



Services for the Blind

**Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
State of Hawaii**

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State of Hawaii
Department of Human Services
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

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PROGRAM STAFF

The State Licensing Agency staff oversee the program. They evaluate, train and place potential vendors.

Staff also identify and develop vending sites statewide, as well as provide other management services.



COMMITTEE OF BLIND VENDORS

The Hawaii State Committee of Blind Vendors are elected representatives of licensed blind vendors. They are active participants in the operations of the overall program. They also represent individual vendors' concerns.



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**HAWAII'S
BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE
PROGRAM**

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to empower Hawaii's blind people to achieve social and economic self sufficiency through business opportunities.



HISTORY

The Hawaii vending program began in 1938 at the Honolulu Post Office with the assistance of the Lions Club of Honolulu. The facility had gross sales of \$295 for its first year of operation. In 2017, the program consists of 42 vending facilities and 44 licensed blind vendors on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui and Kauai. Hawaii's program is one of the nation's leaders in terms of benefits paid out, average net earnings and number of vendors per capita.



TYPES OF VENDING FACILITIES

Vending facilities are located on federal, state and county properties. The 42 vending facilities include snack shops, cafeteria and military troop dining service.

Customers are able to purchase cold/hot beverages, snack foods, bentos, magazines, candies, musubis, sandwiches and other assorted items at our stores.

Food prep facilities provide hot meals that are prepared on their premises. Our military troop dining services provide quality food services to our military personnel.



TASKS PERFORMED BY VENDORS

Advertising & Promotions, Bookkeeping, Inventory Control, Customer Relations/Service, Tax Filing, Financial Management, Maintenance, Merchandise Ordering, Bill Paying, Sales and all other tasks necessary to create and maintain and grow a successful business.



SUMMARY

A vendor in the Hawaii Business Enterprise Program must be a U.S. Citizen who is legally blind, self-motivated and willing to invest long hours into developing a successful business.

Success can significantly increase a vendor's quality of life and provide a living income to support their families and lead toward independence.