

Notice Regarding the Amendments to HAR 16-115

September 22, 2023

As of September 22, 2023, the proposed amendments to Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) Title 16, Chapter 115 are now effective. A copy of the new Rules is available on the Board's website at: https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/engineer/statute_rules/.

Please contact the Board via email at EASLA@dcca.hawaii.gov if you have any questions about the new rules, especially as they apply to you as a current or future applicant.

The changes now in effect are as follows:

- (1) Adds new definitions of "A.R.E.", "AXP", "Digital signature", "Environmental engineering", and "Fire protection engineering";
- (2) Amends definitions of "Branch examination" and "Experience in responsible charge";
- (3) Includes abbreviations for new branches of "Environmental" and "Fire protection" engineering for seal or stamp;
- (4) Allows for the acceptance of digital signatures on all plans, specifications, maps, reports, surveys, descriptions, and every sheet in a set of design drawings prepared by or under the supervision of a licensed professional engineer, architect, land surveyor, or landscape architect;
- (5) Adds a new section to address any misconduct by an applicant in applying for, taking, or subsequent to the examination;
- (6) Adds two new branches of engineering for licensure, Environmental and Fire Protection;
- (7) Brings all relevant sections to current practice regarding examinations with outdated test dates by requiring that relevant applicants apply no later than 90 days prior to the examination;
- (8) Clarifies that "lawful experience" accepted to satisfy the education requirement for professional engineer or land surveyor licensure cannot be credited concurrently with meeting the experience requirement;
- (9) Adds new sections addressing the qualifications and licensure requirements for environmental and fire protection engineers;
- (10) Updates all relevant sections to include the Architectural Experience Program ("AXP"), which has replaced the outdated Intern Development Program ("IDP") of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards ("NCARB");
- (11) Deletes reference to a state-produced licensing examination for architect applicants;
- (12) Clarifies requirements for applicants who may register for the A.R.E. directly with the NCARB;

- (13) Adds new sections that promulgate rules for §464—9(d), HRS, clarifying the continuing education (“CE”) requirements for licensed architects to renew their license including: that CE courses in public protection subjects must be related to health, safety, and welfare (“HSW”), that CE courses must be completed within two years preceding the biennial renewal date, certificate of compliance, measures to conduct a random CE audit, a four year retention requirement of CE documents by applicants following the renewal period, and clarification of waivers or modification of requirements;
- (14) Clarifies the examination requirements for licensure as a land surveyor;
- (15) Clarifies both the requirements of passing the NCEES Fundamentals of Surveying (“FS”) and the FS waiver of examination requirement for applicants by endorsement;
- (16) Clarifies the name and outdated information regarding the Hawaii state board-produced exam for surveyors;
- (17) Includes acceptance of a “land surveying” degree for a level of education that determines the required amount of experience needed for licensure;
- (18) Clarifies the requirement for a landscape architect applying by endorsement by deleting reference to outdated information regarding a state-produced licensing examination and fifteen years of experience in responsible charge approved by the board; and
- (19) Makes other non-substantive changes for the purposes of style and clarity.