
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMMERCIAL DRIVERS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 291E-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

3 "(b) A person committing the offense of operating a
4 vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant shall be sentenced
5 as follows without possibility of probation or suspension of
6 sentence:

7 (1) Except as provided in [+]paragraph[+] (2), for the
8 first offense, or any offense not preceded within a
9 five-year period by a conviction for an offense under
10 this section or section 291E-4(a):

11 (A) A fourteen-hour minimum substance abuse
12 rehabilitation program, including education and
13 counseling, or other comparable program deemed
14 appropriate by the court;

15 (B) Ninety-day prompt suspension of license and
16 privilege to operate a vehicle during the
17 suspension period, or the court may impose, in



1 lieu of the ninety-day prompt suspension of
2 license, a minimum thirty-day prompt suspension
3 of license with absolute prohibition from
4 operating a vehicle and, for the remainder of the
5 ninety-day period, a restriction on [~~the license~~]
6 a category (1), (2), or (3) license under section
7 286-102(b) that allows the person to drive for
8 limited work-related purposes and to participate
9 in substance abuse treatment programs;

10 (C) Any one or more of the following:

11 (i) Seventy-two hours of community service work;

12 (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more
13 than five days of imprisonment; or

14 (iii) A fine of not less than \$150 but not more
15 than \$1,000;

16 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
17 neurotrauma special fund; and

18 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$25 to be
19 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
20 the court so orders;

21 (2) For a first offense committed by a highly intoxicated
22 driver, or for any offense committed by a highly



1 intoxicated driver not preceded within a five-year
2 period by a conviction for an offense under this
3 section or section 291E-4(a):

4 (A) A fourteen-hour minimum substance abuse
5 rehabilitation program, including education and
6 counseling, or other comparable program deemed
7 appropriate by the court;

8 (B) Prompt suspension of a license and privilege to
9 operate a vehicle for a period of six months with
10 an absolute prohibition from operating a vehicle
11 during the suspension period;

12 (C) Any one or more of the following:

13 (i) Seventy-two hours of community service work;

14 (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more
15 than five days of imprisonment; or

16 (iii) A fine of not less than \$150 but not more
17 than \$1,000;

18 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
19 neurotrauma special fund; and

20 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
21 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
22 the court so orders;



- 1 (3) For an offense that occurs within five years of a
- 2 prior conviction for an offense under this section or
- 3 section 291E-4(a) by:
- 4 (A) Prompt suspension of license and privilege to
- 5 operate a vehicle for a period of one year with
- 6 an absolute prohibition from operating a vehicle
- 7 during the suspension period;
- 8 (B) Either one of the following:
- 9 (i) Not less than two hundred forty hours of
- 10 community service work; or
- 11 (ii) Not less than five days but not more than
- 12 fourteen days of imprisonment of which at
- 13 least forty-eight hours shall be served
- 14 consecutively;
- 15 (C) A fine of not less than \$500 but not more than
- 16 \$1,500;
- 17 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
- 18 neurotrauma special fund; and
- 19 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
- 20 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
- 21 the court so orders;



1 (4) For an offense that occurs within five years of two
2 prior convictions for offenses under this section or
3 section 291E-4(a):

4 (A) A fine of not less than \$500 but not more than
5 \$2,500;

6 (B) Revocation of license and privilege to operate a
7 vehicle for a period not less than one year but
8 not more than five years;

9 (C) Not less than ten days but not more than thirty
10 days imprisonment of which at least forty-eight
11 hours shall be served consecutively;

12 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
13 neurotrauma special fund;

14 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
15 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
16 the court so orders; and

17 (F) Forfeiture under chapter 712A of the vehicle
18 owned and operated by the person committing the
19 offense; provided that the department of
20 transportation shall provide storage for vehicles
21 forfeited under this subsection; and



1 (5) Any person eighteen years of age or older who is
 2 convicted under this section and who operated a
 3 vehicle with a passenger, in or on the vehicle, who
 4 was younger than fifteen years of age, shall be
 5 sentenced to an additional mandatory fine of \$500 and
 6 an additional mandatory term of imprisonment of forty-
 7 eight hours; provided that the total term of
 8 imprisonment for a person convicted under this
 9 paragraph shall not exceed the maximum term of
 10 imprisonment provided in paragraph (1), (3), or (4)."

11 SECTION 2. Act 171, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008, is
 12 amended by amending section 8 to read as follows:

13 "SECTION 8. Section 291E-61, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 14 amended to read as follows:

15 "**§291E-61 Operating a vehicle under the influence of an**
 16 **intoxicant.** (a) A person commits the offense of operating a
 17 vehicle under the influence of an intoxicant if the person
 18 operates or assumes actual physical control of a vehicle:

19 (1) While under the influence of alcohol in an amount
 20 sufficient to impair the person's normal mental
 21 faculties or ability to care for the person and guard
 22 against casualty;



1 (2) While under the influence of any drug that impairs the
2 person's ability to operate the vehicle in a careful
3 and prudent manner;

4 (3) With .08 or more grams of alcohol per two hundred ten
5 liters of breath; or

6 (4) With .08 or more grams of alcohol per one hundred
7 milliliters or cubic centimeters of blood.

8 (b) A person committing the offense of operating a vehicle
9 under the influence of an intoxicant shall be sentenced as
10 follows:

11 (1) Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (5), for the
12 first offense, or any offense not preceded within a
13 five-year period by a conviction for an offense under
14 this section or section 291E-4(a), and notwithstanding
15 section 706-623, by probation for not less than one
16 year nor more than two years on the following
17 conditions:

18 (A) A fourteen-hour minimum substance abuse
19 rehabilitation program, including education and
20 counseling, or other comparable program deemed
21 appropriate by the court;



1 (B) (i) Ninety-day prompt suspension of license and
2 privilege to operate a vehicle during the
3 suspension period, or the court may impose,
4 in lieu of the ninety-day prompt suspension
5 of license, a minimum thirty-day prompt
6 suspension of license with absolute
7 prohibition from operating a vehicle and,
8 for the remainder of the ninety-day period,
9 a restriction on [~~the license~~] a category
10 (1), (2), or (3) license under section 286-
11 102(b) that allows the person to drive for
12 limited work-related purposes and to
13 participate in substance abuse treatment
14 programs; or

15 (ii) One-year revocation of license and privilege
16 to operate a vehicle during the revocation
17 period and installation during the
18 revocation period of an ignition interlock
19 device on any vehicle operated by the
20 person;

21 (C) Any one or more of the following:

22 (i) Seventy-two hours of community service work;



1 (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more
2 than five days of imprisonment; or

3 (iii) A fine of not less than \$150 but not more
4 than \$1,000;

5 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
6 neurotrauma special fund; and

7 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$25 to be
8 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
9 the court so orders;

10 (2) For a first offense committed by a highly intoxicated
11 driver, or for any offense committed by a highly
12 intoxicated driver not preceded within a five-year
13 period by a conviction for an offense under this
14 section or section 291E-4(a), and notwithstanding
15 section 706-623, by probation for not less than two
16 years nor more than four years on the following
17 conditions:

18 (A) A fourteen-hour minimum substance abuse
19 rehabilitation program, including education and
20 counseling, or other comparable program deemed
21 appropriate by the court;



- 1 (B) A two-year revocation of license and privilege to
- 2 operate a vehicle during the revocation period
- 3 and installation during the revocation period of
- 4 an ignition interlock device on any vehicle
- 5 operated by the person;
- 6 (C) Any one or more of the following:
- 7 (i) Seventy-two hours of community service work;
- 8 (ii) Not less than forty-eight hours and not more
- 9 than five days of imprisonment; or
- 10 (iii) A fine of not less than \$150 but not more
- 11 than \$1,000;
- 12 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
- 13 neurotrauma special fund; and
- 14 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
- 15 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
- 16 the court so orders;
- 17 (3) For an offense that occurs within five years of a
- 18 prior conviction for an offense under this section or
- 19 section 291E-4(a), and notwithstanding section 706-
- 20 623, by probation for not less than two years nor more
- 21 than four years on the following conditions:



- 1 (A) A two-year revocation of license and privilege to
- 2 operate a vehicle during the revocation period
- 3 and installation during the revocation period of
- 4 an ignition interlock device on any vehicle
- 5 operated by the person;
- 6 (B) Either one of the following:
- 7 (i) Not less than two hundred forty hours of
- 8 community service work; or
- 9 (ii) Not less than five days but not more than
- 10 fourteen days of imprisonment of which at
- 11 least forty-eight hours shall be served
- 12 consecutively;
- 13 (C) A fine of not less than \$500 but not more than
- 14 \$1,500;
- 15 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
- 16 neurotrauma special fund; and
- 17 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
- 18 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
- 19 the court so orders;
- 20 (4) For an offense that occurs within five years of two
- 21 prior convictions for offenses under this section or
- 22 section 291E-4(a), and notwithstanding section 706-



1 623, by probation for not less than three years nor
2 more than five years on the following conditions:
3 (A) A fine of not less than \$500 but not more than
4 \$2,500;
5 (B) Three-year revocation of license and privilege to
6 operate a vehicle during the revocation period
7 and installation during the revocation period of
8 an ignition interlock device on any vehicle
9 operated by the person;
10 (C) Not less than ten days but not more than thirty
11 days imprisonment of which at least forty-eight
12 hours shall be served consecutively;
13 (D) A surcharge of \$25 to be deposited into the
14 neurotrauma special fund; and
15 (E) May be charged a surcharge of up to \$50 to be
16 deposited into the trauma system special fund if
17 the court so orders; and
18 (5) In addition to a sentence imposed under paragraphs (1)
19 through (4), any person eighteen years of age or older
20 who is convicted under this section and who operated a
21 vehicle with a passenger, in or on the vehicle, who
22 was younger than fifteen years of age, shall be



1 sentenced to an additional mandatory fine of \$500 and
2 an additional mandatory term of imprisonment of forty-
3 eight hours; provided that the total term of
4 imprisonment for a person convicted under this
5 paragraph shall not exceed the maximum term of
6 imprisonment provided in paragraph (1), (3), or (4).
7 Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the probation period
8 for a person sentenced under this paragraph shall be
9 not less than two years.

10 (c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the
11 court shall not issue an ignition interlock permit to:

12 (1) A defendant whose license is expired, suspended, or
13 revoked as a result of action other than the instant
14 offense; or

15 (2) A defendant who holds either a category 4 license
16 under section 286-102(b) or a commercial driver's
17 license under section 286-239(b).

18 (d) The court may issue a separate permit authorizing a
19 defendant to operate a vehicle owned by the defendant's employer
20 during the period of revocation without installation of an
21 ignition interlock device if the defendant is gainfully employed
22 in a position that requires driving and the defendant will be



1 discharged if prohibited from driving a vehicle not equipped
2 with an ignition interlock device.

3 (e) A request made pursuant to subsection (d) shall be
4 accompanied by:

5 (1) A sworn statement from the defendant containing facts
6 establishing that the defendant currently is employed
7 in a position that requires driving and that the
8 defendant will be discharged if prohibited from
9 driving a vehicle not equipped with an ignition
10 interlock device; and

11 (2) A sworn statement from the defendant's employer
12 establishing that the employer will, in fact,
13 discharge the defendant if the defendant is prohibited
14 from driving a vehicle not equipped with an ignition
15 interlock device and identifying the specific vehicle
16 and hours of the day, not to exceed twelve hours per
17 day, the defendant will drive for purposes of
18 employment.

19 (f) A permit issued pursuant to subsection (d) shall
20 include restrictions allowing the defendant to drive:



- 1 (1) Only during specified hours of employment, not to
- 2 exceed twelve hours per day, and only for activities
- 3 solely within the scope of the employment;
- 4 (2) Only the vehicle specified; and
- 5 (3) Only if the permit is kept in the defendant's
- 6 possession while operating the employer's vehicle.
- 7 (g) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, any:
- 8 (1) Conviction under this section, section 291E-4(a), or
- 9 section 291E-61.5;
- 10 (2) Conviction in any other state or federal jurisdiction
- 11 for an offense that is comparable to operating or
- 12 being in physical control of a vehicle while having
- 13 either an unlawful alcohol concentration or an
- 14 unlawful drug content in the blood or urine or while
- 15 under the influence of an intoxicant or habitually
- 16 operating a vehicle under the influence of an
- 17 intoxicant; or
- 18 (3) Adjudication of a minor for a law violation that, if
- 19 committed by an adult, would constitute a violation of
- 20 this section or an offense under section 291E-4(a), or
- 21 section 291E-61.5;



1 shall be considered a prior conviction for the purposes of
2 imposing sentence under this section. Any judgment on a verdict
3 or a finding of guilty, a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or
4 an adjudication, in the case of a minor, that at the time of the
5 offense has not been expunged by pardon, reversed, or set aside
6 shall be deemed a prior conviction under this section. No
7 license and privilege suspension or revocation shall be imposed
8 pursuant to this section if the person's license and privilege
9 to operate a vehicle has previously been administratively
10 revoked pursuant to part III for the same act; provided that, if
11 the administrative suspension or revocation is subsequently
12 reversed, the person's license and privilege to operate a
13 vehicle shall be suspended or revoked as provided in this
14 section.

15 (h) Whenever a court sentences a person pursuant to
16 subsection (b), it also shall require that the offender be
17 referred to the driver's education program for an assessment, by
18 a certified substance abuse counselor, of the offender's
19 substance abuse or dependence and the need for appropriate
20 treatment. The counselor shall submit a report with
21 recommendations to the court. The court shall require the
22 offender to obtain appropriate treatment if the counselor's



1 assessment establishes the offender's substance abuse or
2 dependence. All costs for assessment and treatment shall be
3 borne by the offender.

4 (i) Upon proof that the defendant has installed an
5 ignition interlock device in the defendant's vehicle pursuant to
6 subsection (b), the court shall issue an ignition interlock
7 permit that will allow the defendant to drive a vehicle equipped
8 with an ignition interlock device during the revocation period.

9 (j) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary,
10 whenever a court revokes a person's driver's license pursuant to
11 this section, the examiner of drivers shall not grant to the
12 person a new driver's license until the expiration of the period
13 of revocation determined by the court. After the period of
14 revocation is completed, the person may apply for and the
15 examiner of drivers may grant to the person a new driver's
16 license.

17 (k) Any person sentenced under this section may be ordered
18 to reimburse the county for the cost of any blood or urine tests
19 conducted pursuant to section 291E-11. The court shall order
20 the person to make restitution in a lump sum, or in a series of
21 prorated installments, to the police department or other agency
22 incurring the expense of the blood or urine test. Except as



1 provided in section 291E-5, installation and maintenance of the
2 ignition interlock device required by subsection (b) shall be at
3 the defendant's own expense.

4 (l) The requirement to provide proof of financial
5 responsibility pursuant to section 287-20 shall not be based
6 upon a sentence imposed under subsection (b)(1).

7 (m) As used in this section, the term "examiner of
8 drivers" has the same meaning as provided in section 286-2."

9 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.



S.B. NO. 979
S.D. 2
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Commercial Driver's License

Description:

Revises standard for a court-issued license to drive for work-related purposes. (SB979 HD1)

