DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE

Adoption of Chapter 6-68
Hawaii Administrative Rules

April 25, 1997

SUMMARY

Chapter 6-68, Hawaii Administrative Rules, entitled "Investigation and Enforcement of Laws Governing Public Utilities, Motor Carriers, and Water Carriers," is adopted.
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SUBCHAPTER 1

GENERAL PROVISIONS

§6-68-1 Applicability; construction. (a) This chapter governs violations of the regulatory law and prescribes procedures for investigating alleged violations or suspected violations of the regulatory law and for issuing citations to and imposing sanctions on any person violating, allegedly
violating, or suspected of violating the regulatory laws.

(b) This chapter shall be liberally construed to provide adequate and continuous public utility, motor carrier, and water carrier services in the State.

§6-68-2 Proceedings, generally. The commission may commence:

(1) Investigative proceedings against any person violating, allegedly violating, or suspected of violating any regulatory law; and

(2) Enforcement proceedings against any person violating any regulatory law.

§6-68-3 Application of additional sources. This chapter shall be read in context with any applicable:

(1) Federal law and regulation; and

(2) State law, commission order, and rule, including chapters 269, 271, and 271G, HRS, and chapter 6-61.
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§6-68-4 General definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

"Chairperson" means the commissioner designated by the governor to be the chairperson of the commission.

"Citation" means a form used for citing persons allegedly violating or suspected of violating any applicable regulatory law.

"Commission" means the public utilities commission of the State, or the commission’s duly authorized representative, which may include the commission’s hearings officer.

"Enforcement officer" means the same as in §§269-1 and 271-4, HRS.

"Hearings officer" means a person appointed as such pursuant to §269-6, HRS.

"HRS" means the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

"License" means the revocable permission to engage as a public utility, motor carrier, or water carrier, issued by the commission to a person pursuant to chapter 269, 271, or 271G, HRS, or any rule promulgated pursuant to any of these chapters. It includes any certificate, permit, or other document issued by the commission as proof of that permission. It includes a conditional or temporary permission and any certificate, permit, or other document issued by the commission as proof of the temporary permission.

"Licensee" means the person in whose name the commission issues a license.

"Motor carrier" means the same as in §271-4, HRS.

"Person" includes any individual, firm, copartnership, corporation, company, association, or joint stock association; and includes any trustee,
receiver, assignee, or personal representative thereof.

"Public utility" means the same as in §269-1, HRS.

"Regulatory law" includes:
(1) Chapters 269, 271, and 271G, HRS, providing for the regulation by the commission of public utilities, motor carriers, and water carriers, and any other person subject to the commission's jurisdiction;
(2) Rules promulgated pursuant to any of these chapters;
(3) Commission orders; and
(4) Terms, conditions, or limitations set forth in the licensee's license.

"Respondent" includes:
(1) Any person cited by the commission or its enforcement officer;
(2) Any person against whom the commission institutes an investigation; or
(3) Any person against whom a complaint is made.

"Restore" or "restoration" means permission to resume business as a public utility, motor carrier, or water carrier, granted by the commission to a person whose license has been suspended.

"Rule" means the Hawaii Administrative Rules.

"State" means the State of Hawaii.


§6-68-5 Separation of functions. (a) The enforcement officer and any employee or agent of the commission who investigates, prepares, or presents a
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particular case may not, in the case or a factually related case:

(1) Participate in the case as a hearings officer; or

(2) Participate or advise in the initial decision or review of the initial decision by the commission, except as a witness or representative in public proceedings.

(b) The hearings officer or commission members who sit on an enforcement case shall not directly supervise or be supervised by the investigating official.


§6-68-6 Computation of time. Unless ordered or directed otherwise by the commission, in computing any period of time specified under this chapter:

(1) The term "day" means a calendar day;

(2) The term "receipt," "receive," or "received" means the actual receipt of the citation, payment, written request for civil citation hearing, or other document or thing at issue;

(3) The day of the act, event, or default shall not be included in the computation period; and

(4) The last day of the period so computed shall be included unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, in which event the period runs until the end of the next business day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday. As used in this paragraph:

(A) The term "holiday" means any day designated as such by §§8-1 and 8-2, HRS; and

(B) The term "end of the next business day" refers to the closing of the
§6-68-12 Application of this subchapter non-exclusive. Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as limiting or precluding the commission from using its civil or criminal enforcement authority, or both, against any person violating,
§6-68-12


§6-68-13 Complaint. (a) Unless ordered or directed otherwise by the commission, any complaint (informal or formal) against a public utility, water carrier, motor carrier, or other person subject to the commission’s jurisdiction alleging a violation of any regulatory law shall be processed in accordance with chapter 6-61.


§6-68-14 Commission investigation. (a) The commission may at any time investigate alleged or suspected violations of the regulatory law.

(b) The commission may issue to the respondent an order or notice instituting an investigation that may take the form of an order to show cause. The order to show cause shall require the respondent to appear before the commission on the date and at the time and place specified in the order.

(c) An order to show cause must conform to the notice and service requirements of §§91-9 and 91-9.5, HRS. The order shall be served upon the person concerned or other respondent, and the complainant,
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not less than two weeks before the date designated for the hearing.

(d) The order to show cause may include an order of abatement that requires the respondent to cease and desist from any present or future violations of the regulatory law or commission orders.

(1) The abatement order may be entered on the commission's initiative or by agreement between the commission and respondent, with or without a finding of a specific violation; and


§6-68-15 Commission investigation - default. If the respondent fails to appear on the date and at the time and place designated in the order to show cause, the commission may assume that the facts alleged in the order are true, and, if the facts establish liability, the commission:

(1) Will issue a final decision and order; and


§§6-68-16 to 20 (Reserved)
§6-68-21

SUBCHAPTER 3

CIVIL ENFORCEMENT - CITATION AND PENALTY

§6-68-21 Civil citation. (a) The commission or its enforcement officer may issue a civil citation to any person:

(1) Acting in the capacity of or engaging in the business of a public utility, motor carrier, or water carrier within the State, without having a license or other authority previously obtained from the commission, authorizing it to engage or conduct business as a public utility, motor carrier, or water carrier in the State; or

(2) Violating, allegedly violating, or suspected of violating any regulatory law.

(b) Service of a citation shall be made by personal service whenever possible, or by certified mail, restricted delivery, sent to the last known business or residence address of the person cited.

(c) The citation may contain an:

(1) Order of abatement; and

(2) Assessment of civil penalties, pursuant to §6-68-22.

(d) The citation may require the person cited to appear before the commission on the date and at the time and place specified in the citation and to state whether the person contests or admits to the alleged or suspected violation.

(1) If the person cited appears before the commission on the appearance date and contests the citation, the commission shall schedule a chapter 91, HRS, hearing on the citation.

(2) If the person cited appears before the commission on the appearance date and does not contest the citation, the commission shall dispose of the citation as authorized by law, which may include the assessment of

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a civil penalty, pursuant to §6-68-22, and the citation is deemed a final order of the commission. If a civil penalty is assessed, the person cited will be issued a bill for collection requiring payment within fifteen days from the appearance date. If payment is not received by the commission within the fifteen day period, the person cited will be issued a second bill for collection requiring payment within fifteen days from the date of the second bill for collection. A respondent who fails to make payment of the civil penalty to the commission within fifteen days from the date of the second bill for collection is in default, pursuant to §6-68-23(c).

The respondent’s appearance before the commission on the date and at the time and place specified in the citation to state whether the respondent contests or admits to the alleged or suspected violation, is a preliminary appearance and is not a chapter 91, HRS, hearing. This preliminary appearance before the commission may be conducted by the commission or by a hearings officer appointed by the chairperson.

(e) Failure to appear before the commission on the specified preliminary appearance date constitutes a default, pursuant to §6-68-23(a); provided that for good cause shown, a respondent may, at least five days before the appearance date specified in the citation, seek in writing the commission’s approval to continue the appearance date set forth in the citation. If the respondent’s request for continuance is approved, the respondent shall appear before the commission on the new appearance date specified by the commission. If the respondent’s request for continuance is denied, the respondent shall appear before the commission on the appearance date specified in the citation; the respondent’s failure to appear before the commission on the specified appearance date constitutes a default, pursuant to §6-68-23(a).
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(f) If the citation does not specify a preliminary appearance date requiring the person cited to appear before the commission as specified in subsection (d):

(1) The person cited must pay the civil penalty assessed in the citation within fifteen days from the receipt of the citation. If the person cited fails to make payment within fifteen days from the receipt of the citation and does not submit a timely written request to the commission for a hearing under paragraph (2), the citation is deemed a final order of the commission and the person cited will be issued a bill for collection requiring payment within fifteen days from the date of the bill for collection. If payment is still not received by the commission within fifteen days from the date of the bill for collection, the person cited will be issued a second bill for collection requiring payment within fifteen days from the date of the second bill for collection. Failure to make payment of the civil penalty to the commission within fifteen days from the date of the second bill for collection constitutes a default, pursuant to §6-68-23(c); or

(2) The person cited may contest the citation by submitting a written request to the commission for a hearing within twenty days from the receipt of the citation. Upon the receipt of a timely request for a hearing, the commission shall schedule a hearing on the citation pursuant to §271-31(a), HRS, and chapter 91, HRS. The hearing may be conducted by the commission or by a hearings officer appointed by the chairperson. Failure of respondent to appear before the commission on the specified hearing date constitutes a default, pursuant to §6-68-23(a); provided that for good cause
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shown, a respondent may, at least five days before the specified hearing date, seek in writing the commission's approval to continue the hearing date specified by the commission. If the respondent's request for continuance is approved, the respondent shall appear before the commission on the new hearing date specified by the commission. If the respondent's request for continuance is denied, the respondent shall appear before the commission on the hearing date specified by the commission; the respondent's failure to appear before the commission on the specified hearing date constitutes a default, pursuant to §6-68-23(a). [Eff May 19, 1997] (Auth: §§91-2, 269-6, 269-15, 271-9, 271-27, 271-38, 271G-7, 271G-19) (Imp: HRS §§91-9, 91-9.5, 91-10, 91-11, 91-12, 269-1, 269-6, 269-7.5, 269-13, 269-15, 269-20, 269-28, 271-4, 271-8, 271-9, 271-12, 271-13, 271-27, 271-31, 271-38, 271G-5, 271G-7, 271G-10, 271G-19, 271G-23)

§6-68-22 Civil penalty. (a) The commission shall assess civil penalties in accordance with §269-28, §271-27, or §271G-19, HRS.
(b) Payment of a civil penalty shall be made:
(1) In-person, at the commission’s Honolulu office; or
(2) By United States mail, postage pre-paid. If payment is made by mail, certified or registered mail is preferred.

If payment is made in-person, payment shall be by cash (United States currency only), cashier’s check, or money order. If payment is made by United States mail, payment shall be by cashier’s check or money order only. No personal or business checks, credit cards, or any other methods of payment will be

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accepted, regardless of the manner of payment (whether in-person or by United States mail).

§6-68-23 Civil citation - default. (a) Failure of the respondent to appear:

(1) On the date and at the time and place designated in the citation for a preliminary appearance, pursuant to §6-68-21(d); or

(2) On the date and at the time and place designated by the commission for a chapter 91, HRS, hearing;

constitutes a default.

(b) In the event of a default pursuant to subsection (a), the commission may assume that the facts alleged in the citation are true, and, if the facts establish a violation, the commission:

(1) Will issue a final order and pursue enforcement of the final order, pursuant to §6-68-24; and

(2) May impose the maximum amount of penalties and assessments allowed under the regulatory law.

(c) Failure of the respondent to make payment of the civil penalty, referred to in §§6-68-21(d)(2) or 6-68-21(f)(1), following the expiration of the second bill for collection period, constitutes a default, and the commission:

(1) May impose the maximum amount of penalties and assessments authorized under the regulatory law; and

(2) Will pursue enforcement of the final order, pursuant to §6-68-24.
Final order. The commission, attorney general, or any other authorized person may apply to the appropriate court for a judgment to enforce the provisions of any final order issued pursuant to this subchapter. In any proceeding to enforce the provisions of the final order, the commission need only:

1. Show that notice, where required, was given, and that a hearing was held or the time for requesting a hearing expired without such a request; and

2. Present a certified copy of the final order.

Application of this subchapter non-exclusive. Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed as limiting or precluding the commission from using its civil citation (including the

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§6-68-31 Condition or limitation of license. The commission, from time to time, may impose reasonable conditions or limitations on a previously granted license:

(1) In accordance with §269-7.5(b), HRS, for a public utility;

(2) In accordance with §271-12(d), HRS, for a common carrier by motor vehicle;

(3) In accordance with §271-13(c), HRS, for a contract carrier by motor vehicle; and


§6-68-32 Amendment, suspension, or revocation of license. (a) In accordance with §269-7.5(d), HRS, the commission may amend, suspend, or revoke the license of a public utility, in whole or in part, after notice and hearing, for the wilful violation of any regulatory law; provided that the commission may, upon the licensee’s application and the commission’s discretion, amend, suspend, or revoke the license of a public utility, in whole or in part, without a hearing.
(b) In accordance with §271-19(a), HRS, the commission may suspend or revoke the license of a motor carrier, in whole or in part, after notice and hearing, for the violation of any regulatory law; provided that the commission may:

(1) Upon the licensee's application and the commission's discretion, amend or revoke the license of a motor carrier, in whole or in part, without a hearing;

(2) Immediately suspend the license of a motor carrier, without a hearing, upon the motor carrier's failure to comply with:

(A) §§271-17, 271-21(a), or 271-22(a), HRS;
(B) Act 20, Special Session Laws of Hawaii 1977 and any amendments thereto; or
(C) Any commission order. Any summary suspension imposed pursuant to this paragraph shall continue until the carrier complies with the applicable provision or order;

(3) Without notice or hearing, revoke the license of a motor carrier that has been placed on inactive status if the carrier does not reactivate the license on or before the last day of the approved period of inactivity; or

(4) Without notice or hearing, revoke the license of a motor carrier if the motor carrier is a corporation or partnership, and the corporation or partnership has voluntarily dissolved. Before revoking the license, the commission shall:

(A) Verify the voluntary dissolution with the state department of commerce and consumer affairs; and

(B) Issue an order stating its findings.

(c) In accordance with §271G-15, HRS, the commission may suspend, amend, or revoke the license of a water carrier, in whole or in part, after notice and hearing, for the wilful failure to comply with any regulatory law; provided that:

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(1) The commission may, upon the licensee's application and the commission's discretion, amend or revoke the license of a water carrier, in whole or in part, without a hearing;

(2) No license of a water carrier may be revoked (except upon the licensee's application), unless the licensee wilfully fails to comply within a reasonable time, not less than thirty days, fixed by the commission to comply with a commission order commanding compliance with the regulatory law the licensee is in violation of; and

(3) Upon a reasonable notice of not less than fifteen days, but without a hearing, the commission may suspend a water carrier's license issued under §§271G-10 or 271G-12, HRS, for the carrier's failure to comply with:
   (A) §271G-17(a), HRS, relating to water carrier tariffs; or
   (B) Any order or rule of the commission implementing §271G-17(a), HRS.


§6-68-33 Activity during limitation or suspension. The commission may institute proceedings to permanently revoke the license of any licensee who violates the commission's order of limitation or suspension. The licensee is subject to all penalties 68-18
§6-68-34 Restoration of suspended license.

Unless ordered or directed otherwise by the commission, a person whose license is suspended by the commission may apply for restoration of the license upon complete compliance with:

(1) The applicable regulatory law that the commission determined the licensee had violated; and

(2) All terms and conditions imposed by the order of suspension.

The application for restoration of license must be accompanied by all applicable fees and assessments, including any assessment of civil penalties.


§6-68-35 Revoked license - application for new license. (a) Unless ordered or directed otherwise by the commission, a person whose license has been revoked by the commission may apply for a new license by filing an application and complying with all requirements for new applicants in effect at the time of the application. The commission may waive any or all requirements if it is satisfied:

(1) Upon review of the documentation submitted by the applicant whose license had been previously revoked, that the applicant has
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maintained its fitness and ability to provide the service; and

(2) That the public convenience and necessity require the proposed service.


§6-68-36 Interim orders. The commission may issue an interim order that temporarily disposes of issues in a civil enforcement proceeding after notice to the respondent. The order remains in effect until final commission action, unless otherwise provided in the interim order. [Eff MAY 19 1997] (Auth: HRS §§91-2, 269-6, 271-9, 271G-7) (Imp: HRS §§269-6, 271-9, 271G-7)

§§6-68-37 to 41 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 5

SETTLEMENT OF CIVIL VIOLATION

§6-68-42 Settlement of civil violation. The commission, at its discretion, may enter into discussions or negotiations and reach an agreement with a respondent to settle any civil violation of a

§§6-68-43 to 47 (Reserved)

SUBCHAPTER 6

CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

§6-68-48 Criminal citation. (a) When criminal enforcement is authorized by law, the commission or its enforcement officer may issue a criminal citation to any person violating, allegedly violating, or suspected of violating any regulatory law for which the criminal enforcement is authorized. The form, content, and service of the criminal citation shall be as adopted or prescribed by the district courts of the State.


§§6-68-49 to 51 (Reserved)

Chapter 6-68 shall take effect ten days after filing with the Office of the Lieutenant Governor.

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APPROVED:

Benjamin J. Cayetano
Governor
State of Hawaii

Dated: 5/18/97

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APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
Deputy Attorney General

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