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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY SERVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that requiring first  
2 responders to obtain commercial driver's licenses to operate  
3 authorized commercial vehicles is not in the best interest of  
4 public safety because first responders receive training provided  
5 by federal, state, and county government agencies that would  
6 satisfy this requirement. Imposing this requirement would only  
7 serve to create an administrative hurdle for first responders  
8 and hinder the performance of their vital public safety  
9 functions.

10           The legislature additionally finds that although emergency  
11 medical services personnel, who may be assigned to operate  
12 vehicles that are classified as commercial motor vehicles in the  
13 performance of essential public safety functions, receive the  
14 same levels of rigorous training as others authorized to operate  
15 commercial vehicles, they are still required to obtain  
16 commercial driver's licenses, which slows down hiring, raises



1 costs, and creates administrative hurdles for emergency medical  
2 services departments across the State.

3 The legislature further finds that exempting qualified  
4 emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's  
5 license requirements may help to alleviate barriers to  
6 recruitment and retention and streamline essential functions,  
7 while maintaining public safety standards.

8 The legislature also finds that the current definition for  
9 "authorized emergency vehicle" in existing law is insufficient,  
10 in that it does not include alternative emergency service  
11 vehicles utilized by emergency medical services departments in  
12 the State.

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

14 (1) Exempt emergency medical services personnel from  
15 commercial driver's license requirements, similar to  
16 other licensed first responders operating in the  
17 State; and

18 (2) Amend the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle"  
19 to clarify that all vehicles operated by licensed  
20 emergency services personnel, not just ambulances, are  
21 included in the definition.



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

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

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

17 (2) Federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency  
18 medical services personnel, and law enforcement  
19 officers who drive federal, state, or county fire  
20 trucks, including fire pumpers, aerial ladder trucks,  
21 and elevated platform trucks, or authorized disaster



1           response and recovery vehicles and emergency vehicles;  
2           provided that they are trained by the federal, state,  
3           or county government and the commercial motor vehicles  
4           are equipped with audible and visual signals and are  
5           not subject to normal traffic regulation[-]; provided  
6           further that federal, state, and county firefighters;  
7           emergency medical services personnel; and law  
8           enforcement officers shall maintain proof that they  
9           have successfully completed an agency approved or  
10          other state approved training on authorized emergency  
11          vehicles. For purposes of this paragraph, "authorized  
12          emergency vehicle" shall have the same meaning as in  
13          section 291C-1."

14          SECTION 3. Section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
15          amended by amending the definition of "authorized emergency  
16          vehicle" to read as follows:

17          ""Authorized emergency vehicle" includes fire department  
18          vehicles, police vehicles, [~~ambulances,~~] emergency medical  
19          services vehicles, disaster response and recovery vehicles,  
20          ocean safety vehicles, law enforcement vehicles, conservation  
21          and resources enforcement vehicles, [~~and~~] office of the state



1 fire marshal vehicles, and department of health vehicles  
2 authorized and approved pursuant to section 291-31.5 that are  
3 publicly owned and other publicly or privately owned vehicles  
4 designated as [~~such by a~~] an authorized emergency vehicle by the  
5 State, appropriate county council, or emergency management  
6 agency."

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

9 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

City and County of Honolulu Mayor's Package; DOH; Commercial Driver's License Exemption; Emergency Medical Services Personnel; Authorized Emergency Vehicle

**Description:**

Exempts emergency medical services personnel from commercial driver's license requirements. Requires federal, state, and county firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, and law enforcement officers to maintain proof that they have successfully completed an agency approved or other state approved training on authorized emergency vehicles. Amends the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" under the State Traffic Code to replace ambulances with emergency medical services vehicles. Expands the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" to include disaster response and recovery vehicles and Department of Health vehicles. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

