

COTTAGE FOOD LAW REPORT

Kauai County

Hawaii · Lihue · FIPS 15007 · Population 73,511 · Crosodo
Index #2787*

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

Kauai 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?

No

INSPECTION

Upon-complaint

PETS

Not specified in state statute.

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: KAUAI COUNTY

CROSODO INDEX #2787* · FIPS 15007 · Lihue

Kauai County

Population 73,511 · State baseline: HAR §11-50-3 · **HIGH**

QUICK VIEW FOR BAKERS IN THIS COUNTY

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED?

Yes (Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. Permitted products include breads, rolls, mochi, cakes, cookies, pastries, candies, confections, jams, jellies, preserves, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and popcorn. Also allowed: plant-origin foods pickled/fermented/acidified with $\text{pH} \leq 4.2$ or water activity < 0.88 ; products with cut tomatoes (e.g., salsa) held at 41°F or below. NOT allowed: dried meats, seafood, or fruits from the melon family.)

SEPARATE KITCHEN REQUIRED?

No

PETS ALLOWED?

Not specified in state statute.

HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT?

Conditional (Hawaii state program exempts HMF producers from DOH food establishment permits. However, Kauai County Planning Department requires a Home Business permit for home-based businesses. Key Kauai County Home Business requirements (Planning Dept, Ordinance No. 164, Article 1, §8-1.5): business conducted entirely within dwelling; only by inhabitants; incidental to dwelling use; NO selling of commodities on the premises; business by phone or mail only (no frequent public visits); NO employees; NO exterior signs; must not rely on frequent public visits. This means on-site customer pickup and retail signage are NOT permitted under Kauai's Home Business rules.)

ON-SITE / PORCH PICKUP?

No

INSPECTION REQUIRED?

Upon-complaint (DOH may inspect upon complaint or illness investigation. No routine inspection under HAR §11-50.)

Home kitchen rules

HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes — Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. Permitted products include breads, rolls, mochi, cakes, cookies, pastries, candies, confections, jams, jellies, preserves, cereals, trail mixes, granola, and popcorn. Also allowed: plant-origin foods pickled/fermented/acidified with $\text{pH} \leq 4.2$ or water activity < 0.88 ; products with cut tomatoes (e.g., salsa) held at 41°F or below. NOT allowed: dried meats, seafood, or fruits from the melon family.
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No
PET RESTRICTIONS	Not specified in state statute.
WATER SUPPLY	Potable water required.
HANDWASHING	Food safety training required from DOH or approved program (ANSI-accredited courses acceptable).
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products must be stored appropriately. Items that require refrigeration must be handled accordingly.

Inspection & permitting

INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint — DOH may inspect upon complaint or illness investigation. No routine inspection under HAR §11-50.
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional — Hawaii state program exempts HMF producers from DOH food establishment permits. However, Kauai County Planning Department requires a Home Business permit for home-based businesses. Key Kauai County Home Business requirements (Planning Dept, Ordinance No. 164, Article 1, §8-1.5): business conducted entirely within dwelling; only by inhabitants; incidental to dwelling use; NO selling of commodities on the premises; business by phone or mail only (no frequent public visits); NO employees; NO exterior signs; must not rely on frequent public visits. This means on-site customer pickup and retail signage are NOT permitted under Kauai's Home Business rules.
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes

Customer-facing rules

ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	No
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No
DELIVERY / PICKUP RULES	State law allows sales at non-profit and for-profit events, craft fairs, farmers markets, and online. Kauai County Home Business rules restrict sales to phone/mail only from home — no on-site sales or frequent public visits to the home. Operators should use off-site venues (farmers markets, events) for direct sales.
MAX EMPLOYEES IN HOME	No employees permitted under Kauai County Home Business rules.

Relevant county code

HAR §11-50-3 (state); Kauai County Ordinance No. 164, Article 1, §8-1.5 (Home Business Requirements)

RESEARCH NOTES

Kauai County has specific Home Business requirements (Ordinance No. 164) that are MORE restrictive than the state HMF framework in terms of on-site sales. County explicitly prohibits selling commodities on the premises and requires business to be conducted by phone/mail only from home. No employees permitted. No exterior signs. These local restrictions mean Kauai cottage food producers should primarily sell at off-site venues (farmers markets, events) per local rules, even though state law allows broader channels. Hawaii state program (HAR §11-50, updated Jan 2026) requires food safety training, allows wholesale to permitted food establishments. County planning URL and .gov URL confirmed. Confidence: high (both state law and county planning ordinance directly retrieved).

SOURCES VERIFIED AT RESEARCH TIME

<https://www.kauai.gov/Government/Departments-Agencies/Planning/Zoning-Land-Use-Permits>

<https://www.kauai.gov>

<https://health.hawaii.gov/san/files/2019/09/hmf-foods-01.29.2026.pdf>

https://www.kauai.gov/files/assets/public/v/1/planning-department/documents/home_business_requirements.pdf

<https://www.kauai.gov/Government/Departments-Agencies/Planning/Zoning-Land-Use-Permits>

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

Bordering counties — cottage food law

Regulation	Kauai County	Maui County	Hawaii County
HOME KITCHEN ALLOWED	Yes	Conditional	Yes
SEPARATE DEDICATED KITCHEN	No	No	No
PETS ALLOWED	Not specified in state statute.	Pets must be excluded from food preparation areas during production.	No explicit pet restriction in HAR §11-50-3, but DOH retains authority to inspect for complaints and foodborne illness investigations. Stan...
INSPECTION REQUIRED	Upon-complaint	Upon-complaint	No
ON-SITE CUSTOMER PICKUP	No	Conditional	Yes
ON-SITE SIGNAGE	No	Conditional	Conditional
DELIVERY / PICKUP	State law allows sales at non-profit and for-profit events, craft fairs, farmers markets, and online. Kauai County Home Business rules rest...	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...	Hawaii HMF program allows direct-to-consumer sales only. Home pickup permitted. No internet sales, mail order, consignment, or wholesale al...
HOME OCCUPATION PERMIT	Conditional	Conditional	Conditional
LOCAL BUSINESS LICENSE	Yes	Yes	Varies
RESTRICTIONS	Non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods only. Permitted products include breads, rolls, mochi, cakes, cookies, pastries, candies, confect...	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 Operation (HMF) program (HAR §11-50-3) allows non-potentially hazardous (non-PHF) foods produced in the operator's pri...
FOOD STORAGE	Non-PHF products must be stored appropriately. Items that require refrigeration must be handled accordingly.	All cottage food must be stored away from non-food items; no TCS foods permitted.	Only non-PHF (not potentially hazardous) foods. No fermented foods, acidified foods, canned or bottled foods (except jams/jellies), dried m...
POPULATION	73,511	164,765	202,163

State context — Hawaii cottage food law

Kauai 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 Kauai 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/kauai-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 Kauai 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/kauai-county-discuss

Free ad space available

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