

Honolulu Community College
University of Hawaii
874 Dillingham Blvd. Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
www.honolulu.hawaii.edu (808)845-9129

AUTO BODY REPAIR and PAINTING



PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: A program that teaches theory and practical skills in auto body repair and painting utilizing modern equipment and well-equipped facilities. The curriculum is based on the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) Auto Body Task List and the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) technician standards.

- **DEGREES OFFERED:** Certificate of Achievement, Associate in Applied Science Degree
- **RECOMMENDED PREPARATION:** Industrial arts, mechanical drawing, mathematics, physical science, communication skills, metal working, and welding.
- **PROGRAM PRE-REQUISITE:** Respiratory Health Clearance
- **COST:**Books, Tools, and Supplies - \$1500 - \$2000
- **TECHNICAL STANDARDS:** Can be found at <http://tech.honolulu.hawaii.edu/abrp>

THE OCCUPATION

DESCRIPTION: Auto body repairers fix or replace the damaged portions of automobiles and truck bodies and frames. They remove dents from fenders and body panels, straighten bent bodies, replace metal and plastic parts or metal parts that cannot be repaired. Technicians fill small dents, grind and sand the filler, mix and match the paint, and paint the repaired area. A few may specialize in large trucks, buses, tractor-trailers or in one type of repair, such as aligning frames or repairing doors and fenders.

SKILLS AND APTITUDES NEEDED: Mechanical ability and knowledge of basic math. Ability to work with fingers and hands, average eye-hand coordination, and good ability to see detail in size and shapes. Identify problems, review information, and apply solutions.

WORK SETTING: Mostly indoors in noisy, but well-ventilated and lighted areas with dust, paint, and odors. Work is often dirty and strenuous with occasional heavy lifting and may often work while crouching, bending, or kneeling. Must use care while working with sharp metal edges, torches, heated metals, chemicals, and combustible materials and near paint fumes.

EMPLOYERS: Auto repair and paint shops, automotive dealers, local transportation companies, insurance companies, and the military. Some are self-employed.

CAREER LADDER: ENTRY LEVEL: Helper; Apprentice. ADVANCEMENT: Second or First Class Repairer; Frame or Paint Specialist; Cost Estimator Appraiser; Insurance Adjuster; Manager; Small Business Owner.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES: Slight shortage to shortage. Outlook depends on technological advances, economic conditions, wages, consumer demand, and replacement needs. The duties of repairers are becoming highly technical due to new auto construction designs and materials. Employment growth need is forecasted to increase about as fast as average through the year 2014. Persons with formal training in auto body repair and mechanics should fare well. There is a shortage of workers both in Hawaii and nationally.

WAGES: Beginning repairers start at around \$11-\$13 an hour. Skilled repairers may earn around \$15-\$20 an hour or more.