

How to fill out CS-L(MVR)38A — Buyer Power of Attorney

Hawaii · written against CS-L(MVR)38A (04/2026), issued under City and County of Honolulu Department of Customer Services, Division of Motor Vehicles, notarised and appointing an attorney-in-fact to sign as purchaser for the vehicle described on it

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/forms/hawaii/csl-mvr-
38a-buyer-power-of-
attorney/

The buyer's mirror of the seller's power of attorney, and worth a seller's attention because its odometer clause runs the other way. The seller's version makes the owner write the reading down so the agent can only repeat it. This one appoints the attorney-in-fact to sign the mileage disclosure if the odometer reading on the vehicle is equal to or greater than the odometer reading which was disclosed by the seller - a one-way ratchet that stops a buyer's agent certifying a lower figure than the one you gave. That is why the form has no odometer blank on it at all.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank CS-L(MVR)38A from the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits at <https://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-326072/hi-mvr38a.pdf> — always take the current revision from the agency rather than a copy. Print this and keep it beside you while you complete theirs.

Every line, in the order you meet it

1	BUYER	That I (we) - the purchaser	Every person who will be a registered owner of the vehicle signs this line, in the names that will go on the certificate. Watch out: As the seller, this is the line to read. It should name the person who agreed to buy your car, not the person standing at the counter.
2	BUYER	who reside at	The purchaser's address, city, state and zip on the labelled rule. Watch out: Compare it with the address the buyer gave you for your notice of transfer. Two different addresses for one buyer is worth a question.
3	BUYER	Make, type and model year	The vehicle being bought. The power is specific to it. Watch out: A description that does not match your car means this document authorises nothing about your sale.
4	BUYER	Plate number and VIN	The identifying pair for the vehicle the purchaser is appointing an agent to register. Watch out: Check the VIN against your certificate before you hand anything over. It is the only field on the sheet that cannot be loosely right.
5	BUYER	The appointed attorney-in-fact	The person empowered to act as purchaser - to apply for registration, title, duplicates or other certificates issued by the Director of Customer Services. Watch out: This is who you will actually be dealing with. Ask for identification that matches this line before you release the certificate.
6	BUYER	The mileage condition	Not a field. A printed condition appointing the agent to sign the mileage disclosure only if the reading on the vehicle is equal to or greater than the one the seller disclosed. Watch out: It protects you as much as the buyer. Keep your own copy of the reading you certified so there is a record of what the floor was.
7	OTHER	The notary certification panel	The blank block at the foot, completed by a notary once the purchaser has signed in front of them. Watch out: An unnotarised power of attorney from a buyer's agent is not a document to hand a title over on. Ask to see the notary's completion, not just the signature.

What gets this one rejected

- Filing it without notarisation. Like the seller's version, the notary certification block is what makes it work at a counter.
- Using it to buy a vehicle that is not described on it. The make, type, model year, plate and VIN make the appointment specific to one car.
- Expecting it to sign the seller's half. It appoints an agent as purchaser - Section A on the front of the certificate is not within its reach.
- Treating it as a substitute for the buyer's own application. Section D on the back still has to be completed, by the agent if not by the buyer.
- Grabbing this one when you meant the seller's. The forms differ by a letter in the code and by the paragraph that matters most.

☒ Amber is what you write ☐ Grey is a block somebody else completes The completed example follows overleaf.

Read off CS-L(MVR)38A (04/2026) and the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits's own pages, current as of 2026-08-23. Plain-language help with a form, not legal advice — where this and the agency differ, the agency governs.

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CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
DEPARTMENT OF CUSTOMER SERVICES • DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES
 P.O. Box 30330, Honolulu, HI 96820-0330



BUYER

POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS:

1 That I (we) Dean T. Kahananui

the undersigned, who reside at 87-1052 Hakimo Road, Waianae, HI 96792 2
 ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP CODE

being the purchaser(s) of the following described vehicle:

3 Make Honda Type 4DSD Model Year 2014

4 License Plate Number KHM 274 Vehicle Identification Number 2HGRM4H57EH715204

do hereby make, constitute and appoint Reid M. Nakagawa 5
 of Honolulu aforesaid my (our) true and lawful attorney to sign to me (us) in my (our) name, place and stead,
 any application for original registration, certificate of title, duplicates or other certificates issued by the Director
 of Customer Services, City and County of Honolulu, as purchaser(s) for the motor vehicle described above.

I (we) understand that federal and state law requires that I (we) state the mileage upon transfer of ownership.
 Providing a false statement may result in fines and/or imprisonment. I appoint my attorney-in-fact to sign the
 mileage disclosure, on the title for the vehicle described above, if the odometer reading on the vehicle is equal
 to or greater than the odometer reading which was disclosed by the seller.

Granting and giving unto my (our) said attorney full power and authority to do and perform any and all other act
 necessary or incident to the execution of the powers herein expressly granted, with power to do and perform
 all acts authorized thereby, as fully to all intents and purpose as I (we) might to could do if personally present,
 with full power of substitution.

NOTARY CERTIFICATION:

Document Date: _____ Number of Pages: _____ Signed this _____

Document Description: _____ day of _____, 20 _____

Notary Printed Name _____ Circuit _____

Signature of Buyer _____

Notary Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Buyer _____

(Stamp or Seal)

Signature of Buyer _____

Subscribed and sworn before me this _____ day
 of _____, 20 _____

Printed Name of Buyer _____

 Notary Public

Address _____

State of Hawaii, _____ Judicial Circuit

My commission expires: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

(Stamp or Seal)