

BOARD OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES AND GUARDS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How can I find out if a person is licensed as a private detective, guard, or agency?

A: Click here <https://mypvl.dcca.hawaii.gov/public-license-search/> for the website to verify a license, or call (808) 586-3000.

Q: How do I file a complaint against a private detective, guard, agency, or guard employee?

A: Click here <http://cca.hawaii.gov/rico> for the website to the Regulated Industries Complaints Office or call them at (808) 587-4272 and select menu option #3.

Q: What are the basic requirements for licensure?

A: **Entity:**

1. Have in its employ a principal detective or guard who shall be fully responsible for the direct management and control of the detective or guard agency and the agency's employees when detective or guard services are being provided;
2. Provide employment records of each officer, director, partner, manager, or member covering the last 10 years;
3. Provide criminal history record checks for each officer, director, partner, manager, or member. Submit to a FBI and Hawaii State fingerprint check through the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center ("HCJDC").

Applicants shall be fingerprinted electronically at Fieldprint Inc. locations nationwide or any other fingerprinting agency approved to send electronic fingerprints to the HCJDC.

Please visit Fieldprint Inc. at <http://fieldprinthawaii.com> to make an appointment, inquire about other available site locations on the Continental United States, or call (877) 614-4364.

Fees for the FBI and State of Hawaii Criminal history record checks shall be paid directly to Fieldprint and will be electronically sent to the HCJDC.

4. Verify that the entity is properly registered with the Business Registration Division (BREG), Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA), P.O. Box 40, Honolulu, HI 96810. Please contact them for the proper forms, at (808) 586-2727 or visit their website at: <https://hbe.ehawaii.gov/documents/search.html> to order "Certificates of Good Standing" forms, etc;
 - If the entity has been registered in this state for LESS THAN ONE (1) YEAR, ATTACH a "*filed-stamped*" copy of the document filed with BREG; or the same certificate mentioned above.

- If the entity has been registered in this state for MORE THAN ONE (1) YEAR, ATTACH a current “*Certificate of Good Standing*” issued not more than 1 year ago.
5. If applicant will be using a trade name, attach a current “filed-stamped” copy of the “*Application for registration of Trade Name*” approved by the Business Registration Division. You may contact them at (808) 586-2727;
 6. Provide a business location in Hawaii where the firm will receive service of process;
 7. Provide a bond of not less than \$5,000 issued by a surety authorized to conduct business in this State;
 8. If intending to use a badge, uniform, identification, or emblem, provide a sufficient number of 8”x10” colored photographs of your agency’s guard uniform and 3”x5” colored photographs of your agency’s emblem, badges and identification card for the Board and police department of each county (ies) in which you intend to do business. Indicate the counties in which you will be operating.
 9. Employ registered guard employees. Act 208, SLH 2010 (HRS 463-10.5) requires all guards acting in a guard capacity to be registered with the Board.

Principal/Sole Proprietor:

1. Be at least 18 years of age;
2. Provide evidence of a high school education or its equivalent;
3. Verify at least 4 years of full-time investigational or guard work. The Board may accept:
 - A. For persons applying to be private detectives, employment:
 - i. Under the supervision of a licensed private detective;
 - ii. As a police officer with a police department of a state or political subdivision thereof;
 - iii. As an investigator with any federal, state, county, or municipal government agency; or
 - iv. As an investigator by an attorney-at-law or law firm.
 - B. For persons applying to be guards, employment:
 - i. Under the supervision of a licensed guard;
 - ii. As a guard by a private employer;

- iii. As a police officer with a police department of a state or political subdivision thereof; or
 - iv. As a guard with any federal, state, county, or municipal government agency.
4. Pass an examination;
5. Not be presently suffering from any psychiatric or psychological disorder which is directly related and detrimental to a person's performance in the profession (private detective or guard);
6. Not have been convicted in any jurisdiction of a crime which reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the applicant to engage in the profession (private detective/guard), unless the conviction has been annulled or expunged by court order;
7. Possess a history of honesty, truthfulness, financial integrity and fair dealing;
8. Submit to a FBI and Hawaii State fingerprint check through the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center ("HCJDC").

Applicants shall be fingerprinted electronically at Fieldprint Inc. locations nationwide or any other fingerprinting agency approved to send electronic fingerprints to the HCJDC.

Please visit Fieldprint Inc. at <http://fieldprinthawaii.com> to make an appointment, inquire about other available site locations on the Continental United States, or call (877) 614-4364.

Fees for the FBI and State of Hawaii Criminal history record checks shall be paid directly to Fieldprint and will be electronically sent to the HCJDC.

9. Employ registered guard employees. Act 208, SLH 2010 requires all guards acting in a guard capacity to be registered with the Board.

Guard Employee:

1. Be not less than eighteen (18) years of age;
2. Possess a high school education or its equivalent;
3. Not be presently suffering from any psychiatric or psychological disorder which is directly related and detrimental to a person's performance in the profession;
4. Not have been convicted in any jurisdiction of a crime which reflects unfavorably on the fitness of the individual to act as a guard, unless the conviction has been annulled or expunged by court order; provided that the individual shall submit to a national criminal history record check as authorized by federal law, including,

License fees: **Entity** (\$344) if licensed between July 1st even-numbered year to June 30 odd-numbered year; and (\$140) if licensed between July 1st odd-numbered year to June 30 even-numbered year.

Principal/Sole Proprietor (\$280) if licensed between July 1st even-numbered year to June 30, odd-numbered year; and (\$108) if Licensed between July 1st odd-numbered year to June 30, even- numbered year.

Guard Employee (\$151) if licensed between July 1st and June 30th, of the first year of the triennium (2018,2021, 2024); and (\$116) if Licensed between July 1st and June 30th of the second year of the triennium (2019, 2022, 2025); and (\$81) if licensed between July 1st and June 30th of the third year of the triennium (2020, 2023, 2026).

Renewal fees: **Entity** (\$408)
Principal/Sole Proprietor (\$344)
Guard Employee (\$105)

Q: Is verification of bonds required at the time of application?

A: No. Bond requirements shall be submitted prior to licensure, and need not be submitted at the time of application. (There is no bond requirement for guard employees.)

Q: Are photographs of uniforms, badges, identification, emblems required at the time of application?

A: No. Photographs of these items are only required if an applicant intends to use them and may be submitted prior to licensure. Applicants must submit for approval one set of photographs for the Board and each county police department in which the applicant intends to conduct business.

Q: Can an individual be the principal guard or detective for more than one entity?

A: A guard or private detective shall not serve as principal guard or detective for more than one agency **unless** that guard or private detective obtains approval from the Board of Private Detectives and Guards and meets one of the following:

1. There is a common ownership of at least fifty-one percent of the equity of each entity for which the individual acts as the responsible principal; or
2. An entity applying for an agency license is a subsidiary of or joint venture with another licensed firm; or
3. There is an immediate and direct family relationship between the responsible principal and the officers, directors, members, managers, or partners of the other licensed firm for which the individual acts as the responsible principal; or

4. There is an immediate and direct family relationship between the officers, directors, members, managers, and partners of all detective or guard entities for which the individual acts as the responsible principal; and
5. The board is satisfied that it is in the public's interest and that the principal for more than one agency.

Q: Does Hawaii have reciprocal agreements with other states?

A: No. All applicants must meet the same licensing and examination requirements.

Q: Does the Board of Private Detectives and Guards accept any form of education (i.e. Academic courses, academic degrees, home study courses etc) in lieu of the 4 years of investigational or guard work experience?

A: No. Each applicant shall verify 4 years of full-time investigative or guard work to qualify for licensure.

Q: What is required of detective or guard agency licensees when hiring employees?

A: If licensees hire employees to work in an investigative or guard capacity the principal detective or guard is **required** to:

1. Register those employees with the Board pursuant to HRS sections 463-6 and 463-8 and HAR section 16-97-15; and
2. Submit an "Employee Registration Form (PDG-16) semi-annually (Jan. – June due 7/31, July - Dec. due 1/31). Forms may be downloaded at http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/private/application_publications

Note: Employers must notify the Board if they no longer have employees to stop the reporting requirements. (PDG-18)

*Guard Agencies shall employ registered guard employees pursuant to 463-10.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Q: What is required of detective or guard agency licensees if they do not intend to hire employees or if they no longer have employees?

A: If licensees do not intend to hire employees, or if they terminate or no longer have employees, the principal detective or guard is required to:

1. Submit an "Attestation of Licensees Intending or not to Hire Employees" form (PDG 18); and
2. Upon employing any person, submit form (PDG 18) and henceforth comply with HAR §16-97-15 and submit the "Employee Registration Form" (PDG 16).

Q: What are the requirements to be registered as a Guard Employee?

A: Effective July 1, 2013, all guards, and all agents, operatives, and assistants employed by a guard agency, private business entity, or government agency who act in a guard

capacity shall apply to register with the board, and meet the following registration, instruction, and training requirements prior to acting as a guard:

1. Be not less than eighteen years of age;
2. Possess a high school education or its equivalent;
3. Not be presently suffering from any psychiatric or psychological disorder which is directly related and detrimental to a person's performance in the profession; and
4. Not have been convicted in any jurisdiction of a crime which reflects unfavorable on the fitness of the individual to act as a guard, unless the conviction has been annulled or expunged by court order; provided that the individual shall submit to a national criminal history record check as authorized by federal law, including but not limited to the Private Security Officer Employment Authorization Act of 2004, and specified in the rules of the board.

The Board continues to discuss implementation of Act 208 (SLH 2010). You may follow the committee's and Board's progress through the Board's minutes and documents posted on the website of the "Board of Private Detectives and Guards" at <http://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/private/>.

Renewal FAQs for Detective, Guard, Agency Licenses or Guard Employee Registration

Q: What is the renewal window to renew a license or registration?

A: The time period in which renewal applications will be received will be from May 10th through June 30, 2021. Online renewal process is faster!

To expedite the renewal process for your guard agency, principal guard, guard employees, detective agency, or principal detective RENEW ONLINE! The online system will post license information the next business day. Submitting hard copy renewals will require manual processing and similar to the initial registration you must anticipate back logs and delay as there are approximately 17,000 guard employees alone.

There will be 2 options for PDG licensees to pay for their renewal online.

1. Pay by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover Card)
2. Pay by eCheck (financial institution checking or savings account)

Q: What happens if the private detective, guard, or agency license or guard employee registration is not renewed before it expires?

A: If the license or registration is not renewed by June 30 of the even-numbered year, the license or registration is forfeited. The licensee or registrant has one year from the expiration date to restore the forfeited license or registration by submitting all required documents and fees, including a late renewal fee. If the license or registration is not restored within the one year, the licensee or registrant will be treated as a new applicant and shall meet the licensing or registration requirements at the time of application.