

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



GOV. MSG. NO. 1122

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS  
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

May 21, 2026

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

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

This is to inform you that on May 21, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

H.B. NO. 1696, H.D. 2, S.D. 1,  
C.D. 1

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S  
LICENSES.  
**ACT 022**

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Josh Green M.D.".

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

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSES.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 286-102.3, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~[+]§286-102.3[+]~~ **Commercial drivers under the age of**  
4 **twenty-one.** A person ~~[is qualified to]~~ may drive commercially  
5 in the State in intrastate commerce if the person:

6 (1) Is at least ~~[nineteen]~~ eighteen years of age;

7 (2) Is in compliance with title 49 Code of Federal  
8 Regulations~~[, part 390-396, subpart B,]~~ parts 390  
9 through 396, except section 391.11(b)(1) in the case  
10 of an intrastate driver involved in intrastate  
11 commerce in the State;

12 ~~[-(3) Only operates a category 3 vehicle as defined in~~  
13 ~~section 286-102(b)(3);~~

14 ~~[-(4)]~~ (3) ~~[Shall]~~ Does not transport hazardous materials  
15 ~~[as defined in section 286-2]~~, nor passengers in a  
16 school vehicle as defined in section 286-181; ~~[and]~~





1 parking violations, arising in connection  
2 with a fatal accident[-]; and

3 (5) Is under twenty-one years of age and actively enrolled  
4 in:

5 (A) A registered apprenticeship program as determined  
6 by the department of labor and industrial  
7 relations; provided that a driver under  
8 twenty-one years of age shall not operate a  
9 commercial motor vehicle outside the scope,  
10 supervision, or duration of the approved training  
11 or apprenticeship program; or

12 (B) A structured, on-the-job training program  
13 administered by the person's employer; provided  
14 that:

15 (i) The employer is primarily engaged in a  
16 trade, business, or industry that requires  
17 the operation of commercial motor vehicles  
18 as an incidental and necessary function of  
19 its operations, and not for the primary  
20 purpose of providing commercial driver  
21 training to the general public;





1 pursuant to chapter 372 or other workforce development  
2 programs authorized by the department of labor and  
3 industrial relations."

4 SECTION 2. Section 286-236, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6 **"§286-236 Commercial driver's license qualification**

7 **standards.** (a) No person shall be issued a commercial driver's  
8 license unless that person:

9 (1) Meets the qualification standards of title 49 Code of  
10 Federal Regulations[7] part 391, subparts B and E;  
11 provided that for issuance of a commercial driver's  
12 license to an applicant who is eighteen years of age  
13 or older but under twenty-one years of age, compliance  
14 with title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section  
15 391.11(b) (1), minimum age, shall not be required if  
16 the license is restricted to intrastate operation  
17 pursuant to subsection (i);

18 (2) Has passed a knowledge and driving skills test for  
19 driving a commercial motor vehicle that complies with  
20 minimum federal standards established by federal



1 regulation enumerated in title 49 Code of Federal  
2 Regulations[7] part 383, subparts G and H;

3 (3) Has Hawaii as the state of domicile as defined in  
4 title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 383.5;  
5 and

6 (4) Has satisfied all other requirements of the Commercial  
7 Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986, Public Law 99-570,  
8 title XII, in addition to other requirements imposed  
9 by state law or federal regulation.

10 The tests shall be prescribed by the director and administered  
11 by the respective county examiner of drivers. The test  
12 examiners shall communicate with the applicant only in English  
13 during the skills test. As of January 30, 2012, the examiner of  
14 drivers shall verify that the medical certification status of a  
15 driver who self-certified according to title 49 Code of Federal  
16 Regulations section 383.71(b)(1)(i), non-excepted interstate, is  
17 certified. If a driver submits a current medical examiner's  
18 certificate, the examiner of drivers shall date-stamp the  
19 certificate and post all required information to the commercial  
20 driver's license information system pursuant to title 49 Code of  
21 Federal Regulations section 383.73(b)(5) and in accordance with



1 title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 383.73(o). A  
2 person who is not physically qualified to drive under title 49  
3 Code of Federal Regulations section 391.41(b)(1) or (2) and who  
4 is otherwise qualified to drive a motor vehicle may be granted  
5 an intrastate waiver by the director. The process for granting  
6 intrastate waivers shall be the same as that for interstate  
7 waivers in title 49 Code of Federal Regulations section 391.49;  
8 provided that the intrastate waiver requests shall be submitted  
9 to the director.

10 (b) The examiner of drivers may waive the driving skills  
11 test specified in this section for a commercial driver's license  
12 applicant who meets the requirements of title 49 Code of Federal  
13 Regulations section 383.77 or 383.123(b).

14 (c) A commercial driver's license or commercial learner's  
15 permit, including a provisional or temporary license or permit,  
16 shall not be issued to a person while the person is subject to a  
17 disqualification from driving a commercial motor vehicle, or  
18 while the person's driver's license is suspended, revoked, or  
19 canceled in any state; or while the person holds a driver's  
20 license issued by any other state unless the person first  
21 surrenders that license.



1 (d) A commercial learner's permit may be issued to an  
2 individual who holds a valid driver's license, is at least  
3 eighteen years of age, meets the qualification standards of  
4 title 49 Code of Federal Regulations[7] part 391, subparts B and  
5 E, and has passed the written tests required for the desired  
6 class of a commercial driver's license.

7 (e) The commercial learner's permit shall not be valid for  
8 a period in excess of one hundred eighty days from the date that  
9 the applicant passes the general and all required endorsement  
10 knowledge tests; provided that, if the applicant is not required  
11 to take a knowledge test, the period shall start when the permit  
12 is issued. When driving a commercial motor vehicle, the holder  
13 of a commercial learner's permit shall be accompanied by a  
14 person with a valid commercial driver's license to operate that  
15 category of commercial motor vehicle with the proper  
16 endorsements. The licensed person shall occupy the seat beside  
17 the individual for the purpose of giving instruction in driving  
18 the commercial motor vehicle. The commercial learner's permit  
19 may be renewed no more than an additional one hundred eighty  
20 days without requiring the commercial learner's permit holder to  
21 retake the general or endorsement knowledge tests, and the



1 applicant requalifies meeting the requirements of subsection  
2 (d). The commercial learner's permit holder [~~is~~] shall be  
3 eligible to take the commercial driver's license skills test no  
4 earlier than fourteen days after obtaining the permit.

5 (f) The examiner of drivers may waive the knowledge and  
6 skills tests specified in this section for any person who is at  
7 least twenty-one years of age and who possesses a valid  
8 commercial driver's license issued by any state of the United  
9 States, Mexico, or a province of Canada that issues licenses in  
10 accordance with the minimum federal standards for the issuance  
11 of commercial driver's licenses. The examiner of drivers shall  
12 accept the test scores of a Hawaii commercial learner's permit  
13 holder who completes training in another state in the United  
14 States and is tested in compliance with federal motor carrier  
15 safety regulations by that state in association with the  
16 training. The testing state shall electronically transmit in a  
17 secure manner the skills test results directly to the examiner  
18 of drivers, and if the applicant passed, and meets all other  
19 requirements, a Hawaii commercial driver's license shall be  
20 issued. To retain a hazardous materials endorsement, the  
21 applicant shall pass the knowledge test for a hazardous



1 materials endorsement and be determined by the federal  
2 Transportation Security Administration not to pose a security  
3 risk warranting denial of the endorsement.

4 (g) Every applicant shall successfully complete the  
5 commercial driver's license general knowledge test before being  
6 issued a commercial learner's permit. A driver holding a valid  
7 commercial driver's license who seeks an upgrade for which a  
8 skills test is required shall also pass the appropriate  
9 knowledge test before obtaining a commercial learner's permit.  
10 Beginning February 7, 2022, except for a driver holding a valid  
11 commercial driver's license or commercial learner's permit that  
12 was obtained before February 7, 2022, every applicant shall  
13 complete the entry-level driver training requirements as  
14 specified in title 49 Code of Federal Regulations part 380,  
15 subpart F, and be verified with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
16 Administration Training Provider Registry before taking the  
17 skills test for a class A or class B commercial driver's  
18 license, passenger endorsement, or school bus endorsement, and  
19 before taking the knowledge test for a hazardous materials  
20 endorsement.



1 (h) Beginning November 18, 2024, the examiner of drivers  
2 shall not issue, renew, transfer, or upgrade a commercial  
3 driver's license; renew the hazardous materials endorsement; or  
4 issue, renew, or upgrade a commercial learner's permit; if the  
5 results of a query to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety  
6 Administration's Drug and Alcohol Clearinghouse is that the  
7 driver is prohibited from operating a commercial motor vehicle.

8 (i) Notwithstanding subsection (a) (1) and title 49 Code of  
9 Federal Regulations section 391.11(b) (1), the examiner of  
10 drivers may issue a commercial driver's license to a person who  
11 is eighteen years of age or older but under twenty-one years of  
12 age if:

13 (1) The license bears the "K" restriction indicating  
14 operation is limited to intrastate commerce, as  
15 described in section 286-239(b) (3);

16 (2) The applicant meets all other state and federal  
17 requirements applicable to the license class and  
18 endorsements sought, including medical certification  
19 (49 C.F.R. part 391), entry-level driver training (49  
20 C.F.R. part 380), knowledge and skills testing (49



1           C.F.R. part 383), and controlled substances and  
2           alcohol use and testing (49 C.F.R. part 382); and  
3           (3) The applicant demonstrates enrollment in or completion  
4           of a training program authorized under section 286-  
5           102.3(5) that may include:  
6           (A) A registered apprenticeship program approved or  
7           recognized by the department of labor and  
8           industrial relations; or  
9           (B) A structured, on-the-job training program  
10           administered by the applicant's employer that  
11           meets the requirements of section 286-  
12           102.3(5) (B), including a minimum of three hundred  
13           twenty hours of supervised, behind-the-wheel  
14           instruction;  
15           provided that employer-administered training shall not be  
16           required as a condition of licensure where the applicant  
17           qualifies through a registered apprenticeship program."

18           SECTION 3. The department of transportation shall adopt or  
19           amend rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes,  
20           necessary to lower the minimum age required for an intrastate



1 commercial driver's license to eighteen, consistent with this  
2 Act.

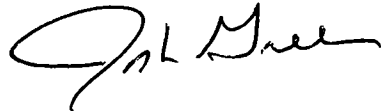
3 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

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



H.B. NO. 1696  
H.D. 2  
S.D. 1  
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 21st day of May, 2026



GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

HB No. 1696, HD 2, SD 1, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: April 30, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026.



Nadine K. Nakamura  
Speaker  
House of Representatives

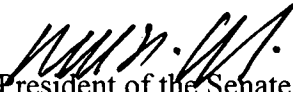


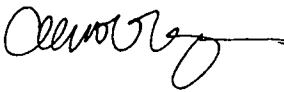
Brian L. Takeshita  
Chief Clerk  
House of Representatives

**THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I**

Date: April 30, 2026  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate of the Thirty-Third Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2026.

  
President of the Senate

  
Clerk of the Senate