START A BUSINESS - HAWAII

How to start a vehicle wrap and graphics business in Hawaii

Hawaii's general excise tax applies to selling and installing wraps; get a GET license and know the USDOT marking rules.

Sources verified 2026-11-21 - Updated 2026-11-21

1 Is a wrap business right for you?

Wrap shops design, print and install vinyl wraps, fleet graphics, lettering and USDOT numbers. It suits detail-oriented people with design or installation skills.

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 wrap installation. Check your city or county for licenses and zoning.

4 General excise tax

Income from selling and installing wraps is gross income subject to GET.

5 Marking rules your customers rely on

Vehicles that need a USDOT number show the carrier name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet.

6 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/

General excise tax on wrap jobs

Required - State - Hawaii Department of Taxation

Income from selling and installing wraps is gross income subject to GET.

USDOT number marking on commercial motor vehicles

Required in some cases - Federal - Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration

Vehicles that need a USDOT number show the carrier's name and USDOT number on both sides, readable from 50 feet in daylight (49 CFR 390.21).

Official agencies and links

49 CFR 390.21, Marking of self-propelled CMVs and intermodal equipment

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (eCFR)

https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-B/chapter-III/subchapter-B/part-390/subpart-B/section-390.21

General Excise Tax (GET) Information

Hawaii Department of Taxation

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

Frequently asked questions

Do wrap installers need a license in Hawaii?

We found no state license beyond the GET license.

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.