

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVER LICENSING.

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

1       SECTION 1. Section 286-235.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3       "**§286-235.5 Persons exempt from licensure.** (a) The  
4 following persons shall be exempt from licensure under this  
5 part:

6       (1) Individuals who operate commercial motor vehicles for  
7 military purposes. This exception is limited to  
8 active-duty military personnel, members of the  
9 military reserves, members of the national guard on  
10 active duty, including personnel on full-time national  
11 guard duty, personnel on part-time national guard  
12 training, and national guard military technicians  
13 (civilians who are required to wear military  
14 uniforms), and active-duty United States Coast Guard  
15 personnel. This exception is not applicable to United  
16 States reserve technicians; and



1       (2) Federal, state, and county firefighters, and law  
2       enforcement officers who drive federal, state, or  
3       county fire trucks, including fire pumpers, aerial  
4       ladder trucks, and elevated platform trucks, or  
5       authorized emergency vehicles; provided that they are  
6       trained by the federal, state, or county government  
7       and the commercial motor vehicles are equipped with  
8       audible and visual signals and are not subject to  
9       normal traffic regulation. For purposes of this  
10      paragraph, "authorized emergency vehicle" shall have  
11      the same meaning as in section 291C-1.

12      (b) State and county firefighters exempt from licensure  
13      under this part shall be subject to an alcohol and substance  
14      abuse policy for employees that is equivalent to, or exceeds the  
15      provisions of, the safety and health standards established by  
16      the United States Department of Transportation for holders of  
17      commercial driver's licenses."

18      SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
19      matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
20      begun before its effective date.

21      SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.



1       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:   
By Request



# S.B. NO. 2527

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Council of Mayors Package; Commercial Driver Licensing;  
Alcohol; Substance Abuse; Testing; Counties; Firefighters;  
Exemptions; HDOT

**Description:**

Requires that state and county firefighters exempt from commercial driver licensure be subject to an alcohol and substance abuse policy for employees that is equivalent to, or exceeds the provisions of, the safety and health standards established by the United States Department of Transportation for holders of commercial driver's licenses.

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