

RIDE-ALONG PROGRAM	Document Number	GO 708
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1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines and procedures for a departmental Ride-Along Program.

2. PERSONS AFFECTED

All sworn personnel.

3. POLICY

It shall be the policy of the Hawai'i Police Department that certain members of the public be allowed, upon request, to ride along with an on-duty police officer to educate the rider about the day-to-day operations of policing within the community, and to obtain a better understanding of the role of the department.

4. DEFINITION

Ride-Along Participant – Any non-department employee who qualifies to participate in accompanying regular employees on their normal tour of duty. Applicants are limited to: elected and appointed officials, members of special interest groups, members of the Hawai'i Police Commission, law enforcement personnel, students within the Criminal Justice Program of a post-high school learning institution or its equivalent, or any other person authorized by the Police Chief.

5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. Police Chief

5.1.1. The Police Chief shall have sole authority in granting or denying any applicant for the Ride-Along Program.

5.1.2. The Police Chief shall have the authority to conduct background checks for prospective ride-along applicants.

5.2. District Commander – The district commander, or designee, shall be responsible for arranging approved ride-along requests, but shall also have the authority to deny, reject, or suspend the activities of the ride-along participant regardless of prior approval. This authority shall be based on

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good cause to believe the applicant is not appropriate for the ride-along, as outlined under section 7.1.3.c. of this General Order.

5.3. Officers

5.3.1. Officers assigned to participate in the Ride-Along Program shall be responsible for the general welfare of the Ride-Along Participant.

5.3.2. Officers may terminate the ride-along event with the approval of the on-duty supervisor.

6. PROCEDURES

6.1. Ride-Along Request

6.1.1. All riders must first complete the attached *Release and Waiver Liability (Police Ride-Along Application) Form HPD/ADMIN-024A and 024B* which requires approval by the Police Major in Area I or Area II, or designee, before the rider is allowed to participate.

- a. The form may be obtained from the Administrative Services Division or any district police station.
- b. The applicant must complete the form and have it notarized prior to participating in a ride-along.

6.1.2. All person(s) requesting a ride-along must show appropriate identification of their affiliation with their respective office, group, department, agency or program. Affiliation of the rider with the subject organization shall be verified by police personnel.

6.1.3. Once the request to ride along is approved, the application will be forwarded to the appropriate district commander for assignment.

- a. The district commander or designee will finalize the request to ride along and make the necessary arrangements and assignment.

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- b. The district commander or designee is responsible for verifying the rider's identification at the time of the ride-along.
- c. If there is good cause to believe the applicant is not appropriate for a ride-along, a district commander or designee may reject a previously approved application. Good cause shall include, but not be limited to, an applicant who appears suspicious or is of questionable moral character, an applicant who appears impaired, and/or an applicant whose identification is in question.

6.1.4. Once the ride-along has been completed, the application shall be forwarded to the Administrative Services Division.

6.2. Restrictions

- 6.2.1. Ride-alongs shall be limited to a specific four-hour period unless otherwise approved by the Police Chief or designee.
- 6.2.2. Each application shall be good for the specific date and time approved by the Police Chief or designee.
- 6.2.3. Ride-alongs between 2300 hours and 0630 hours are prohibited unless approved by the Police Chief or designee.
- 6.2.4. Applicants must be 18 years of age or older.
- 6.2.5. No more than one rider will accompany an officer at a time unless advance scheduling is arranged with the appropriate district commander.
- 6.2.6. No ride-along will be allowed to ride with plainclothes units without the approval of the Police Chief or designee.
- 6.2.7. Riders are prohibited from carrying any weapons or firearms.
- 6.2.8. Recording devices, tape players, televisions, radios, and cameras of any type are prohibited from being carried by the rider unless authorized by the Police Chief or designee.

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6.2.9. Riders will not be permitted into the homes, private areas and/or other constitutionally protected areas of victims, complainants, witnesses, and/or suspects. Riders will not be allowed access to a crime or accident scene other than a public vantage point.

6.3. Ride-Along Conduct

6.3.1. The officer shall instruct the riders on what is expected of them prior to going on the ride-along. This includes:

- a. Following all directions of the officer;
- b. Use of seat belts;
- c. The possibility of appearing in court as a witness; and
- d. The rider may terminate the ride-along at any time.

6.3.2. The rider shall remain under the control of the assigned officer and shall comply with all directions and requests.

6.3.3. Riders shall not interfere with any investigation by conversing with victims, suspects, or witnesses. Riders shall not handle evidence or police equipment, or participate in any police activity unless directed to do so by the assigned officer. The officer shall not, unless an emergency presents itself, ask the rider to engage in any activity which may result in the possibility of physical harm to the rider.

6.3.4. Should an officer decide to terminate the ride-along, the officer shall obtain approval from the on-duty supervisor and return the rider to the appropriate district police station.

6.4. Crimes in Progress – Extreme care shall be exercised when engaging in an emergency driving situation, responding to a crime in progress involving violence, or conducting a felony motor vehicle stop.