START A BUSINESS - HAWAII

How to start a roadside assistance company in Hawaii

Get a GET license; if you repair vehicles for pay, Hawaii requires a motor vehicle repair dealer license, so ask the Board whether your roadside work counts.

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1 Is roadside assistance right for you?

Roadside companies help stranded drivers with jump starts, tire changes, fuel delivery, lockouts and winch-outs. It suits people who like driving and stay calm next to traffic.

2 Form the business and get a GET license

1. Choose a structure. Register your business with the DCCA Business Registration Division.
2. Get a general excise tax (GET) license from the Department of Taxation. GET applies to the gross income of virtually all business activity, services included.
3. Check your city or county for local licenses and zoning.

3 Licenses

We found no Hawaii State license for roadside assistance. Check your city or county for licenses and zoning.

4 General excise tax on repairs

Hawaii's general excise tax applies to the gross income of virtually all business activity, services included, so repair labor and parts are both taxable income. The tax is on you as the business, and you may pass it on; the rate is 4 percent for most activities plus any county surcharge.

5 Your first steps

1. Form the business and register with the Department of Taxation.
2. Check local licenses and zoning.
3. Buy insurance and equipment.
4. List your business on Nearby Car Care

Requirements at a glance

Hawaii GET license and general excise tax

Required - State - Hawaii Department of Taxation

Get a general excise tax license ($20 one-time) and report GET on the gross income of your business, including services.

Fees: $20 one-time registration

Register your business with the DCCA Business Registration Division first.

Official application: https://tax.hawaii.gov/geninfo/get/

Repair dealer license if you repair vehicles

Required in some cases - State - Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board

Repairing vehicles for compensation in Hawaii requires a motor vehicle repair dealer license from the Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board for each repair facility. The dealer must be a licensed motor vehicle mechanic or employ at least one. Licenses renew every two years ($288 for repair dealers). Ask the Board whether your roadside services count as repairs.

Official application: https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/motorrepair/

Official agencies and links

Motor Vehicle Repair Industry Board
Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing
https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/motorrepair/

General Excise Tax (GET) Information
Hawaii Department of Taxation
https://tax.hawaii.gov/geninfo/get/

Frequently asked questions

Do I need a license for roadside assistance in Hawaii?

If you repair vehicles for pay, a motor vehicle repair dealer license likely applies; ask the Board.

This guide is general information, not legal advice. Rules change and can depend on your city or county, so confirm with the official agencies linked below before you apply.