

How to fill out CS-L(MVR)53 — Notice of Transfer

Hawaii · written against CS-L(MVR)53 (02/2026), issued under Section 286-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes, cited on the face of the form, and filed with the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits

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/forms/hawaii/csl-mvr-53-notice-of-transfer/

This is the one piece of paper a Hawaii seller is actually required to file, and most sellers never see it as a form at all - because it is printed across the top of the certificate of title, and the instruction is to tear it off. CS-L(MVR)53 is the reissue for everyone whose strip has already gone: same nine boxes, same job. Its opening line sets the clock in capitals - notification must be made on this official form within TEN DAYS from the date of transfer or sale, and the penalty for failure to comply is a fine up to \$100.00. What it buys you is narrow and worth having: once the county records it, liability for parking and traffic violations and for civil litigation arising from operation after the date of sale becomes the responsibility of the subsequent purchaser.

This sheet is not the form. Download the blank CS-L(MVR)53 from the City and County of Honolulu Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits at <https://www4.honolulu.gov/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-325997/hi-mvr53.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	License plate number	Top right, above the description block. Copy it from the certificate of registration rather than from the car, because a plate that has been replaced since registration will not match the record. Watch out: If the car carries a personalised plate, deal with the plate before you file this. Personalised plates must be transferred, stored or retired at the sale, and the notice describes a vehicle by a plate that is about to change.
2	YOU	Make and Type	Make is the manufacturer. Type is Hawaii's body-style code - the form's own examples are 2DSD and 4DSD, two-door and four-door sedan - and the certificate of registration prints the one the county has on record. Watch out: Copy the type code from the registration exactly. Writing SUV or Wagon where the record says 4DSD is a discrepancy the clerk has to resolve before recording.
3	YOU	Date of Transfer	Month, day and year, in the three labelled slots. This is the date the ten-day clock started and the date the buyer's thirty days run from. Watch out: It must match the date you wrote in Section A on the certificate. Two different dates on the two halves of one sale is the discrepancy that gets a notice queried.
4	YOU	Vehicle Identification Number	The full VIN on the long rule under the description block. This is what ties the notice to a vehicle rather than to a registration that may already have changed. Watch out: Seventeen characters, copied character by character. A transposed digit means the county records a sale for a car that does not exist and yours stays in your name.
5	YOU	Name of the new owner	Typed or printed, in full. If the buyer is a business, use its registered name rather than the name of the person standing in front of you. Watch out: Take it from photo identification, not from a text message. This name is the whole of what the county knows about who has your car.
6	YOU	Address of the new owner	One ruled line with street, city, state and zip printed beneath it. A Hawaii address is normal but not required - a buyer shipping the car off-island still gets recorded here. Watch out: An address the buyer has not moved into yet is worse than useless. If they are between homes, ask for the one their driver's licence carries.
7	YOU	Your printed name as seller	Printed above the signature line. Every registered owner named on the certificate belongs here. Watch out: Two owners on the title means two names and two signatures. A notice signed by one of a joint pair leaves the other one still on the record.
8	YOU	Signature of transferor	Sign immediately below the printed name of the seller line - the form's own instruction eight. Transferor is the form's word for you. Watch out: No notary is needed on this form and none is offered. Do not let anyone tell you the notice needs witnessing; only the powers of attorney and a double-transfer bill of sale do.
9	YOU	Your address	Your complete address below the signature, with street, city, state and zip labelled underneath. This is where the county writes if the notice cannot be recorded. Watch out: Use the address you can still be reached at in three months. If you are leaving the islands, that is not the one on your old registration.

What gets this one rejected

- Sending it for a lienholder transfer. The first instruction on the form is that it is for registered owner transfers only - do not submit for lienholder (legal owner) transfers.
- Anything the clerk cannot read. The warning is printed in capitals: any incomplete, inaccurate or illegible information will prevent the recording of the information contained in the notice and result in noncompliance with the law.
- Filing it and assuming your name is off the record. The form states that it does not constitute application for transfer of ownership, and that to remove your name the new buyer must apply for transfer using the endorsed certificate of title and validated certificate of registration received from you.
- Posting it to the wrong island. It goes to the county where the vehicle was last registered, which is not always the county you live in - a car registered on Maui and sold on Oahu is Maui's notice to record.
- Waiting for the buyer to tell you they have transferred it. Your ten days run from the date of transfer whatever the buyer does, and the fine is on you.

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

Read off CS-L(MVR)53 (02/2026) 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. sellmycarhub.com



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



NOTICE OF TRANSFER

Notification must be made on this official form within TEN DAYS from the date of transfer or sale. Penalty for failure to comply is a fine up to \$100.00. Deliver properly endorsed Certificate of Title and validated Certificate of Registration to new buyer or owner.

DESCRIPTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER KHM 274

Make Honda Type 4DSD Date of Transfer 08/14/2026
 MONTH DAY YEAR

Vehicle Identification Number 2HGRM4H57EH715204

You are hereby notified that I (we), the undersigned owner(s) of the motor vehicle described above, sold or transferred my (our) interest in said motor vehicle to a new owner.

TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF NEW OWNER Dean T. Kahananui

TYPE OR PRINT ADDRESS OF NEW OWNER

87-1052 Hakimo Road, Waianae, HI 96792
 STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF SELLER(S) Malia K. Nakagawa

SIGNATURE OF TRANSFEROR(S) OR SELLER(S) Malia K. Nakagawa

TYPE OR PRINT ADDRESS OF TRANSFEROR(S) OR SELLER(S)

2914 Kili Hau Place, Honolulu, HI 96819
 STREET CITY STATE ZIP CODE

MAIL COMPLETED NOTICE TO: DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLE • LICENSING AND PERMITS
P.O. BOX 30330, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96820-0330

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You are required by law (Section 286-52, Hawaii Revised Statutes) to immediately notify the Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits when you sell or otherwise dispose of a vehicle. This form is provided for use in reporting the sale or transfer to the Division and does not constitute application for transfer of ownership.

YOUR LIABILITY FOR THE VEHICLE WILL NOT BE RELEASED IF YOU SUBMIT ILLEGIBLE OR INCOMPLETE INFORMATION.

TO REMOVE YOUR NAME FROM THE DIVISION'S RECORD, THE NEW BUYER MUST APPLY FOR TRANSFER USING THE ENDORSED CERTIFICATE OF TITLE AND VALIDATED CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION RECEIVED FROM YOU.

When the information contained on this form is recorded by the Division of Motor Vehicle, Licensing and Permits (see WARNING below), liability for parking and/or traffic violations and civil litigation resulting from operation after the date of sale becomes the responsibility of the subsequent purchaser(s).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR COMPLETING THIS FORM

WARNING: ANY INCOMPLETE, INACCURATE OR ILLEGIBLE INFORMATION WILL PREVENT THE RECORDING OF THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE NOTICE AND RESULT IN NONCOMPLIANCE WITH THE LAW.

1. This form is for registered owner transfers only. Do not submit for lienholder (legal owner) transfers.
2. Enter your license plate number in the space at the upper right area of the form.
3. Enter MAKE of vehicle (Chevrolet, Ford, etc.) and TYPE of vehicle (2DSD, 4DSD, etc.)
4. Enter vehicle identification number.
5. Enter date (month, day, year) you sold or transferred the described vehicle.
6. TYPE or PRINT new owner's name and complete address on the appropriate line.
7. TYPE or PRINT your name(s) as seller(s) on the appropriate line.
8. SIGN your name immediately below the printed name of seller(s) line.
9. Enter your complete address below your signature.