LICENSES, PERMITS & CERTIFICATIONS - HAWAII

Hawaii auto repair shop licenses and permits

What Hawaii requires of these businesses: registration, tax, licenses and the official links to check.

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

1 The rules at a glance

- GET license and general excise tax (services included)
- Repair dealer license for each facility ($288 every two years)
- At least one licensed mechanic
- Salvage repair dealer license to rebuild salvage vehicles
- EPA 609 for A/C work

Requirements at a glance

General excise tax on repairs

Required - State - Hawaii Department of Taxation

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

Motor vehicle repair dealer license

Required - 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). Rebuilding salvage vehicles needs a salvage repair dealer license.

Fees: $288 renewal every two years

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

EPA Section 609 certification for air conditioning work

Required in some cases - Federal - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Anyone who repairs or services a motor vehicle air conditioning system for payment or bartering must be certified by an EPA-approved Section 609 program.

Official agencies and links

Section 609 Technician Training and Certification Programs

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

https://www.epa.gov/mvac/section-609-technician-training-and-certification-programs

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 Hawaii repair shops need a license?
Yes. A motor vehicle repair dealer license for each facility, with at least one licensed mechanic.

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.