

# Licensing of Architects in Hawaii

*This information is compiled by AIA Honolulu as a useful reference tool for those looking to find more information on licensing in Hawaii. While the information appeared accurate at the time of writing, AIA does not accept responsibility for any updates. Specific inquiries should be addressed to the agencies listed below. As noted, the practice of architecture is regulated by the State of Hawaii, and you should contact the state agencies for any assistance on licensure matters. Updated 9/16/2014.*

**Licensing of Architects in Hawaii is regulated by the State to safeguard public health, safety and welfare.** The following links may be helpful to those who are seeking information on how to become licensed in Hawaii, how to transfer your Architect license issued by another state, or to find out more about the laws and rules which govern the licensing and practice of architecture in Hawaii.

**The Professional and Vocational Licensing Division (PVL)** is a division of the **Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs (DCCA)**. PVL is responsible for 25 professional boards and commissions and 23 licensing programs. In total, the Division licenses 48 different professions and vocations.

For questions about licensure for Architects in Hawaii, all inquiries should be directed specifically to the **Engineer, Architect, Surveyor and Landscape Architect (EASLA) Board**. Got to their web page for more information: <http://hawaii.gov/dcca/pvl/boards/engineer/>

To learn more about the laws which govern the practice of Architecture in Hawaii, the **Hawaii Revised Statutes**, set by the State Legislature, should be your source for more information. These are posted on the DCCA website: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/>. Click on the link to **HRS 464 - Professional Engineers, Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects**.

---

Additional clarification of the Hawaii Revised Statutes is covered by the DCCA's **Administrative Rules**. Specific information on the rules governing the practice of Architecture are posted on the DCCA website: <http://cca.hawaii.gov/>. Click on the link to **HAR Chapter 115- Professional Engineers-Architects, Surveyors and Landscape Architects**.

Also listed on the DCCA website <http://cca.hawaii.gov/overview>, the Regulated Industries Complaint office (RICO) investigates and prosecutes complaints against professionals licensed by PVL and protects the public from unlicensed activities. This office also administers the [State Certified Arbitration Program \(SCAP\)](#) for "lemon" vehicles. The [Consumer Resource Center \(CRC\)](#) is also part of RICO. CRC can give you information on a business's complaint history and allow you to file complaints against a business.

• • •

Excerpt from CHAPTER 464:  
PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS,  
ARCHITECTS, SURVEYORS AND  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

"Architect" means a person who holds oneself out as able to perform, or who does perform, any professional service such as consultation, investigation, evaluation, planning, design, including aesthetic and structural design, or observation of construction, in connection with any private or public buildings, structures, or projects or the equipment or utilities thereof, or the accessories thereto, wherein the safeguarding of life, health, or property is concerned or involved, when the professional service requires the application of the art and science of construction based upon the principles of mathematics, aesthetics, and the physical sciences.

# AIA Honolulu and the Center for Architecture

LEADERSHIP | ENGAGEMENT | COLLABORATION

AIA Honolulu is a Chapter of The American Institute of Architects (AIA) representing and serving ~800 AIA Hawaii members on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Kauai, and Lanai.

**As stated in our articles of incorporation the purpose of AIA Honolulu** is to,

- organize and unite members of the architectural profession
- promote the aesthetic, scientific, and practical efficiency of the architectural profession
- advance the science and art of planning and building by advancing the standard of architectural education, training and practice
- coordinate the profession of architecture with the building industry
- insure the advancement of the living standard of people through their improved environment
- make the architectural profession of ever-increasing service to society
- protect the rights and interests of our members and to advocate in their behalf

**The Center for Architecture**, opened in October 2012 and is intended as a hub for architects, the various building industries and the public. It is envisioned as an evolving space for collaborative learning, shared resources, meetings and display, venue for rentals, as well as a working office for AIA Honolulu, architecture-industry volunteers and interested public. With the opening of our Center for Architecture, AIA Honolulu looks forward to greater community involvement while working collaboratively to drive positive change through the power of design.

**For more information contact us at**

**AIA Honolulu** and the  
**Center for Architecture**

828 Fort Street, Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 808-628-7243

Email: [contact@aiahonolulu.org](mailto:contact@aiahonolulu.org)

Web: [www.aiahonolulu.org](http://www.aiahonolulu.org)