

## ***Hawai`i in the 21st Century, the age of globalization***

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### **A look at a brief history of Hawai`i:**

The Kingdom of Hawai`i was established in 1810 by King Kamehameha I and was officially overthrown in 1893. At that time King Kamehameha I adopted a flag virtually identical to the Union Jack. King Kamehameha III dealt with threats from both the French and British Empires. At one point, a British warship entered Honolulu Harbor in 1843 and demanded that King Kamehameha hand over Hawai`i to the British Crown.

The take over of the Hawaiian Islands by the Big Five backed by the USAsian empire and its military force in the Pacific at the beginning of the 20th Century. The imprisoning of Queen Lili`uokalani

The rise and reduction of the pineapple Agra-business in the Hawaiian Islands and the rise and fall of the sugar cane Agra-business on the Big Island of Hawai`i, is directly tied to underpaid labor. When other sources of labor in the global economy no longer made sugar or pineapple production profitable, sugar cane production became almost non-existent and pineapple production was drastically reduced.

In 1970, sugarcane production was at its peak of over a million tons for all the Hawai`ian islands. By 2010, it was under 200,000 tons. The last sugarcane plant closed in Pahala in the Ka`u district of the Big Island in 1996.

(United States Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2006-11-24)

The port of Hilo, the second largest city in all of the islands still maintains modest global commerce after the fall of sugar production in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The victory of the USAsian liberal democracy embodied by the national Democratic party with Hawaiian statehood, an act strongly opposed by the local big Agra-business, completed the transition to a tourist based economy for large portions of the islands.

### **Cultural trends in the Hawaiian islands in the last forty years:**

Prince Kuhio Kalaniana`ole, participated in the revolution after 1893 and was imprisoned. He later became a republican and a delegate

to the Congress of the United States. He, along with the USA Congress established a program of Hawai`ian Homelands, to try to salvage the native Hawai`ian peoples from losing their culture and their way of life. The success of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands is a subject of controversy and debate. But the DHHL continues to be funded and exerts a strong influence.

As the Hawai`ian islands entered the 21st century, there continues to be a resurgence of native Hawaiian culture. The initial stages of the Free Hawaii movement. The Free Hawaii movement is centered around legal claims in international law that the Big Island of Hawai`i was forcefully taken from the native Hawai`ian peoples when Queen Lili`uokalani was overthrown at the beginning of the 20th century. It is not a secessionist movement, but claims that original government should be restored in some form.

Counter culture of the 1960s is evident throughout the islands. "New Age" mythos is prevalent among a large number of USAsian west coast transplants.

"Lots of growers in Big Island and [Kauai Scene](#) where the scene is low key and laid back. There are Communes around. On Big Island, the [hippies](#) are all in the [Puna District](#) mainly in the Pahoia area from Kalapana to Pahoia and from Pahoia over to Volcano. Maui, Hawaii - Still full of hippies living on the slopes of Haleakela, the dormant volcano, in places like Kipahulu, Kula, Hana, Paia."

(Source, Yahoo).

### **Hawaiian Electric Company, A tale of two faces**

Public facing, HELCO (appropriately named), supports the installation of alternative energy, primarily solar power. In the past the regulations made it difficult to sell excess electrical energy back to the grid on the islands. This may have have changed according to their website.

Case Study: attempt in Ocean View to construct a solar farm and pump electrical energy into the Big Islands grid was rejected by HELCO on (engineering?) grounds.

HELCO, HECO and MECO use thirty percent of the oil imported into the Hawai`ian islands. Much of it is refined in Honolulu and distributed.

(source: [www.heco.com](http://www.heco.com))

### **Genetic Engineering and Bio-Piracy**

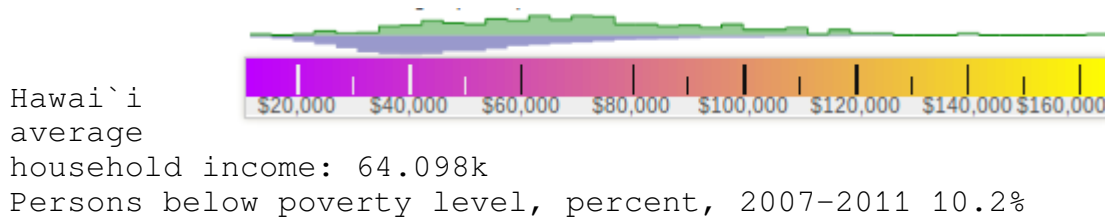
In 2005 Monsanto planted genetically modified corn on the island of Molokai. The act was not approved by anyone on the island other than the company itself (which went under a another name so no one would recognize it). The company claims that it has isolated its experiments and (of course) makes donations to various organizations on the island of Molokai to this day.



Every coffee organization on the Big Island of Hawaii has fought and won against the introduction of genetically engineered coffee. The reason is that once introduced, a GM coffee in Kona would no longer have its unique value.

In 1998, GM Papaya was established on the Big Island of Hawai'i to combat ring spotted virus. Proximity papayas were contaminated and the value of the Hawai'ian papaya lowered in the global market. (Many nationals require GM fruit and vegetables to be labeled, not the United States).

## All Islands Economic Profile:



The markers on the maps represent towns and cities 5000 people or over.

## Economic Profile of Ni`ihau

The most protected  
and best preserved  
native Hawaiʻian  
culture. 2009 census  
data has an Anglo

population (white) of two.

Kauai County medium average household income: 25.297k (2009)  
Residents below the poverty level: 13%.

### **Economic Profile of Kauai**

In terms of economy, Kauai has significant agricultural business, similar to the Big Island of Hawai'i, but on a smaller scale. It has a significant tourist business, like most of the islands. (need references from local connections).

Lihue, Kauai County medium average household income: 63.410k (2009)

Kapaa, Kauai County medium average household income: 58.882k (2009)



### **Economic Profile of Maui**

Coffee, macadamia nuts and pineapple are the legal exports, with paka lolo probably being the number three or four cash crop. (Maui specific agricultural organization references needed).

Kahului, Maui County medium average household income: 52.714k (2009)

Haiku-Pauwela, Maui County medium average household income: 55.111k (2009)

Percentage of residents living in poverty in 2009: 11.0%

(9.6% for White Non-Hispanic residents, 25.6% for Hispanic or Latino residents, 0.0% for American Indian residents, 22.5% for Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander residents, 27.1% for other race residents, 14.3% for two or more races residents)

Kihei, Maui County medium average household income: 60.088k (2009)

### **Economic Profile of Molokai**

I found a nice entry on the net, I think this says it all.

“It is true that Molokai makes greater use of subsistence hunting and fishing than any other island, and residents who don't hunt or fish often barter services for food. If I lived there and helped tutor a student whose dad brought over venison in trade, that would be a genuine Molokai transaction.

But it is also true that the Molokai economy is in some respect a fantasy. The island is heavily dependent on welfare checks, and on services provided by Maui County services which cost far more than any tax revenues collected from the island.”

One note: Molokai is one area in the Hawaiian Islands, where there has been an attempt at automated coffee picking. (See reference <http://www.amazon.com/Hawaii-Coffee-Book-Shawn-Steiman/dp/0981508626> ).

(reference: <http://blogs.hawaiinewsnow.com/howard/2011/12/the-truth-about-the-future-of-molokai.html> )

Kaunakakai, Maui County has a medium family income of 47.863k (2009)

Near Kamalo, the medium family income is 71.484K, but with 33% of the residents below the poverty level. The average for the entire island is 12%.

### **Economic Profile of Lanai**

Google maps show a modest tourist complex at Lanai City. There is a golf course near the city and a second course on the southern tip of the island. The Four Seasons is the destination of the wealthy.

Citi-data.com has the median





family income between 45k and 62k per 2010 data. The city to the south east of the resorts has the concentration between 45k and 50k. Lanai city has a medium family income of 60.104k.

A large portion of the island is now owned by the Oracle Corp.

### **Economic Profile of Ohau**

There is not much to say. The city of Honolulu very much mirrors the west coast of the mainland, particularly Los Angeles. Outlying areas still have some agricultural business, but it dwarfs what was in the past. The USAsian military continues to dominate the local economy along with tourism, which is a *major* economic activity on all the islands.

Ewa, Honolulu County medium average household income: 80.949k (2009)  
Makakilo City, Honolulu County medium average household income: 88.414k (2009)  
Honolulu, Honolulu County medium average household income: 57.601k (2009)

### **Economic Profile of Hawai'i**

As with the other islands, tourism plays a large part in the economy. Tourist hotels are primarily centered in the western part of Hawai'i in the North Kona, South Kohala districts. The USAsian military has a presence on the Big Island, centered in the valley between Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea. It's economic effect is negligible compared to the infrastructure in Honolulu. By in large, agriculture remains the primary local economic activity of the Big Island. Coffee, primarily from the North and South Kona districts, but also from the Ka'u district along with macadamia nuts, also primarily grown in the Ka'u and Kona districts, are well known global exports.

Many other vegetables and fruits are grown on the Big Island. There are fifty varieties of avocados. You won't see them unless you travel to the Big Island. Local "avo" farmers complain bitterly that avocados arrive at the mainland



regularly from South America, but not a single avocado, papaya or mango can be seen that is grown in Hawai'i.

Though not legal, pakalolo (cannabis), is probably the third largest cash crop on the Big Island, ahead of chocolate. It is probably true of all the other islands. Nineteen sixties counter culture continues to have strong influence on the culture of the Hawai'ian islands.

There exist two major Kona Coffee associations on the Big Island. The Kona Coffee Council the oldest, more conservative (dominated by Republicans) and typically represents the larger farms, roasters and millers. The Kona Coffee Farmers Association, a split off from Kona Coffee Council, that represents the smaller farmers. They are the larger organization in terms of membership and have a much more progressive agenda. The KCFA is also associated to the Hawai'ian Farmers Union, a loose organization of small farmers that includes all the Hawai'ian islands.

The KCC and KCFA do unite on a number of issues. A key one is blending of non-Hawai'i coffees and sold as a Kona Coffee blend on the global market.

Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association has over two hundred members. A similar situation exists in the mac nut industry that exists in the coffee industry. Two large production/processing corporations--Mauna Loa, a subsidiary of C. Brewer Co., and MacFarms, with orchards over several thousand acres. They control more than 80% of the production. There a few corporate farms with hundreds of acres, and over 600 farms with less than a hundred acres, most less than 10 acres.

Probably HOFA, the Hawai'i Organic Farmers Association represents a number of the small farms for all Hawai'ian agribusiness.

Ocean View, Na'alehu Hawai'i County, Ka'u district; medium average household income: 39.847k (2009)

Residents with income below the poverty level: 23.9%

Hilo, Hawai'i County; medium average household income: 52.251k (2009)

Residents with income below the poverty level: 15.6%

Waimea, Hawai'i County; medium average household income: 74.217k (2009)

Residents with income below the poverty level: 2.9%

South Kona, Hawai'i County; medium average household income: 56.875k (2009)

Residents with income below the poverty level: 12.7%

North Kona, Hawai`i County; medium average household income: 64.383k (2009)

Residents with income below the poverty level: 9.7%

### **Development versus the Preservation of Island**

Hawaiian Ocean View Estates was a massive development project originating in the late 1980s. It was originally funded by Crawford Oil Company in Ka`u. Small lots were subdivided, almost on a mainland suburban model. Many areas are very sparsely populated.

It can be debated whether development of the areas around Ocean View match what the founders wanted. It remains a tough, rural community on the Big Island, probably the closest to a "blue collar" community you will find on the west side of the Big Island.

"1250 Oceanside Partners and two affiliates, owners of more than 1,800 acres of land on the Island of Hawaii filed for bankruptcy to restructure more than \$500 million in debt." Originally developed as an exclusive area, not open to the public, failed as a wealthiest only private estate. Today the private road, now known as the Mamalahoa Bypass, is open to all.

(source: Bloomberg.com)

Development continued at a modest pace in west Hawai`i and the subsequent transformation of the area. The local markets and stores like KTA have survived now that Safeway, Walmart, Kmart, Target and Costco and the like are in west Hawai`i.

Sea Mountain Golf Course in Ka`u at Punalu`u was originally owned by a corporation in Beverly Hills, Calif. It did not turn into the development arena it was projected to be. It is currently owned by Roberts of Hawaii.

(source: [savepunaluu.org/docs/EIS.pdf](http://savepunaluu.org/docs/EIS.pdf),  
[savepunaluu.org/sea\\_mountain.html](http://savepunaluu.org/sea_mountain.html))

### **Class structure of the Big Island**

[www.city-data.com](http://www.city-data.com) has a large amount of economic data on all the Hawai`ian islands.

<http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/15/15001.html> is a good start). Tourists, notwithstanding, there are a number of retired or semi-retired people from the mainland. In certain areas, these are the wealthiest and most powerful. West Hawai`i has a number of "service industry" workers that are typically designated as "middle class", but often deeply in debt. Less wealthy retired or semi-retired live in outlying areas, often living off social security and/or retirement. Seasonal laborers that pick coffee and mac nuts live in rural areas and subsist at a basic economic level. Usually



an automobile and the rent or mortgage on the dwelling they live. Others that work jobs usually associated to agriculture are also subsist at a basic economic level. And then there is a class of homeless, on almost all the islands, the equivalent of the lumpen-proletariat.

## **Petroleum**

Most petroleum products used in Hawaii are either refined locally from imported crude oil or brought in their refined state by Hawaii's two local oil refineries—Chevron and Tesoro.

## **Dairy**

Information about the dairy farming industry in Hawaii. The last dairy farm on the island of Oahu the Pacific Dairy in the Waianae Valley - shut down on February 15, 2008. In the 1980's Hawaii had about 20 dairy farms and it produced most of its own milk. Between 1999 and 2008 many of Hawaii's dairies shut down including four on Oahu and three on the Big Island of Hawaii. I think that as of 2008 Hawaii only had two cow dairy farms left, both on the Big Island of Hawaii: Island Dairy in Hamakua and the Clover Leaf Dairy in Upolo. In the 1980's Hawaii produced 100% of its own milk but today as much as 80% of Hawaii's milk is imported.

(source: <http://www.hawaiiforvisitors.com/about/dairy-farming.htm>)

## **Tourism**

\$10 billion spent on tourism in Hawaii in 2003.

(source: <http://www.hawaiiforvisitors.com/about/industries.htm>)

## **Military**

\$4.5 billion spent on federal defense in Hawaii in 2003

(source: <http://www.hawaiiforvisitors.com/about/industries.htm>)

## **Chocolate**

The growing of cacao trees on the Big Island of Hawai'i is a small but expanding agricultural activity. Small farms make up the current landscape.

It is notable that in 2004 Dole rejuvenates its Oahu cacao farm.

## **Fish and Seafood**

The last native Hawaiian fishing village is Miloli'i on the Big

Island. Fishing still is one of the most important local food gathering activities on the islands.

In 2006 legislation was enacted which "designates the Miloli'i fisheries management area in South Kona as a community-based subsistence fishing area to preserve and maintain its legacy as a traditional Hawaiian fishing village." Unfortunately, the administrative rules to implement this law got bogged down in the public hearing process, as a large number of commercial fishermen appeared to protest the subsistence-only gist of it (i.e., they would be excluded from the area).

In the present day opelu is still especially important to the local population in Hawaii. One can find either fresh or dried opelu for sale in fish markets, grocery stores, and on the side of the road.

Norpac Fisheries, Inc. is one of the largest exporters of fish: 3140 Ualena St Ste 205, Honolulu, HI 96819-1965. They are a global corporation.

NORPAC Foods has built a business putting fruits and vegetables into portable packages. The company is a 240-member-strong, grower-owned cooperative that produces frozen and canned fruits and vegetables, as well as soup and pasta mixes. Products are marketed under the FLAV-R-PAC, NORPAC, WEST-PAK, Soup Supreme, and Pasta Perfect labels. It sorts, processes, and packages growers' products in processing plants located in the Northwestern US. NORPAC Foods sells its foods to US food service companies, retail grocers, club stores, and food makers. The company also exports products to Canada, Latin America, Puerto Rico, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. NORPAC Foods was formed by a group of Oregon farmers in 1924.

NORPACs competitors: Pictsweet, Seneca Foods and Birds Eye Foods LLC.

Hawai'i foreign seafood imports in edible pounds, 2000-2009:  
14,829,000 lbs.

Hawai'i seafood for foreign exports in edible pounds, 2000-2009:  
599,000 lbs.

(source: University of Hawai'i School of Ocean, Earth Science and Technology)

Some websites:

<http://www.ecotippingpoints.org/our-stories/indepth/usa-hawaii-fisheries-council-community-participation.html>

<http://www.norpacexport.com>

<http://www.soest.hawaii.edu>

## **Global Shipping**

Hawai`i is dependent on vessel and air shipping for all commodities that cannot be produced locally.

Shipping of commodities in plastic containers is a significant factor in the global pollution of the planets ocean. The collection of garbage at South Point on the Big Island from plastic pollution is self defining:



## **Videos on the Web**

<http://www.pinkyshow.org/projectarchives/videos/islands-at-risk-genetic-engineering-in-hawaii>

<http://www.pinkyshow.org/projectarchives/videos/part-3-hawaii-vs-us-imperialism>

<http://www.pinkyshow.org/projectarchives/dialogues/oceans-as-trash-cans-an-interview-with-captain-charles-moore>

## **Two Movies that explain trends in Hawai`ian culture in the 21st Century**

Taylor Camp: Producer - John Wehrheim; Director - Robert C Stone. [It's about the rejection of American values only to repaint them with long hair, marijuana and a vegetarian "clothing-optional" lifestyle in the era of flower power, anti-war riots and the Age of Aquarius]. The 21st equivalent of this culture continues to effect the Big Island culture.

The Descendants: Directed by Alexander Payne and base on the book by Kauai Hart Hemmings. The struggle of development versus preservation is a constant background theme in the story. It clearly abstracts what goes on in the Hawai`ian islands.

## **Music**

Volumes could be written about music in the Hawai`ian islands. The recordings of "Brother Iz" (Israel Kamakawiwo'ole) are among the noteworthy.

(<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V1bFr2SWP1I>)

Ua Mau ke Ea o ka `Āina i ka Pono