Requirement of Chapter 104, HRS
Wages and Hours of Employees on Public Works Law

Chapter 104, HRS, applies to every public works construction project over $2,000, regardless of the method of procurement or financing (purchase order, voucher, bid, contract, lease arrangement, warranty).

Rate of Wages for Laborers and Mechanics

- Minimum prevailing wages (basic hourly rate plus fringe benefits), as determined by the Director of Labor and Industrial Relations and published in wage rate schedules, shall be paid to the various classes of laborers and mechanics working on the job site. [§104-2(a) and (b), Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS)]

- If the Director of Labor determines that prevailing wages have increased during the performance of a public works contract, the rate of pay of laborers and mechanics shall be raised accordingly. [§104-2(a) and (b), HRS;§12-22-3(d) Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR)]

Overtime

- Laborers and mechanics working on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday of the State or more than eight hours a day on any other day shall be paid overtime compensation at one and one-half times the basic hourly rate plus the cost of fringe benefits for all hours worked. [§§104-1(5), 104-2(c), HRS]

Weekly Pay

- Laborers and mechanics employed on the job site shall be paid their full wages at least once a week, without deduction or rebate, except for legal deductions, within five working days after the cutoff date. [§104-2(d), HRS]

Posting of Wage Rate Schedules

- Wage rate schedules shall be posted by the contractor in a prominent and easily accessible place at the job site. A copy of the entire wage rate schedule shall be given to each laborer and mechanic employed under the contract, except when the employee is covered by a collective bargaining agreement. [§104-2(d), HRS]

Withholding of Accrued Payments

- If necessary, the contracting agency may withhold accrued payments to the contractor to pay to laborers and mechanics employed by the contractor or subcontractor on the job site any difference between the wages required by the public works contract or specifications and the wages received. [§104-2(e), HRS]

Certified Weekly Payrolls and Payroll Records

- A certified copy of all payrolls shall be submitted weekly to the contracting agency.

- The contractor is responsible for the submission of certified copies of the payrolls of all subcontractors. The certification shall affirm that the payrolls are correct and complete, that the wage rates listed are not less than the applicable rates contained in the applicable wage rate schedule, and that the classifications for each laborer or mechanic conform with the work the laborer or mechanic performed. [§104-3(a), HRS]

- Payroll records shall be maintained by the contractor and subcontractors for three years after completion of construction. The records shall contain:
  - the name and home address of each employee
  - the employee's correct classification
  - rate of pay (basic hourly rate + fringe benefits)
  - daily and weekly hours worked
  - weekly straight time and overtime earnings
  - amount and type of deductions
  - actual wages paid
  - date of payment

- Records shall be made available for inspection by the contracting agency, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and any of its authorized representatives, who may also interview employees during working hours on the job. [§104-3(b), HRS]

Termination of Work on Failure to Pay Wages

- If the contracting agency finds that any laborer or mechanic employed on the job site by the contractor or any subcontractor has not been paid prevailing wages or overtime, the contracting agency may, by written notice to the contractor, terminate the contractor's or subcontractor's right to proceed with the work or with the part of the work in which the required wages or overtime compensation have not been paid. The contracting agency may complete this work by contract or otherwise, and the contractor or contractor's sureties shall be liable to the contracting agency for any excess costs incurred. [§104-4, HRS]

Apprentices and Trainees

- In order to be paid apprentice or trainee rates, apprentices and trainees must be parties to an agreement either registered with or recognized as a USDOL nationally approved apprenticeship program by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, Workforce Development Division. [§12-22-6(1), HAR]

- The number of apprentices or trainees on any public work in relation to the number of journey workers in the same craft classification as the apprentices or trainees employed by the same employer on the same public work may not exceed the ratio allowed under the apprenticeship or trainee standards registered with or recognized by the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. A registered or recognized apprentice receiving the journey worker rate will not be considered a journey worker for the purpose of meeting the ratio requirement. [§12-22-6(2), HAR]

Enforcement

- To ensure compliance with the law, DLIR and the contracting agency will conduct investigations of contractors and subcontractors. If a contractor or subcontractor violates the law, the penalties are:

▪ First Violation:	Equal to 10% of back wages found due or $25 per offense, whichever is greater.
▪ Second Violation	Equal to amount of back wages found due or $100 per each offense, whichever is greater.
▪ Third Violation	Equal to two times the amount of back wages found due or $200 for each offense, whichever is greater; and Suspension from doing any new work on any public work of a governmental contracting agency for three years.

- A violation would be deemed a second violation if it occurs within two years of the **first notification of violation,** and a third violation if it occurs within two years of **the second notification of violation**.

- Suspension. For a first or second violation, the department shall immediately suspend a contractor who fails to pay wages or penalties until all wages and penalties are paid in full. For a third violation, the department shall penalize and suspend the contractor as described above, **except that if the contractor continues to violate the law, then the department shall immediately suspend the contractor for a mandatory three years. The contractor shall remain suspended until all wages and penalties are paid in full.** [§§104-24, 104-25]

- Any contractor who fails to make payroll records accessible or provide requested information within 10 days, or fails to keep or falsifies any required record, shall be assessed a penalty as provided in Section 104-22(b),HRS. [§104-3(c)]

- If any contractor interferes with or delays any investigation, the contracting agency shall withhold further payments until the delay has ceased. Interference or delay includes failure to provide requested records or information within ten days, failure to allow employees to be interviewed during working hours on the job, and falsification of payroll records. The department shall assess a penalty of $1,000 per project, and $100 per day thereafter, for interference or delay. [§104-22(b)]

- Failure by the contracting agency to include in the provisions of the contract or specifications the requirements of Chapter 104, HRS, relating to coverage and the payment of prevailing wages and overtime, is not a defense of the contractor or subcontractor for noncompliance with the requirements of this chapter. [§104-2(f)]

For additional information, visit the department's website at http://dlir.state.hi.us/ or contact any of the following DLIR offices:

Oahu (Wage Standards Division) 586-8777
Maui 243-5322
Hilo 974-6464
West Hawaii 322-4808
Kauai 274-3351