

# Honolulu Community College

University of Hawaii  
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## DIESEL MECHANICS TECHNOLOGY



**PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:** A program that is designed to provide knowledge and hands on experience with heavy duty truck engines and chassis components and to develop proficiency in the maintenance and repair of diesel engines, fuel and electrical systems, and driveline and suspension components.

- **DEGREES OFFERED:** Certificate of Completion, Certificate of Achievement, Associate in Applied Science
- **RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** Basic math and English, auto mechanics, electricity, machine, sheet metal and agriculture
- **COST:** Books, Tools and Supplies - approximately \$1,800
- **TECHNICAL STANDARDS:** Can be found at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/disl>

### THE OCCUPATION

**DESCRIPTION:** Medium/Heavy truck technicians maintain and repair trucks, buses, boats, and construction, agricultural, and industrial equipment; determine the causes of equipment problems and make the necessary adjustments, replacements, or repairs; and perform preventive maintenance inspections.

**SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED:** Good mechanical ability and physical strength (up to 50 lbs from floor to table); hand and finger dexterity; ability to visualize three dimensions; not afraid of heights; ability to use tools and equipment of the trade.

**WORK SETTING:** Indoors and outdoors in a variety of environments depending on the repair and maintenance requirements. Job areas may be hot, dusty, and noisy. Some jobs require on-site repairs.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS AND HAZARDS:** Often work in cramped, awkward positions; lifting of heavy, greasy parts. Must use caution to avoid burns, bruises, and cuts.

**EMPLOYERS:** Truck and bus transportation services, marine repair services, construction companies, manufacturing firms, automotive repair services, government agencies, military and airlines. Some are self-employed.

**CAREER LADDER:** **ENTRY LEVEL:** Helper or Apprentice. **ADVANCEMENT:** 1st Class Mechanic; Journey Person; Lead Person; Supervisor; Sales and Service Manager; Small Business Operator.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:** Slight shortage. Outlook depends on replacement needs, technological changes, the level of construction and marine activity, and economic conditions. Locally and nationally, employment growth is expected to increase more slowly than average through the year 2014. Because of the growing complexity of newer equipment, specially trained mechanics should increasingly be needed.

**WAGES:** After training, earnings range from around \$18-\$23 an hour including benefits. Apprentices earn around \$13-\$16 an hour.