

## Procedure for Couples from Other Dioceses Requesting Marriage in the Diocese of Honolulu

1. **Marriage Preparation:** Contact your local parish to arrange for your marriage preparation. This ordinarily includes meetings with a priest or deacon, completion of required paperwork, the use of a premarital inventory (such as FOCCUS or PMI) which will be discussed with the priest or deacon, and participation in an Engaged Encounter Weekend or other similar program offered in your own diocese.
2. **Contact Information:** Contact a priest or deacon assigned to a parish in Hawai`i where you wish the marriage to take place. If he agrees to celebrate the wedding, send to him the name, address, phone number(s), and e-mail address for the following:
  - Bride
  - Groom
  - A relative or friend in Hawai`i as a local contact, if there is one
  - The priest or deacon preparing you for marriage

**Cautionary note on fraudulent clergy:** Beware of individuals who pass themselves as legitimate Catholic priests but who, in fact, are not. Sometimes referrals to such individuals are made by secular wedding coordinators. Make sure that the priest you are dealing with is in full communion with the pope and the bishop of Honolulu. Weddings celebrated by fraudulent clergy are invalid.

3. **Letter of Permission:** Once your priest or deacon has established your freedom to marry, he should write to the priest or deacon who will be celebrating your marriage here in Hawai`i. The letter should state the following:
  - That the pastor of one of the parties (the Catholic party if only one party is Catholic) gives permission for the marriage to take place at the parish in Hawai`i
  - That both parties are free to marry in the Catholic Church
  - That he will be preparing the couple for marriage
4. **Canonical Paperwork:** At least three months in advance of the date of the wedding, your priest or deacon is to forward the following authentic documents to the diocesan curia of his diocese, which is then to mail the authentic documents (not photocopies or faxes) to the **Office of Canonical Affairs, 6301 Pali Hwy., Kāne`ohe, HI 96744 USA:**
  - Premarital Investigation Form – as used in your diocese, along with the rescript for any required dispensation or permission (this will be handled by your priest or deacon)
  - Proof of Baptism:
    - For Catholics, a baptismal certificate – it must be a new certificate (not a photocopy or fax) issued within the past year.
    - For non-Catholics, proof of baptism may take the form of, in order of preference, a baptismal certificate, a page copied from a sacramental register, an affidavit of the fact of baptism by a parent or other witness, or some other reliable proof.
  - Affidavits of Freedom to Marry – an affidavit regarding each party's freedom to marry is to be completed by a parent or other person who has known the party to be married since he or she was at least 16 years of age.
  - A certificate of death, a declaration of nullity, or proof of dissolution (Pauline or Petrine privilege) is required for all previous marriages or attempted marriages, civil and religious. (For Catholics with a prior attempted marriage outside of the Church, the lack of canonical form must be established by a Tribunal declaration.)

- Certificate of participation at an Engaged Encounter Weekend or similar program
- A copy of the letter referred to in #3

The Office of Canonical Affairs of the Diocese of Honolulu will then review and approve the authentic documents and forward them to the priest or deacon here in Hawai`i who will be celebrating your wedding.

Photocopies of all authentic documents mailed should be kept by the parish sending the documents out until it is certain that they have arrived at the parish where the wedding will take place.

5. **Liturgy Planning:** Plans regarding music, choice of readings, and other details of the ceremony need to be arranged with the priest, deacon, or staff of the parish where the marriage will take place. Marriages where only one party is Catholic are celebrated with a full ceremony but ordinarily outside Mass.
6. **Church of Wedding:** Marriages are to take place inside a Catholic church or oratory. This requirement reflects the fact that marriage is a religious vocation and a public celebration of the Church community.

*Exceptions in the case of a marriage between a Catholic and a baptized non-Catholic:* Permission to celebrate the marriage in a non-Catholic church building may be sought if there are objections of conscience by non-Catholics to entering a Catholic church building. In such a case, the Catholic party must write a letter to the director of canonical affairs of the Diocese of Honolulu stating the reasons for this request. The priest or deacon celebrating the wedding must also agree to this, and the couple needs to make arrangements with the non-Catholic Christian minister to use his building.

*Exceptions in the case of a marriage between a Catholic and a non-baptized person:* If objections of conscience arise by non-Catholics to entering a Catholic church building, permission may be sought to celebrate the marriage in a non-Catholic religious building or in another suitable place. If possible, the ceremony should be celebrated in a chapel-like arrangement or in a room apart from the place where the meal or reception will take place. In such a case, the Catholic party must write a letter to the director of canonical affairs of the Diocese of Honolulu (6301 Pali Hwy., Kāne`ohe, HI 96744) stating the reasons for this request, the name and address of the proposed place, and a complete description of the indoor setting that is proposed for the marriage. The priest or deacon celebrating the wedding must also agree to this.

7. **Marriage License for the Couple:** In Hawai`i, no blood tests, waiting period, or residence or citizenship is required to obtain a marriage license. Licenses are issued by the Department of Health, expire in 30 days, and are good anywhere in the state of Hawai`i. For the steps required to apply for a marriage license, go to: <https://marriage.ehawaii.gov>
8. The marriage license must be presented to the priest or deacon at least 24 hours before the rehearsal. The priest or deacon who officiates at the marriage is responsible for registering the marriage online.
9. **Arrival in Hawai`i:** Plan on arriving a few days before your scheduled wedding to meet with the priest or deacon who will be officiating at your wedding. The marriage license may be given to the priest or deacon at this time.

## Procedure for Clergy from Other Dioceses Requesting to Officiate at a Marriage in the Diocese of Honolulu

1. **Canonical Requirements:** The visiting priest or deacon should contact the pastor in Hawai'i where the wedding will take place to make initial arrangements to officiate at the wedding.
2. A letter of good standing from the Ordinary of the visiting priest or deacon must be sent to the **Office of Clergy, 1184 Bishop St., Honolulu, HI 96813 USA**. The Office of Clergy will then forward a copy of the letter to the pastor of the parish where the wedding will take place. This letter must:
  - be on letterhead of the diocese or religious institute of the visiting priest or deacon (no photocopies or faxes are acceptable)
  - include the visiting priest or deacon's full name and address
  - state that the priest or deacon is in good standing
  - contain information regarding the specific wedding that he will be celebrating, including the names of the couple, the date of the wedding, and the name and place of the church
3. The visiting priest or deacon should ask the pastor for delegation to assist at the marriage. (He can also get this delegation from a parochial vicar or deacon assigned to the parish.) The delegation should be noted by the pastor (or other priest or deacon) in the marriage paperwork. The marriage is to be recorded in the church where the wedding takes place, and the paperwork is to be filed there.
4. **Civil Requirements:** The priest or deacon must apply for a temporary license to perform weddings on the Hawai'i Department of Health website:  
<https://marriage.ehawaii.gov/emrs/public/registration.html>  
  
**Important: It is the responsibility of the visiting priest or deacon to secure the temporary license to perform weddings!**
5. The officiating priest or deacon is to receive the couple's civil marriage license at least 24 hours before the rehearsal. He must then report the marriage within three days according to the exact procedures established by the Hawai'i Department of Health:  
<https://marriage.ehawaii.gov/emrs/public/performer-guidelines.html>