

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Hawaii County

Hawaii · Hilo · FIPS 15001 · Population 202,163 · Crosodo
Index #1629*

STATE BASELINE	STATE TIER	ANNUAL SALES CAP (STATE)	CONFIDENCE	LAST VERIFIED
HAR \$11-50-3	Poor	—	HIGH	2026-05-05

IMPORTANT — NOT LEGAL ADVICE

This report compiles publicly-available statutes, regulations, and county zoning rules into a research reference. It is **not legal advice** and is provided **without warranty** as to accuracy, completeness, or current applicability.

Cottage food law changes frequently. Counties may amend zoning, health departments may issue new permits, and state legislatures may update statutes after the publication date shown above.

Always verify rules directly with your state department of health/agriculture and your county health and planning offices before relying on them for any business or regulatory decision. Consult a licensed attorney for advice specific to your situation.

How to start — 60-second path

Hawaii County, Hawaii — permit, pickup, and label steps before the full county rules.

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes

STATE SALES CAP

—

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION

No

PETS

No explicit pet restriction in HAR §11-50-3, but DOH retains authority to inspect for complaints and foodborne illness investigations. Standard food safety practices apply.

BEFORE YOU SELL FROM THIS ADDRESS

- ☐ **1. Menu** — Confirm each product under Hawaii cottage food rules (county cannot expand a state ban).
- ☐ **2. Pickup & zoning** — Home occupation and porch pickup cells above; HOA/lease may still block customer traffic.
- ☐ **3. Local tax / license** — Business license or sales tax certificate if your city/parish requires it (common even with no state food permit).
- ☐ **4. Training** — Food handler or state registration before market day.
- ☐ **5. Labels** — Disclaimer, allergens, ingredients, net quantity, producer info.
- ☐ **6. Call if unclear** — County health and planning for your exact address.

LABEL FIELDS TO INCLUDE

- ☐ Product name · producer name · address (or allowed alternative)
- ☐ Ingredients by weight · major allergens · net weight/quantity
- ☐ Hawaii home-kitchen disclaimer (see live label one-pager)

CONTINUE ONLINE

[Open the live county page →](#)

[Hawaii label one-pager →](#)

[Local notes & questions →](#)

Planning path only — not legal advice. Rules change. Always verify with state and local offices before selling.

HAWAII: HAWAII COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #1629* · FIPS 15001 · Hilo

Hawaii County

Population 202,163 · State baseline: HAR §11-50-3 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Hawaii Homemade Food Operation (HMF) program (HAR §11-50-3) allows non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods produced in the operator's primary home kitchen. No DOH establishment permit required. Food safety training (free on-island workshop or ANSI-accredited online course, ~\$10, valid 3 years) required. Direct sales only — no internet, mail order, consignment, or wholesale. Very restrictive list of allowed foods: breads, rolls, mochi, cakes, cookies, pastries, candies, confections, jams, jellies, preserves, cereals, trail mixes, granola, popcorn. Hawaii County (Big Island) is one of four Hawaii counties.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

No explicit pet restriction in HAR §11-50-3, but DOH retains authority to inspect for complaints and foodborne illness investigations. Standard food safety practices apply.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hawaii County (Big Island) may require a home occupation permit from Hawaii County Planning Department for home-based food businesses. Contact Hawaii County Planning Department (hawaiicounty.gov/planning) to verify whether food production from a home constitutes a home occupation requiring a county permit.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

Yes

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

No (HMF operations not routinely inspected by DOH. DOH investigates consumer complaints and potential foodborne illness outbreaks. Some farmers markets or events may require a Special Event permit.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED

Yes — Hawaii Homemade Food Operation (HMF) program (HAR §11-50-3) allows non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods produced in the operator's primary home kitchen. No DOH establishment permit required. Food safety training (free on-island workshop or ANSI-accredited online course, ~\$10, valid 3 years) required. Direct sales only — no internet, mail order, consignment, or wholesale. Very restrictive list of allowed foods: breads, rolls, mochi, cakes, cookies, pastries, candies, confections, jams, jellies, preserves, cereals, trail mixes, granola, popcorn. Hawaii County (Big Island) is one of four Hawaii counties.

SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN

No

PET RESTRICTIONS

No explicit pet restriction in HAR §11-50-3, but DOH retains authority to inspect for complaints and foodborne illness investigations. Standard food safety practices apply.

WATER SUPPLY

No specific water testing requirement documented for Hawaii HMF operations under HAR §11-50-3.

HANDWASHING

Food safety training required; handwashing and hygiene covered in training.

FOOD STORAGE

Only non-PHF (not potentially hazardous) foods. No fermented foods, acidified foods, canned or bottled foods (except jams/jellies), dried meats/seafood, low-acid canned foods, garlic in oil. Items requiring refrigeration not permitted.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	No — HMF operations not routinely inspected by DOH. DOH investigates consumer complaints and potential foodborne illness outbreaks. Some farmers markets or events may require a Special Event permit.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Hawaii County (Big Island) may require a home occupation permit from Hawaii County Planning Department for home-based food businesses. Contact Hawaii County Planning Department (hawaicounty.gov/planning) to verify whether food production from a home constitutes a home occupation requiring a county permit.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	Hawaii HMF program allows direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup permitted. No internet sales, mail order, consignment, or wholesale allowed. Some events may require a Special Event Food Establishment Permit from DOH if unpackaged samples are served.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No explicit employee cap in Hawaii HMF program. Only the primary home kitchen operator is contemplated; home occupation zoning may restrict business activities.

Relevant county code

HAR §11-50-3; Hawaii County Code (contact Planning Department for home occupation); HB520 HD1 (2023 proposed expansion bill — not yet enacted as of research date)

RESEARCH NOTES

High confidence: Hawaii DOH HMF handout (2019, still current per HAR §11-50-3 last revised November 2024) confirmed from official health.hawaii.gov source. Hawaii is among the most restrictive states: direct sales only, very limited food list, no internet/wholesale sales. Hawaii County (Big Island) is distinct from Honolulu County, Maui County, and Kauai County — each county is essentially its own government. HB520 HD1 (2023) proposed expanding cottage food law but status of enactment is uncertain as of research date. Note: the state baseline HAR is 'Poor' tier due to restrictiveness. A separate DOH 'Home Bakery Permit' pathway may exist for baked goods with additional requirements; the HMF program is the primary no-permit pathway.

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.hawaicounty.gov/planning>

<https://www.hawaicounty.gov>

<https://health.hawaii.gov/san/files/2019/09/HMF-HANDOUT.pdf>

<https://health.hawaii.gov/san/home-bakery-permit/>

<https://nationalaglawcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/cottagefood/Hawaii.pdf>

https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/HB520_HD1_.htm

Questions about this county? Local notes and a place to leave a question: crosodo.com/nb/hawaii/hawaii-county-discuss

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Hawaii County	Maui County	Honolulu County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	No explicit pet restriction in HAR §11-50-3, but DOH retains authority to inspect for complaints and foodborne illness investigations. Stan...	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production.	State baseline applies
INSPECTION REQUIRED	No	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	Yes	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	Hawaii HMF program allows direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup permitted. No internet sales, mail order, consignment, or wholesale al...	Direct sales only. No online/ mail-order delivery. Customers may pick up at home or operator may sell at markets, events. No wholesale or in...	Updated rules (January 2026): wholesale to retailers now allowed. Direct-to-consumer sales at events, markets, online also allowed. Prior r...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Varies	Yes	Varies by city
RESTRICTIONS	Hawaii Homemade Food Operation (HMF) program (HAR §11-50-3) allows non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods produced in the operator's pri...	Hawaii requires a mandatory food safety training course (free on-island workshop or ANSI-accredited online course ~\$10, valid 3 years) befo...	Hawaii Homemade Food Operations (HMF) are exempt from a DOH food establishment permit under HAR Chapter 11-50. Honolulu County (City and Co...
FOOD STORAGE	Only non-PHF (not potentially hazardous) foods. No fermented foods, acidified foods, canned or bottled foods (except jams/jellies), dried m...	All cottage food must be stored away from non-food items; no TCS foods permitted.	State baseline applies
POPULATION	202,163	164,765	1,010,100

State context — Hawaii cottage food law

Hawaii County's rules sit on top of Hawaii's state cottage food framework. The state law sets the floor — counties can add but cannot remove protections.

STATUTE

HAR §11-50-3

ANNUAL SALES CAP

—

REGISTRATION REQUIRED

No

FOOD HANDLER CERT

Yes (specific course)

KITCHEN INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

DIRECT SALES ONLY

Yes

INDIRECT SALES

No — Hawaii prohibits online sales, mail order, consignment, wholesale, restaurant, and retail store sales; only in-person direct sales at home, farmers markets, roadside stands, and events are allowed.

For the full state-level analysis including the verbatim statute text, see the **Hawaii cottage food law report** on Crosodo, or open the live guide: crosodo.com/states/hawaii.

STATE-LEVEL REFERENCES

State statute: https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/hrscurrent/Vol06_Ch0321-0344/HRS0321/HRS_0321-0030_0005.htm

State dept cottage food page: <https://health.hawaii.gov/san/home-bakery-permit/>

Forrager.com: <https://forrager.com/law/hawaii/>

Questions about Hawaii County? Local notes and a place to leave a question are on Crosodo. We monitor new threads — start with zoning, permits, or porch pickup.

crosodo.com/nb/hawaii/hawaii-county-discuss

Classifieds

Resources for cottage food & home bakers · crosodo.com/advertise

NATIONAL

SUPPLIES

Advertise here — Supplies

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

COURSES

Advertise here — Courses

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

INSURANCE

Advertise here — Insurance

Reach home bakers across the country. crosodo.com/advertise

LOCAL

Advertise here

Reach home bakers in Hawaii County, Hawaii. Supply stores, farmers markets, kitchen rentals, and bakery services welcome.

crosodo.com/advertise

Your business here

Local cottage food listings, kitchen rentals, co-packer referrals, and community events — post yours on Crosodo.

crosodo.com/nb/hawaii/hawaii-county-discuss

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