

From: Ward, Deborah L [<mailto:deborah.l.ward@hawaii.gov>]
Sent: Friday, February 05, 2016 3:59 PM
To: Ward, Deborah L <deborah.l.ward@hawaii.gov>
Subject: CORRECTED VERSION - USE THIS ONE DLNR CITES BOATER FOR OPERATING VESSEL WITHOUT SAFETY COURSE CARD

This is a corrected version of the news release. Please disregard previous email, sorry for any confusion.



DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DAVID Y. IGE
 GOVERNOR

SUZANNE D. CASE
 CHAIRPERSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
 February 5, 2016

DLNR CITES BOATER FOR OPERATING VESSEL WITHOUT SAFETY COURSE CARD

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HONOLULU -- The Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) yesterday issued a citation to a Kailua boater for operating a vessel without proof of completion of the state's mandatory boater safety education course approved for Hawaii. The citation was issued in the course of an ongoing investigation into a fatal boating accident in Kailua bay on January 9, 2016.

The citation was issued to Sai Hansen, 41, of Kailua. A court appearance at Kaneohe District Court was set for February 16. Violation of Hawaii Administrative Rule 13-244-15.5 may result in a fine of up to \$1,000 or not more than 30 days in jail, or both. In addition to, or as a condition to the suspension of the fines and penalties, the court may deprive the offender of the privilege of operating any vessel in state waters for not more than 30 days.

Since November 2014, all individuals who operate a motorized vessel in Hawaii's State waters are required to possess a certificate of completion from a National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) approved course on the safe use and operation of a power-driven vessel that contains a component on Hawaii waters approved by DLNR.

Boaters are required to carry their certificate on them when operating any power driven vessel propelled by a motor greater than 10 horsepower, even vessels propelled primarily by wind/sail that are equipped with an auxiliary engine. This applies in all waters of the state.

Vessel operators must be able to show proof of certification to enforcement officers upon demand. DLNR is enforcing this requirement.

DLNR'S Boating Division's goal through this rule is to improve on-the-water safety for all ocean users. The mandatory education requirement for boating on State waters is very similar in nature and intent to the licensing of drivers who operate a motor vehicle on our city streets and highways.

Although the ocean seems like a very big area, there are many times and many waterways where boats come in close proximity to other vessels, the shoreline, swimmers, divers, etc. and every operator should know the established rules of the road to avoid causing injury or death.

To view the mandatory boater safety education rule online go to <http://files.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dobor/rules/amend/Amend-13-244-15-5.pdf>

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Media Contact:

Deborah Ward

DLNR Communications specialist

Phone: (808) 587-0320

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