



# What you need to know about Hawaii's Graduated Licensing Program

## Got Questions?

DOE students: For further information regarding Hawaii's Graduated Licensing Program, please see your high school's driver education coordinator.

For additional information please see the following web links:

State of Hawaii  
[www.hidot.hawaii.gov](http://www.hidot.hawaii.gov)

City & County of Honolulu  
[www.honolulu.gov](http://www.honolulu.gov)

Hawaii County  
[www.hawaiicounty.gov](http://www.hawaiicounty.gov)

Maui County  
[www.co.maui.hi.us](http://www.co.maui.hi.us)

Kauai County  
[www.kauai.gov](http://www.kauai.gov)



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For teen drivers ages 15½ through 17 • Effective January 9, 2006



## The Graduated Licensing Program

The new Hawaii law establishes a three-stage graduated licensing program for drivers under the age of 18. The program allows beginning drivers to develop their driving skills over time as they gain experience and maturity.

Key elements of the new "provisional" stage include limits on unsupervised late-night driving and the number of passengers allowed during unsupervised driving.

## Why Hawaii Needs the Graduated Licensing Program

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among U.S. teens. Crash rates for young beginning drivers and their passengers are particularly high. Sixteen year-old drivers have higher crash rates than drivers of any other age, including older teen drivers.

Because of their inexperience, beginning drivers are least able to handle hazardous situations. This, combined with a lack of maturity and aggressive driving behaviors, results in high crash rates.

Graduated licensing programs, already working successfully in most other states, have resulted in fewer crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving teen drivers.

## The Instructional Permit Phase

The person must:

- be at least 15 years and 6 months in age to acquire an instructional permit.
- be in immediate possession of the permit when driving a motor vehicle.

- be seated next to a person who is at least 21 years of age and licensed to operate the same type of motor vehicle. However, between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., the supervising parent or guardian must be seated next to the minor driver.
- have all occupants wear their seatbelts in compliance with Hawaii State law: children under 4-years-old properly restrained in child safety seats, and children between 4-and 7-years-old in booster seats.

The permit:

- is valid for one (1) year from the date of issuance; and
- may be renewed for another one-year period no sooner than 30 days before the expiration date of the permit and no later than 90 days after the expiration date of the permit.

Failure to renew the instructional permit within 30 days after the expiration date will result in waiting 180 days before being eligible for a road test.

## The Provisional License Phase

A person may be granted a provisional license to operate a motor vehicle if that person:

- is at least sixteen (16) years old, but under the age of eighteen (18);
- holds an instructional permit and has held that permit for at least 180 days and there is no pending violation that might result in a suspension or revocation of that person's instructional permit;
- satisfactorily completes a State certified

driver's education course and possesses the classroom and behind-the-wheel certificates; and

- successfully passes a road examination test.

The person granted a provisional license shall, as a requirement:

1. have in their immediate possession their provisional driver's license;
2. have all occupants wear their seatbelts in compliance with Hawaii State law: children under 4-years-old properly restrained in child safety seats, and children between 4-and 7-years-old in booster seats;
3. Passenger Restrictions: The provisional licensee driver SHALL NOT TRANSPORT more than one person below the age of eighteen (18), without being accompanied by a licensed driver that is the provisional licensee's parent or guardian, unless that person is a household member.
4. Night-Time Driving Restriction: The provisional licensee driver SHALL NOT DRIVE between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., unless accompanied by either a parent or guardian that is licensed to drive the same type of motor vehicle and is seated in the passenger seat beside the licensee.

The person granted a provisional driver's license may drive between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. without a licensed parent or guardian in the motor vehicle only under the following conditions:

- A. Traveling to or from the licensee's place of employment, where the operation of a motor vehicle is necessary for that purpose.

The provisional licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from the employer containing the employer's:

- Name,
- Address,
- Telephone number, and
- Verification of employment and work hours.

B. Traveling to or from a school-authorized activity, where the operation of a motor vehicle is necessary for that purpose, and the provisional licensee shall keep in his or her possession a signed statement from a parent or guardian containing the parent's or guardian's:

- Name,
- Address,
- Telephone number, and
- Verification that the operation of the motor vehicle by the licensee is necessary to travel to or from the school-authorized activity;

provided that under A. and B. above, the provisional licensee shall not transport more than one person under the age of eighteen (18) between 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. without being accompanied by the licensed parent or guardian of the provisional licensee.

5. The provisional license shall expire on the provisional licensee's nineteenth (19th) birthday.

## Full Driver's License

A provisional licensee may be issued a full driver's license if the provisional licensee:

- has satisfactorily held the provisional license for at least six (6) months;
- has no pending violation that might result in a suspension or revocation;
- is at least seventeen (17) years old; and has satisfactorily complied with all the requirements of Chapter 286, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

## Penalties

For 1st violation of items listed in the Provisional License Phase section, the provisional license shall be suspended for a 3-month period.

For 2nd or subsequent violations of items listed in the Provisional License Phase section, the provisional license shall be revoked for a 6-month period.

If a provisional licensee is convicted of an offense relating to the operation of a motor vehicle:

- For a 1st conviction, the provisional license shall be suspended or revoked for 6 months.
- For a 2nd or subsequent convictions, the provisional license shall be revoked for one year.

## Attention All Minor Applicants

Effective January 9, 2006, pursuant to Act 72 of the Hawaii State Legislature, the State of Hawaii will initiate a Graduated Provisional Licensing Program. This means:

- The minimum age to acquire a permit is 15½ years old.
- All license examinations and driver's education requirements will remain in place.
- Applicants between the ages of 15½ through 17, must hold a valid Hawaii instructional permit for a period of 180 days, instead of 90 days.
- You must be accompanied by a licensed driver at least 21 years or older, instead of 18 during the instructional permit phase. The licensed driver must be a parent or guardian between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m. during the instructional permit and provisional phases.
- To receive either a provisional license or full driver's license you cannot have any pending violations that may result in the suspension or revocation of either your instructional permit or provisional driver's license.
- To obtain a full driver's license, you must hold your provisional driver's license for at least 6 months and be at least 17 years old.
- You have until your 19th birthday to convert your provisional driver's license to a full driver's license. Your provisional driver's license expires on your 19th birthday.
- If your provisional driver's license expiration date is on a weekend or holiday for the City/County, then YOU MUST CONVERT YOUR PROVISIONAL DRIVER'S LICENSE to a full driver's license by the last working day prior to the expiration date.

