

How to fill out CS-L(MVR)39 — Affidavit for Collection of Personal Property of the Decedent

Hawaii · written against CS-L(MVR)39 (04/2026), issued under Sections 560:3-1201 and 560:3-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes, both cited on the face of the affidavit, filed with the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicles

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affidavit-collection-decedent/

When a Hawaii vehicle is registered only in the name of someone who has died, this sworn affidavit is how the successor collects it without probate. It is short and it is precise about what it is: the affiant deposes that they are the successor of the named decedent, that a certified copy of the death certificate is submitted with it, and that they are entitled to delivery of the vehicle by virtue of Section 560:3-1201. It then reprints Section 560:3-1202 in full on the sheet, which is the protection for the county - the person delivering the property is discharged and released to the same extent as if the person dealt with a personal representative of the decedent. If the car was jointly owned, none of this is needed: the survivor transfers it themselves.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank CS-L(MVR)39 from the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits at <https://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-326073/hi-mvr39.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	YOU	The estate, and the venue caption	The two facing blocks at the head of the page. The left names the estate of the deceased; the right is the State of Hawaii and the City and County of Honolulu, pre-printed. Watch out: Name the estate as the decedent's full legal name, matching the death certificate rather than the certificate of registration if the two differ.
2	YOU	Affiant's name	The successor, on the line before being first duly sworn on oath. One person swears this affidavit. Watch out: Where several people are successors, the county's instruction to call for guidance is worth taking - the form has a single affiant line and no obvious way to add another.
3	YOU	Date of death	Two boxes: the day and month on the first rule, the year after the printed 20. A certified copy of the death certificate is submitted with the affidavit. Watch out: Take the date from the certificate, not from memory. The two documents are read together and a mismatch is the sort of thing that stops a file.
4	YOU	Plate, make and body type	Three boxes identifying the vehicle being claimed, using the county's usual description shorthand. Watch out: If the registration has lapsed since the death, deal with that expectation early - a transfer still needs current registration and a current safety check.
5	YOU	Vehicle identification number	One long rule. The county's own sheet misspells the label as INDENTIFICATION; the field is the ordinary VIN. Watch out: It is the field that identifies the car if the plates have already been surrendered or the registration is years out of date.
6	YOU	Explain the relationship to the decedent	A free-text line, and the substance of the affidavit. It is what turns the affiant into a successor entitled to delivery under section 560:3-1201. Watch out: Be specific - surviving spouse, sole surviving child, named beneficiary. A one-word answer like family is not a statement of entitlement.
7	OTHER	The reprinted statute and the jurat	Section 560:3-1202 is printed in full on the lower half of the sheet, and the affidavit closes with further, affiant sayeth naught above the swearing block. Watch out: Nothing there is yours to complete, but paragraph three says you have read and understood it - so read it before you swear that you have.

What gets this one rejected

- A photocopied death certificate. Honolulu's instruction on the survivor route says it plainly - a state-certified copy of the decedent's official death certificate, and photocopies are not acceptable.
- Using it where the vehicle was jointly owned. The survivor completes Section A on the front and Section D on the back of the certificate; the affidavit is for a vehicle registered only in the decedent's name.
- Leaving the relationship line vague. The form asks the affiant to explain their relationship to the decedent, and that sentence is the basis of the entitlement being sworn to.
- Signing it without a notary. The affidavit is sworn on oath and closes with the formal jurat, so it is executed in front of an officer authorised to administer one.
- Treating it as a transfer document on its own. It puts the vehicle in the successor's hands; the certificate of title still has to be endorsed and the buyer still applies in Section D.

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



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



AFFIDAVIT FOR COLLECTION OF PERSONAL PROPERTY OF THE DECEDENT

THE ESTATE OF _____)		STATE OF HAWAII)
)		)
)		)
DECEASED)		CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU)

Malia K. Nakagawa, being first duly sworn on oath, deposes and says:

- Affiant is the successor of the above named decedent, who died on March 22, 2026. A certified copy of the death certificate is submitted herewith.
- Affiant is entitled to payment or delivery of the below mentioned motor vehicle by virtue of Section 560:3-1201, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as amended.

LICENSE PLATE GWL 903 MAKE Toyota BODY TYPE 4DSD

VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER 1NXBU4EE4BZ304187

and by virtue of (explain relationship of affiant to decedent)

Surviving daughter and sole successor of the decedent

- Affiant has read and understand Section 560:3-1202, Hawaii Revised Statutes:
 § 560:3-1202 **Effect of affidavit.** The person paying, delivering, transferring, or issuing personal property of the evidence thereof pursuant to section 560:3-1201 is discharged and released to the same extent as if the person dealt with a personal representative of the decedent. The person is not required to see to the application of the personal property or evidence thereof or to inquire in to truth of any statement in the affidavit. If any person to whom an affidavit is delivered refuses to pay, deliver, transfer, or issue any personal property or evidence thereof, it may be recovered or its payment, delivery, transfer, or issuance compelled upon proof of their right in a proceeding brought for the purpose by or on behalf of the persons entitled thereto. Any person to whom payment, delivery, transfer or issuance is made is answerable and accountable therefor to any personal representative of the estate or to any other person having a superior right.
- Further, affiant sayeth naught.

This ____ page Affidavit For Collection Of Personal

Property Of The Decedent, dated _____

was subscribed and sworn to before me this

Signature of Affiant

Date

day of _____

in the First Circuit of the State of Hawaii by

Notary Printed Name

Notary Signature

My commission expires: _____

(Stamp or Seal)