



Important Reminders About Operating a Business in Hawai'i

Operating a business in Hawai'i requires a General Excise Tax (GET) license which must be conspicuously displayed anywhere one has a place of business. Having a license also requires **1) Periodic GET returns (G- 45) be filed throughout the year, and 2) an Annual Return and Reconciliation (G-49) filed for the end of the year. Failure to file these returns when due may result in an assessment, as well as penalties and interest on amounts owing.**

In 2009, the Department of Taxation formed the Special Enforcement Section (SES) investigative unit to enforce Hawaii's tax law. Hawai'i law authorizes the SES to enforce Hawai'i tax laws, including issuing citations, that can include substantial monetary fines for violations.



Violations may include the failure to:

A violation of this provision results in a fine not to exceed:

1. Obtain a GE license for one's business

- 1. **\$500** for most persons
\$2,000 for cash-based businesses

2. Conspicuously display GE license or produce GE license upon demand

- 2. **\$500** for most persons
\$1,000 for cash-based businesses

3. Keep adequate books and records

- 3. **\$1,000** for most persons
\$2,000 for cash-based businesses

4. Record Transaction

It is unlawful for any person doing business to conduct any transaction in cash and fail to:

- (1) Offer a receipt or other record of the transaction;
- (2) Maintain a contemporaneously generated record of all business transactions conducted each day, whether handwritten or generated by a manually operated or electronic cash register.

- 4. **\$1,000** for most persons
\$2,000 for cash-based businesses

Each day a person is in violation of this section shall be treated as a separate violation.

5. Interference with a tax official

- 5. **\$2,000** for most persons



Do you know someone or a business who is violating Hawai'i tax laws, or is a tax cheat?
CALL (808) 587-1456 or email Tax.Special.Enforement.Section@hawaii.gov.

Print Name & Title

Signature

Date

Business Name

GE No. on License

Business Address

Name or GE No. under which taxes are filed

Phone Number

Notes: