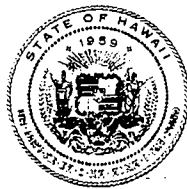


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



GOV. MSG. NO. 1206

EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
KE KE'ENA O KE KIA'ĀINA

June 8, 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 June 8, 2026, the following bill was signed into law:

S.B. NO. 2835, S.D. 1, H.D. 2,
C.D. 1

RELATING TO LIQUOR.
ACT 106

Mahalo,

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

Approved by the Governor

on JUN 8 2026;

THE SENATE
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026
STATE OF HAWAII

ACT 106
S.B. NO. 2835
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIQUOR.

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

1

PART I

2

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that some of the

3

requirements for a temporary liquor license in the county of

4

Maui are oppressively burdensome without providing any public

5

benefit. A temporary liquor license, known as a class 10

6

special license, allows a nonprofit group, political candidate,

7

or political party to serve alcohol at a fundraising event

8

lasting no longer than three days. Among the onerous

9

requirements that are only imposed in the county of Maui are the

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requirements to submit the special license application in person

11

and provide a handwritten signature on the application. The

12

applicant must also obtain various separate departmental

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clearances and produce detailed illustrative materials that are

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duplicative of existing enforcement mechanisms. In addition, if

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the applicant holds the fundraising event at a location

16

involving multiple parcels with separate tax map key numbers,

17

such as many golf courses, the applicant must submit a separate



1 application for each parcel, despite the event occurring in what
2 is otherwise a single location. Many of these requirements do
3 not apply to comparable temporary liquor licenses in other
4 counties.

5 The legislature believes that these requirements discourage
6 community organizations from hosting fundraisers, are not
7 necessary for the effective regulation of a temporary event, and
8 may encourage community organizations to hold their fundraisers
9 without obtaining a liquor license.

10 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to:

11 (1) Clarify that class 10 special licenses may be granted
12 for a period not to exceed three days per application;
13 and

14 (2) Streamline the class 10 special license application
15 process to reduce fundraising costs in a manner that
16 maintains public safety and the protection of event
17 participants.

18 SECTION 2. Section 281-31, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended by amending subsection (j) to read as follows:

20 "(j) Class 10. Special license.



1 (1) A special license may be granted for the sale of
2 liquor for a period not to exceed three days [~~and~~
3 ~~pursuant to commission rule may be approved by the~~
4 ~~administrator for~~] per application. Special licenses
5 for certain fundraising events by nonprofit
6 organizations, political candidates, and political
7 parties[+], pursuant to commission rule, may be
8 approved by the administrator; provided that any
9 registered educational or charitable nonprofit
10 organization may sell liquors in their original
11 packages for off-premises consumption; provided
12 further that any social club granted tax-exempt status
13 pursuant to section 501(c)(7) of the Internal Revenue
14 Code of 1986, as amended, may sell wine from the
15 social club's inventory to the club's members for off-
16 premises consumption. Of this class, there shall be
17 the following kinds:
18 (A) General (includes all liquor except alcohol);
19 (B) Beer and wine; and
20 (C) Beer.



1 Liquor sold under a class 10 license shall be consumed
2 on the premises[~~-~~], except as otherwise allowed under
3 this subsection.

4 (2) Notwithstanding any other section of this chapter to
5 the contrary, the commission shall waive any hearings,
6 fees, notarization of documents, submission of floor
7 plans and other governmental clearances, and other
8 requirements for the issuance of a class 10 license.
9 The class 10 license granted under this subsection for
10 a fundraising event shall include the ability to
11 auction off, at a live or silent auction, liquor in
12 sealed or covered glass, ceramic, or metal containers
13 or services that provide liquor. No criminal history
14 record check under section 281-53.5 or 846-2.7 or any
15 other section of this chapter shall be required. The
16 commission may require proof of liquor liability
17 insurance for the fundraising event and a current list
18 of officers and directors if the applicant is a
19 nonprofit organization.

20 (3) This paragraph shall only apply to a county with a
21 population of fewer than two hundred thousand



1 residents but more than one hundred thousand
2 residents. Notwithstanding any other section of this
3 chapter to the contrary, an application for a class 10
4 license:
5 (A) May be submitted electronically and, if submitted
6 electronically, the inclusion of an electronic
7 signature shall satisfy any requirement for a
8 physical, handwritten signature or other
9 signature;
10 (B) May include an applicant's first and last name in
11 satisfaction of any requirement for the
12 submission of the applicant's full name;
13 (C) May be applicable to two or more adjacent parcels
14 of land; provided that all parcels of land are
15 controlled by the same entity; and
16 (D) Shall not be conditioned upon the submission,
17 approval, or completion of any visual renderings,
18 illustrative materials, fire-related clearances,
19 safety inspections, or miscellaneous inspections
20 conducted by any other county department or
21 agency.



1 An application under this paragraph shall be
2 sufficient if it satisfies all of the requirements of
3 this subsection. No county or county liquor
4 commission shall require, request, or condition the
5 issuance of a class 10 license upon compliance with
6 any other approval, clearance, inspection,
7 certification, or condition not expressly required by
8 this subsection. Nothing in this subsection shall be
9 construed to limit the authority of a county to
10 enforce applicable fire or building codes through
11 independent enforcement actions."

PART II

13 SECTION 3. The legislature finds that effective
14 educational and enforcement programs are necessary to mitigate
15 the significant impact that alcohol consumption has on public
16 health and safety. The responsible management of alcohol sales
17 and consumption is essential to fostering a safe and healthy
18 community for all residents and visitors. Under existing state
19 law, county liquor commissions are authorized to use a portion
20 of the fines assessed against liquor licensees to fund public
21 liquor-related educational or enforcement programs. However,



1 the amount of funds authorized may not be sufficient to support
2 the educational initiatives and enforcement programs needed to
3 reduce alcohol-related harm.

4 The legislature further finds that enhancing educational
5 efforts regarding responsible drinking, the risks associated
6 with alcohol misuse, and the promotion of healthy lifestyle
7 choices is vital to ensuring a safer future for our youth and
8 community.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this part is to increase the
10 maximum percentage of fines assessed by county liquor
11 commissions that may be used to fund public liquor-related
12 educational or enforcement programs.

13 SECTION 4. Section 281-17, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
14 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

15 "(a) The liquor commission, within its own county, shall
16 have the jurisdiction, power, authority, and discretion, subject
17 only to this chapter:

18 (1) To grant, refuse, suspend, and revoke any license for
19 the manufacture, importation, and sale of liquors;

20 (2) To take appropriate action against a person who,
21 directly or indirectly, manufactures, sells, or



1 purchases any liquor without being authorized pursuant
2 to this chapter; provided that in counties that have
3 established by charter a liquor control adjudication
4 board, the board shall have the jurisdiction, power,
5 authority, and discretion to hear and determine
6 administrative complaints of the director regarding
7 violations of the liquor laws of the State or of the
8 rules of the liquor commission, and impose penalties
9 for violations thereof as may be provided by law;

10 (3) To control, supervise, and regulate the manufacture,
11 importation, and sale of liquors by investigation,
12 enforcement, and education; provided that any
13 educational program shall be limited to the commission
14 staff, commissioners, liquor control adjudication
15 board members, and licensees and their employees, and
16 shall be financed through the money collected from the
17 assessment of fines against licensees; provided
18 further that fine moneys, not to exceed [~~ten~~] twenty
19 per cent a year of fines accumulated, may be used to
20 fund public liquor-related educational or enforcement
21 programs;



1 (4) From time to time to make, amend, and repeal rules,
2 not inconsistent with this chapter, as in the judgment
3 of the commission are deemed appropriate for carrying
4 out this chapter and for the efficient administration
5 thereof, and the proper conduct of the business of all
6 licensees, including every matter or thing required to
7 be done or [~~which~~] that may be done with the approval
8 or consent, by order, under the direction or
9 supervision of, or as prescribed by the commission;
10 which rules, when adopted as provided in chapter 91
11 shall have the force and effect of law;
12 (5) Subject to chapter 76, to appoint and remove an
13 administrator, who may also be appointed an
14 investigator and who shall be responsible for the
15 operations and activities of the staff. The
16 administrator may hire and remove hearing officers,
17 investigators, and clerical or other assistants as its
18 business may from time to time require, prescribe
19 their duties and fix their compensation, and engage
20 the services of experts and persons engaged in the
21 practice of a profession, if deemed expedient. Every



1 investigator, within the scope of the investigator's
2 duties, shall have the powers of a police officer;
3 (6) To limit the number of licenses of any class or kind
4 within the county, or the number of licenses of any
5 class or kind to do business in any given locality,
6 when in the judgment of the commission [~~such~~] the
7 limitations are in the public interest;
8 (7) To prescribe the nature of the proof to be furnished,
9 the notices to be given, and the conditions to be met
10 or observed in case of the issuance of a duplicate
11 license in place of one alleged to have been lost or
12 destroyed, including a requirement of any indemnity
13 deemed appropriate to the case;
14 (8) To fix the hours between which licensed premises of
15 any class or classes may regularly be open for the
16 transaction of business, which shall be uniform
17 throughout the county as to each class respectively;
18 (9) To prescribe all forms to be used for the purposes of
19 this chapter not otherwise provided for in this
20 chapter, and the character and manner of keeping of



- 1 books, records, and accounts to be kept by licensees
2 in any matter pertaining to their business;
- 3 (10) To investigate violations of this chapter and,
4 notwithstanding any law to the contrary, violations of
5 the applicable department of health's allowable noise
6 levels, through its investigators or otherwise, to
7 include covert operations, and to report violations to
8 the prosecuting officer for prosecution where
9 appropriate. Investigations of violations of chapter
10 244D shall be referred to the director of taxation to
11 hear and determine complaints against any licensee;
- 12 (11) To prescribe, by rule, the terms, conditions, and
13 circumstances under which persons or any class of
14 persons may be employed by holders of licenses;
- 15 (12) To prescribe, by rule, the term of any license or
16 solicitor's and representative's permit authorized by
17 this chapter, the annual or prorated amount, the
18 manner of payment of fees for the licenses and
19 permits, and the amount of filing fees;
- 20 (13) To prescribe, by rule, regulations on dancing in
21 licensed premises; and



1 (14) To prescribe, by rule, the circumstances and penalty
2 for the unauthorized manufacturing or selling of any
3 liquor."

4 PART III

5 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 2835
S.D. 1
H.D. 2
C.D. 1

APPROVED this 8th day of June, 2026

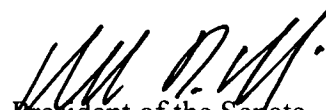
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Green". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "G".

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII


THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 1, 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

SB No. 2835, SD 1, HD 2, CD 1

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

Date: May 6, 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