certified public accountant" to any person who  
7 has met the following:

- 8 (1) Attained eighteen years of age;
- 9 (2) Possesses a history of competence, trustworthiness,  
10 and fair dealing;
- 11 (3) Educational requirements of this section [~~or section~~  
12 ~~466-5.5~~];
- 13 (4) [~~Experience requirements of~~] Completed two years of  
14 professional experience meeting the requirements in  
15 subsection (d);
- 16 (5) Examination requirements of subsection (e); and
- 17 (6) Paid the appropriate fees and assessments.

18 (b) The educational requirement for a license shall  
19 include a baccalaureate degree conferred by a college or  
20 university recognized by the board with at least eighteen  
21 semester hours of upper division or graduate level accounting or



1 auditing subjects as determined by rules adopted by the board  
2 pursuant to chapter 91, and:

3 (1) Completion of not less than thirty semester hours of  
4 study in addition to those semester hours required for  
5 a baccalaureate degree [~~. The baccalaureate degree and~~  
6 ~~the thirty semester hours of additional study shall~~  
7 ~~include a minimum of eighteen semester hours of upper~~  
8 ~~division or graduate level accounting or auditing~~  
9 ~~subjects. The]; provided that the content of the  
10 additional qualifying hours of study shall be  
11 determined by rules adopted by the board pursuant to  
12 chapter 91; or~~

13 (2) [~~If the applicant has a minimum of eighteen semester~~  
14 ~~hours of upper division or graduate level accounting~~  
15 ~~and auditing subjects, the applicant may elect to~~  
16 ~~replace the thirty semester hours with an additional~~  
17 ~~thirty months of professional experience in a public~~  
18 ~~accounting practice. This] In lieu of the thirty  
19 semester hours described in paragraph (1), the  
20 applicant may demonstrate completion of an additional  
21 twelve months of professional experience in the~~



1           practice of public accounting only; provided that this  
2           experience shall not be credited toward the experience  
3           requirements in subsection ~~[(d)]~~ (a)(4).

4           (c) A person shall be exempt from the requirements in  
5 subsection (b) ~~[or section 466-5.5]~~ if that person:

6           (1) Holds a current license as a public accountant under  
7           section 466-6; or

8           (2) Holds, and has continued to hold, a valid comparable  
9           certificate, registration, or license of certified  
10          public accountant of another state for a period of not  
11          less than ten years preceding the date of the person's  
12          application under this section, and has been in active  
13          practice of public accountancy in one or more states  
14          for a period of not less than five years preceding the  
15          date of the application.

16          (d) Each applicant shall present satisfactory evidence in  
17 the form of a certified statement from present or former  
18 employer(s) that the applicant has ~~[met one of the following~~  
19 ~~experience requirements for license:~~

20          ~~(1) Completion of one thousand five hundred chargeable~~  
21          ~~hours in the performance of audits involving the~~



1           ~~application of generally accepted accounting~~  
2           ~~principles and auditing standards earned while in~~  
3           ~~public accounting practice; or~~  
4           (2) ~~Completion of two years of~~ completed the required  
5           professional experience in public accountancy practice  
6           as defined in section 466-3. Completion of experience  
7           in private or government accounting or auditing work,  
8           deemed by the board to be equivalent to professional  
9           experience in public accountancy practice as defined  
10          in section 466-3, may be substituted for all or part  
11          of the two years of professional experience in public  
12          accounting practice~~[-]~~ required in subsection (a)(4).  
13          The nature, variety, and depth of acceptable private  
14          or government accounting or auditing experience shall  
15          be defined by the board in its rules."

16          SECTION 3. Section 466-5.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
17          repealed.

18          ~~["§466-5.5 Educational requirements for licensure~~  
19          ~~effective December 31, 2000. Effective December 31, 2000, an~~  
20          ~~applicant for licensure shall have at least one hundred fifty~~



1 ~~semester hours of college education. Within the~~  
2 ~~one hundred fifty semester hours, the applicant shall have:~~  
3     ~~(1) A baccalaureate or higher degree conferred by a~~  
4         ~~college or university acceptable to the board; and~~  
5     ~~(2) An accounting concentration or its equivalent as~~  
6         ~~specified in the rules of the board;~~  
7 ~~except that applicants for licensure who have successfully~~  
8 ~~completed the Uniform Certified Public Accountant Examination~~  
9 ~~before December 31, 2000, or held conditional credit before~~  
10 ~~December 31, 2000, and subsequently completed the examination~~  
11 ~~before the conditional credit expired, may continue to meet the~~  
12 ~~educational requirements of section 466-5(b)."]~~

13         SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
14 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

15         SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 1291  
S.D. 1

APPROVED this 10th day of April, 2025

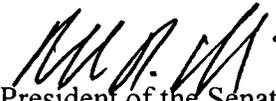
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: March 4, 2025  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025.

  
President of the Senate

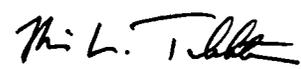
  
Clerk of the Senate

**THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I**

Date: **MAR 3 1 2025**  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Third Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2025.

  
Speaker, House of Representatives

  
Clerk, House of Representatives