[Template:About](/wiki/Template:About" \o "Template:About) [Template:Distinguish](/wiki/Template:Distinguish) [Template:Pp-semi-protected](/wiki/Template:Pp-semi-protected) [Template:Pp-move-indef](/wiki/Template:Pp-move-indef) [Template:Use American English](/wiki/Template:Use_American_English) [Template:Use mdy dates](/wiki/Template:Use_mdy_dates) [Template:Coord](/wiki/Template:Coord) [Template:Stack begin](/wiki/Template:Stack_begin) [Template:Infobox U.S. state](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state) [Template:Infobox U.S. state symbols](/wiki/Template:Infobox_U.S._state_symbols) [Template:Stack end](/wiki/Template:Stack_end)

**Hawaii** ([Template:IPAc-en](/wiki/Template:IPAc-en) [Template:Respell](/wiki/Template:Respell); locally, [Template:IPA-all](/wiki/Template:IPA-all); [Template:Lang-haw](/wiki/Template:Lang-haw) [Template:IPA-haw](/wiki/Template:IPA-haw)) is the 50th and most recent [state](/wiki/U.S._state) of the [United States of America](/wiki/United_States), receiving statehood on August 21, 1959.[[1]](#cite_note-1) Hawaii is the only U.S. state located in [Oceania](/wiki/Oceania) and the only one composed entirely of islands. It is the northernmost island group in [Polynesia](/wiki/Polynesia), occupying most of an archipelago in the central [Pacific Ocean](/wiki/Pacific_Ocean).[[2]](#cite_note-2) Hawaii is the only U.S. state not located in the [Americas](/wiki/Americas). The state does not observe [daylight saving time](/wiki/Daylight_saving_time).

The state encompasses nearly the entire volcanic [Hawaiian archipelago](/wiki/Hawaiian_Islands), which comprises hundreds of islands spread over [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert). At the southeastern end of the archipelago, the eight main islands are—in order from northwest to southeast: [Ni](/wiki/Niihau)[Template:Okinaihau](/wiki/Template:Okina), [Kaua](/wiki/Kauai)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), [O](/wiki/Oahu)[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina), [Moloka](/wiki/Molokai)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), [Lāna](/wiki/Lanai)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), [Kaho](/wiki/Kahoolawe)[Template:Okinaolawe](/wiki/Template:Okina), [Maui](/wiki/Maui) and the [Island of Hawai](/wiki/Hawaii_(island))[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina). The last is the largest island in the group; it is often called the "Big Island" or "Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island" to avoid confusion with the state or archipelago. The archipelago is physiographically and ethnologically part of the Polynesian subregion of Oceania.

Hawaii's diverse natural scenery, warm tropical climate, abundance of public beaches, oceanic surroundings, and active volcanoes make it a popular destination for tourists, surfers, biologists, and volcanologists. Because of its central location in the Pacific and 19th-century labor migration, Hawaii's culture is strongly influenced by North American and Asian cultures, in addition to its [indigenous Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiians) culture. Hawaii has over a million permanent residents, along with many visitors and U.S. military personnel. Its capital is [Honolulu](/wiki/Honolulu) on the island of O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina).

Hawaii is the [8th-smallest](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_area) and the [11th-least populous](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_and_territories_by_population), but the [13th-most densely populated](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_population_density) of the fifty U.S. states. It is the only state with an [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) [plurality](/wiki/Plurality_(voting)). The state's coastline is about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) long, the [fourth longest in the U.S.](/wiki/List_of_U.S._states_by_coastline) after the coastlines of Alaska, Florida and California.

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## Etymology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=1)]

The state of Hawaii derives its name from the name of its largest island, [Hawai](/wiki/Hawaii_(island))[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina). A common Hawaiian explanation of the name of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) is that was named for [Hawai](/wiki/Hawaiiloa)[Template:Okinailoa](/wiki/Template:Okina), a legendary figure from Hawaiian myth. He is said to have discovered the islands when they were first settled.[[3]](#cite_note-3)[[4]](#cite_note-4) The [Hawaiian language](/wiki/Hawaiian_language) word *Hawai*[*Template:Okinai*](/wiki/Template:Okina) is very similar to [Proto-Polynesian](/wiki/Proto-Polynesian_language) \**Sawaiki*, with the [reconstructed](/wiki/Internal_reconstruction) meaning "homeland".[[5]](#cite_note-5) [Cognates](/wiki/Cognate) of *Hawai*[*Template:Okinai*](/wiki/Template:Okina) are found in other Polynesian languages, including [Māori](/wiki/Māori_language) ([*Hawaiki*](/wiki/Hawaiki)), [Rarotongan](/wiki/Cook_Islands_Maori) (*ʻAvaiki*) and [Samoan](/wiki/Samoan_language) ([*Savai*](/wiki/Savai'i)[*Template:Okinai*](/wiki/Template:Okina)) . According to linguists Pukui and Elbert,[[6]](#cite_note-6) "[e]lsewhere in Polynesia, Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) or a cognate is the name of the underworld or of the ancestral home, but in Hawaii, the name has no meaning".[[7]](#cite_note-7)

### Spelling of state name[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=2)]

A somewhat divisive political issue arose in 1978 when the Constitution of the State of Hawaii added Hawaiian as a second official state language.[[8]](#cite_note-8) The title of the state constitution is *The Constitution of the State of Hawaii*. Article[Template:NbspXV](/wiki/Template:Nbsp), Section[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)1 of the Constitution uses *The State of Hawaii*.[[9]](#cite_note-9) [Diacritics](/wiki/Diacritic) were not used because the document, drafted in 1949,[[10]](#cite_note-10) predates the use of the [okina](/wiki/ʻOkina) ([Template:Okina](/wiki/Template:Okina)) and the [kahakō](/wiki/Macron) in modern Hawaiian orthography. The exact spelling of the state's name in the Hawaiian language is *Hawai*[*Template:Okinai*](/wiki/Template:Okina).[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) In the [Hawaii Admission Act](/wiki/Hawaii_Admission_Act) that granted Hawaiian statehood, the federal government recognized *Hawaii* as the official state name. Official government publications, department and office titles, and the [Seal of Hawaii](/wiki/Seal_of_Hawaii) use the traditional spelling with no symbols for glottal stops or vowel length.[[11]](#cite_note-11) In contrast, the National and State Parks Services, the University of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) and some private enterprises implement these symbols. No precedent for changes to U.S. state names exists since the adoption of the [United States Constitution](/wiki/United_States_Constitution) in 1789. However, the [Constitution of Massachusetts](/wiki/Constitution_of_Massachusetts) formally changed the *Province of Massachusetts Bay* to the [Commonwealth of Massachusetts](/wiki/Commonwealth_of_Massachusetts) in 1780, and in the 1819 the [Territory of Arkansaw](/wiki/Territory_of_Arkansaw) was created but was later admitted to statehood as [State of Arkansas](/wiki/State_of_Arkansas).

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## {{Anchor|Geography}}Geography and environment[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=3)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|Hawaii from space, January 26, 2014](/wiki/File:ISS-38_Hawaiian_Island_chain.jpg)[[12]](#cite_note-12) There are eight main Hawaiian islands, seven of which are permanently inhabited. The island of Ni[Template:Okinaihau](/wiki/Template:Okina) is privately managed by brothers Bruce and [Keith Robinson](/wiki/Keith_Robinson_(environmentalist)); access is restricted to those who have permission from the island's owners. [thumb|](/wiki/File:Na_Pali_Coast,_Kauai,_Hawaii.jpg)[Nā Pali Coast State Park](/wiki/Nā_Pali_Coast_State_Park), Kauaʻi [thumb|The main islands and undersea terrain of Hawaii](/wiki/File:Hawaii_State_Map.jpg)

[Template:Main Hawaiian Islands](/wiki/Template:Main_Hawaiian_Islands)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Topography[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=4)]

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:Hawaii_in_Pacific_Ocean.png) [Hawaiian Islands](/wiki/Hawaiian_Islands) are located in the North Pacific Ocean|alt=World map with Hawaiian islands in the middle

The Hawaiian archipelago is located [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) southwest of the continental United States.[[13]](#cite_note-13) Hawaii is the southernmost U.S. state and the second westernmost after Alaska. Hawaii, along with Alaska, does not border any other U.S. state. It is the only U.S. state that is not geographically located in North America, the only state completely surrounded by water and that is entirely an archipelago, and the only state in which coffee is cultivable.

In addition to the eight main islands, the state has many smaller islands and islets. [Ka](/wiki/Kaʻula)[Template:Okinaula](/wiki/Template:Okina) is a small island near Ni[Template:Okinaihau](/wiki/Template:Okina) that is often overlooked. The [Northwest Hawaiian Islands](/wiki/Northwest_Hawaiian_Islands) is a group of nine small, older islands to the northwest of Kaua[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) that extend from [Nihoa](/wiki/Nihoa) to [Kure Atoll](/wiki/Kure_Atoll); these are remnants of once much larger volcanic mountains. Across the archipelago are around 130 small rocks and islets, such as [Molokini](/wiki/Molokini), which are either volcanic, marine sedimentary or erosional in origin.[[14]](#cite_note-14) Hawaii's tallest mountain [Mauna Kea](/wiki/Mauna_Kea) is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) above mean sea level;[[15]](#cite_note-15) it is taller than [Mount Everest](/wiki/Mount_Everest) if measured from the base of the mountain, which lies on the floor of the Pacific Ocean and rises about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert).[[16]](#cite_note-16) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Geology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=5)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|right|Pāhoehoe, or smooth lava, spills into the Pacific Ocean, forming new rock off the coast of the Island of Hawaii.](/wiki/File:Pāhoehoe_lava_meets_Pacific.jpg)

The Hawaiian islands were formed by volcanic activity initiated at an undersea [magma](/wiki/Magma) source called the [Hawaii hotspot](/wiki/Hawaii_hotspot). The process is continuing to build islands; the [tectonic plate](/wiki/Plate_tectonics) beneath much of the Pacific Ocean continually moves northwest and the hot spot remains stationary, slowly creating new volcanoes. Because of the hotspot's location, all currently active land volcanoes are located on the southern half of Hawaii Island. The newest volcano, [Lō](/wiki/Loihi_Seamount)[Template:Okinaihi](/wiki/Template:Okina) Seamount, is located south of the coast of Hawaii Island.

The last volcanic eruption outside Hawaii Island occurred at [Haleakalā](/wiki/Haleakalā) on Maui before the late 18th[Template:Nbspcentury](/wiki/Template:Nbsp), though it could have been hundreds of years earlier.[[17]](#cite_note-17) In 1790, [Kīlauea exploded](/wiki/1790_Footprints); it was the deadliest eruption known to have occurred in the modern era in what is now the United States.[[18]](#cite_note-18) Up to 5,405 warriors and their families marching on [Kīlauea](/wiki/Kīlauea) were killed by the eruption.[[19]](#cite_note-19) Volcanic activity and subsequent erosion have created impressive geological features. Hawaii Island has the [third-highest point](/wiki/List_of_islands_by_highest_point) among the world's islands.[[20]](#cite_note-20) On the flanks of the volcanoes, slope instability has generated damaging earthquakes and related [tsunamis](/wiki/Tsunami), particularly in [1868](/wiki/1868_Hawaii_earthquake) and [1975](/wiki/1975_Hawaii_earthquake).[[21]](#cite_note-21) Steep cliffs have been created by catastrophic [debris avalanches](/wiki/Debris_avalanche) on the submerged flanks of ocean island volcanoes.[[22]](#cite_note-22)[[23]](#cite_note-23) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Flora and fauna[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=6)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|upright|*Corvus hawaiiensis*, the endemic](/wiki/File:Corvus_hawaiiensis.jpg) [Hawaiian crow](/wiki/Hawaiian_crow) ([Template:Okinaalal](/wiki/Template:Okina)ā), is extinct in the wild.

Because the islands of Hawaii are distant from other land habitats, life is thought to have arrived there by wind, waves (i.e. by ocean currents) and wings (i.e. birds, insects, and any seeds they may have carried on their feathers). This isolation, in combination with the diverse environment (including extreme altitudes, tropical climates, and arid shorelines), produced an array of endemic flora and fauna. Hawaii has more endangered species and has lost a higher percentage of its endemic species than any other U.S. state.[[24]](#cite_note-24) One endemic plant, [*Brighamia*](/wiki/Brighamia), now requires hand-pollination because its natural pollinator is presumed to be extinct.[[25]](#cite_note-25) The two species of *Brighamia*—*B. rockii* and *B. insignis*—are represented in the wild by around 120 individual plants. To ensure these plants set seed, biologists rappel down [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) cliffs to brush pollen onto their stigmas.[[26]](#cite_note-26) The extant main islands of the archipelago have been above the surface of the ocean for fewer than 10[Template:Nbspmillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) years; a fraction of the time biological colonization and evolution have occurred there. The islands are well known for the environmental diversity that occurs on high mountains within a trade winds field. On a single island, the climate around the coasts can range from dry tropical (less than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) annual rainfall) to wet tropical; on the slopes, envionments range from tropical rainforest (more than [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year), through a temperate climate, to alpine conditions with a cold, dry climate. The rainy climate impacts soil development, which largely determines ground permeability, affecting the distribution of streams and wetlands.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Protected areas[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=7)]

[thumb|left|alt= A Hawaiian monk seal rests at French Frigate Shoals.|](/wiki/File:Hawaiian_monk_seal_at_French_Frigate_Shoals_07.jpg)[French Frigate Shoals](/wiki/French_Frigate_Shoals), located in the [Northwestern Hawaiian Islands](/wiki/Northwestern_Hawaiian_Islands), is protected as part of the [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](/wiki/Papahānaumokuākea_Marine_National_Monument).

Several areas in Hawaii are under the protection of the [National Park Service](/wiki/National_Park_Service).[[27]](#cite_note-27) Hawaii has two national parks: [Haleakala National Park](/wiki/Haleakala_National_Park) located near [Kula](/wiki/Kula,_Hawaii) on the island of Maui, which features the dormant volcano Haleakalā that formed east Maui, and [Hawaii Volcanoes National Park](/wiki/Hawaii_Volcanoes_National_Park) in the southeast region of the Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island, which includes the active volcano Kīlauea and its rift zones.

There are three [national historical parks](/wiki/National_historical_park); [Kalaupapa National Historical Park](/wiki/Kalaupapa_National_Historical_Park) in Kalaupapa, Moloka[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), the site of a former leper colony; [Kaloko-Honokōhau National Historical Park](/wiki/Kaloko-Honokohau_National_Historical_Park) in [Kailua-Kona](/wiki/Kailua,_Hawaii_County,_Hawaii) on Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island; and [Pu](/wiki/Puʻuhonua_o_Hōnaunau_National_Historical_Park)[Template:Okinauhonua](/wiki/Template:Okina) o Hōnaunau National Historical Park, an ancient place of refuge on Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island's west coast. Other areas under the control of the National Park Service include [Ala Kahakai National Historic Trail](/wiki/Ala_Kahakai_National_Historic_Trail) on Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island and the [USS *Arizona* Memorial](/wiki/USS_Arizona_Memorial) at [Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Pearl_Harbor) on O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina).

The [Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument](/wiki/Papahānaumokuākea_Marine_National_Monument) was proclaimed by President [George W. Bush](/wiki/George_W._Bush) on June 15, 2006. The monument covers roughly [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of reefs, atolls, and shallow and deep sea out to [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) offshore in the Pacific Ocean—an area larger than all of the national parks in the U.S. combined.[[28]](#cite_note-28) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Climate[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=8)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|A true-color satellite view of Hawaii shows that most of the vegetation on the islands grows on the northeast sides which face the wind. The silver glow around the southwest of the islands is the result of calmer waters.](/wiki/File:Hawaje-NoRedLine.jpg)[[29]](#cite_note-29)

Hawaii's climate is typical for the tropics, although temperatures and humidity tend to be less extreme because of near-constant [trade winds](/wiki/Trade_winds) from the east. Summer highs usually reach around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) during the day and [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night. Winter day temperatures are usually around [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert); at low elevation they seldom dip below [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) at night. Snow, not usually associated with the tropics, falls at [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) on Mauna Kea and [Mauna Loa](/wiki/Mauna_Loa) on Hawaii Island in some winter months. Snow rarely falls on Haleakalā. [Mount Wai](/wiki/Mount_Waialeale)[Template:OkinaaleTemplate:Okinaale](/wiki/Template:Okina) on Kaua[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) has the second-highest average annual rainfall on Earth, about [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) per year. Most of Hawaii experiences only two seasons; the dry season runs from May to October and the wet season is from October to April.[[30]](#cite_note-30) The warmest temperature recorded in the state, in [Pahala](/wiki/Pahala) on April 27, 1931, is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), making it tied with [Alaska](/wiki/Alaska) as the lowest record high temperature observed in a U.S. state[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed). Hawaii's record low temperature is [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) observed in May[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)1979 on the summit of Mauna Kea. Hawaii is the only state to have never recorded sub-zero Fahrenheit temperatures.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Climates vary considerably on each island; they can be divided into [windward and leeward](/wiki/Windward_and_leeward) (*ko*[*Template:Okinaolau*](/wiki/Template:Okina) and *kona*, respectively) areas based upon location relative to the higher mountains. Windward sides face cloud cover.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

[Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart) [Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart) [Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart) [Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart) [Template:Climate chart](/wiki/Template:Climate_chart)

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### Antipodes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=9)]

Hawaii is the only U.S. state that is [antipodal](/wiki/Antipodes) to inhabited land. Most of the state lies opposite Botswana, though Ni[Template:Okinaihau's](/wiki/Template:Okina) antipode aligns with Namibia, and Kaua[Template:Okinai's](/wiki/Template:Okina) straddles the Botswana–Namibia border. This area of Africa near [Maun, Botswana](/wiki/Maun,_Botswana) and [Ghanzi](/wiki/Ghanzi) includes nature reserves and small settlements near the [Okavango Delta](/wiki/Okavango_Delta).[[31]](#cite_note-31)[[32]](#cite_note-32)

## History[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=10)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:HI history](/wiki/Template:HI_history) Hawaii is one of four U.S. states—apart from the original thirteen—the [Vermont Republic](/wiki/Vermont_Republic) (1791), the [Republic of Texas](/wiki/Republic_of_Texas) (1845), and the [California Republic](/wiki/California_Republic) (1846)—that were independent nations prior to statehood. Along with Texas, Hawaii had formal, international [diplomatic recognition](/wiki/Diplomatic_recognition) as a nation.[[33]](#cite_note-33) The [Kingdom of Hawai](/wiki/Kingdom_of_Hawaii)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) was sovereign from 1810 until 1893 when [the monarchy was overthrown](/wiki/Overthrow_of_the_Kingdom_of_Hawaii) by resident American and European capitalists and landholders in a [*coup d'état*](/wiki/Coup_d'état). Hawaii was an independent republic from 1894 until August 12, 1898, when it officially became a territory of the United States. Hawaii was admitted as a U.S. state on August 21, 1959.[[34]](#cite_note-34)

### First human settlement – Ancient Hawai{{okina}}i (800–1778)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=11)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Based on archaeological evidence, the earliest habitation of the Hawaiian Islands dates to around 300 CE, probably by Polynesian settlers from the [Marquesas Islands](/wiki/Marquesas_Islands). A second wave of migration from [Raiatea](/wiki/Raiatea) and [Bora Bora](/wiki/Bora_Bora) took place in the [Template:Ordinal](/wiki/Template:Ordinal) century. The date of the human discovery and habitation of the Hawaiian Islands is the subject of academic debate.[[35]](#cite_note-35) Some archaeologists and historians believe there was an early settlement from the Marquesas. They think it was a later wave of immigrants from [Tahiti](/wiki/Tahiti) around 1000 CE who introduced a new line of high chiefs, the [kapu](/wiki/Kapu) system, the practice of human sacrifice, and the building of [*heiau*](/wiki/Heiau).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) This later immigration is detailed in [Hawaiian mythology](/wiki/Hawaiian_mythology) (*mo*[*Template:Okinaolelo*](/wiki/Template:Okina)) about [Pa](/wiki/Pa'ao)[Template:Okinaao](/wiki/Template:Okina). Other authors say there is no archaeological or linguistic evidence for a later influx of Tahitian settlers and that Pa[Template:Okinaao](/wiki/Template:Okina) must be regarded as a myth.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The history of the islands is marked by a slow, steady growth in population and the size of the [chiefdoms](/wiki/Chiefdoms), which grew to encompass whole islands. Local chiefs, called [ali](/wiki/Ali'i)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), ruled their settlements, and launched wars to extend their influence and defend their communities from predatory rivals. Ancient Hawaii was a [caste](/wiki/Makaainana)-based society, much like that of Hindus in India.[[36]](#cite_note-36)

### European arrival[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=12)]

[thumb|](/wiki/File:Tereoboo,_King_of_Owyhee,_bringing_presents_to_Captain_Cook_by_John_Webber.jpg)[Kalaniʻōpuʻu](/wiki/Kalaniʻōpuʻu), King of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), brings presents to [Captain Cook](/wiki/James_Cook).|alt=Drawing of single-masted sailboat with one spinnaker-shaped sail, carrying dozens of men, accompanied by at least four other canoes.

It is possible that [Spanish explorers](/wiki/Conquistador) arrived in the Hawaiian Islands in the 16th century—200 years before Captain [James Cook's](/wiki/James_Cook) first documented visit in 1778. [Ruy López de Villalobos](/wiki/Ruy_López_de_Villalobos) commanded a fleet of six ships that left [Acapulco](/wiki/Acapulco) in 1542 bound for the Philippines with a Spanish sailor named Juan Gaetano aboard as pilot. Depending on the interpretation, Gaetano's reports describe an encounter with either Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) or the Marshall Islands.<ref name=Kane>[Template:Cite book](/wiki/Template:Cite_book)</ref> If de Villalobos' crew spotted Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), Gaetano would be considered the first European to see the islands. Some scholars have dismissed these claims due to a lack of credibility.[[37]](#cite_note-37)[[38]](#cite_note-38) Spanish archives contain a chart that depicts islands at the same latitude as Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) but with a longitude ten degrees east of the islands. In this manuscript, the island of Maui is named *La Desgraciada* (The Unfortunate Island), and what appears to be Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island is named *La Mesa* (The Table). Islands resembling Kahoolawe, Lanai, and Molokai are named *Los Monjes* (The Monks).[[39]](#cite_note-39) For two-and-a-half centuries, [Spanish galleons](/wiki/Manila_galleon) crossed the Pacific from Mexico along a route that passed south of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) on their way to [Manila](/wiki/Manila). The exact route was kept secret to protect the Spanish trade monopoly against competing powers.

The 1778 arrival of British explorer [James Cook](/wiki/James_Cook) was the first documented contact by a European explorer with Hawaii. Cook named the archipelago as the Sandwich Islands in honor of his sponsor [John Montagu, 4th Earl of Sandwich](/wiki/John_Montagu,_4th_Earl_of_Sandwich). Cook published the islands' location and rendered the native name as *Owyhee*. This spelling lives on in [Owyhee County](/wiki/Owyhee_County,_Idaho), [Idaho](/wiki/Idaho). It was named after three native Hawaiian members of a trapping party who went missing in that area. The Owyhee Mountains were also named for them.[[40]](#cite_note-40) [thumb|210px|King Kamehameha receiving](/wiki/File:Entrevue_de_l'expedition_de_M._Kotzebue_avec_le_roi_Tammeamea_dans_l'ile_d'Ovayhi,_Iles_Sandwich_(detailed).jpg) [Otto von Kotzebue's](/wiki/Otto_von_Kotzebue) Russian naval expedition. Drawing by [Louis Choris](/wiki/Louis_Choris) in 1816. Cook visited the Hawaiian Islands twice. As he prepared for departure after his second visit in 1779, a quarrel ensued as Cook took temple idols and fencing as "firewood",[[41]](#cite_note-41) and a minor chief and his men took a ship's boat. Cook abducted the [King of Hawai](/wiki/Alii_Aimoku_of_Hawaii)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island, [Kalani](/wiki/Kalaniʻōpuʻu)[Template:Okina](/wiki/Template:Okina)ōpu[Template:Okinau](/wiki/Template:Okina), and held him for ransom aboard his ship in order to gain return of Cook's boat. This tactic had worked in Tahiti and other islands.[[42]](#cite_note-42) Instead, Kalani[Template:Okina](/wiki/Template:Okina)ōpu[Template:Okinau's](/wiki/Template:Okina) supporters fought back, killing Cook and four marines as Cook's party retreated along the beach to their ship. They departed without the ship's boat.

After Cook's visit and the publication of several books relating his voyages, the Hawaiian islands attracted many European visitors: explorers, traders, and eventually whalers, who found the islands to be a convenient harbor and source of supplies. Early British influence can be seen in the design of the [flag of Hawai](/wiki/Flag_of_Hawaii)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), which bears the [Union Jack](/wiki/Union_Jack) in the top-left corner. These visitors introduced diseases to the once-isolated islands, causing the Hawaiian population to drop precipitously.[[43]](#cite_note-43) Native Hawaiians had no resistance to Eurasian diseases, such as [influenza](/wiki/Influenza), [smallpox](/wiki/Smallpox) and [measles](/wiki/Measles). By 1820, disease, famine and wars between the chiefs killed more than half of the Native Hawaiian population.[[44]](#cite_note-44) During the 1850s, measles killed a fifth of Hawaii's people.[[45]](#cite_note-45) Historical records indicated the earliest Chinese immigrants to Hawaii originated from [Guangdong Province](/wiki/Guangdong); a few sailors arrived in 1778 with Captain Cook's journey and more arrived in 1789 with an American trader, who settled in Hawaii in the late 18th century. It appears that leprosy was introduced by Chinese workers by 1830; as with the other new infectious diseases, it proved damaging to the Hawaiians.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Kingdom of Hawai{{okina}}i[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=13)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

#### House of Kamehameha[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=14)]

[Template:Unreferenced section](/wiki/Template:Unreferenced_section) [thumb|upright|Kamehameha I conquered the Hawaiian Islands and established a unified monarchy across the archipelago.](/wiki/File:Kamehameha_I.png)

During the 1780s and 1790s, chiefs often fought for power. After a series of battles that ended in 1795, all inhabited islands were subjugated under a single ruler, who became known as [King Kamehameha the Great](/wiki/Kamehameha_I). He established the [House of Kamehameha](/wiki/House_of_Kamehameha), a dynasty that ruled the kingdom until 1872.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

After [Kamehameha II](/wiki/Kamehameha_II) inherited the throne in 1819, American Protestant missionaries to Hawaii converted many Hawaiians to Christianity. They used their influence to end many traditional practices of the people. [Template:Which](/wiki/Template:Which) The islands' first Christan king was [Kamehameha III](/wiki/Kamehameha_III).[Template:When](/wiki/Template:When)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) [Hiram Bingham I](/wiki/Hiram_Bingham_I), a prominent Protestant missionary, was a trusted adviser to the monarchy during this period. Other missionaries and their descendants became active in commercial and political affairs, leading to conflicts between the monarchy and its restive American subjects.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Catholic and Mormon missionaries were also active in the kingdom, but they converted a minority of the Native Hawaiian population.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Missionaries from each major group administered to the leper colony at Kalaupapa on Moloka[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), which was established in 1866 and operated well into the 20th century. The best known were [Father Damien](/wiki/Father_Damien) and [Mother Marianne Cope](/wiki/Mother_Marianne_Cope), both of whom were canonized in the early 21st century as Roman [Catholic saints](/wiki/Catholic_saints).

The death of the bachelor [King Kamehameha V](/wiki/Kamehameha_V)—who did not name an heir—resulted in the popular election of [Lunalilo](/wiki/Lunalilo) over [Kalākaua](/wiki/Kalākaua). Lunalilo died the next year, also without naming an heir. In 1874, the election was contested within the legislature between Kalākaua and [Emma, Queen Consort of Kamehameha IV](/wiki/Queen_Emma_of_Hawaii). After riots broke out, the United States and Britain landed troops on the islands to restore order. Governance passed to the [House of Kalākaua](/wiki/House_of_Kalākaua).[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify)

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#### 1887 Constitution and overthrow preparations[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=15)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) In 1887, Kalākaua was forced to sign the [1887 Constitution of the Kingdom of Hawaii](/wiki/1887_Constitution_of_the_Kingdom_of_Hawaii). Drafted by white businessmen and lawyers, the document stripped the king of much of his authority. It established a property qualification for voting that effectively disenfranchised most Hawaiians and immigrant laborers and favored the wealthier, white elite. Resident whites were allowed to vote but resident Asians were not. Because the 1887 Constitution was signed under threat of violence, it is known as the Bayonet Constitution. King Kalākaua, reduced to a figurehead, reigned until his death in 1891. His sister, Queen [Lili](/wiki/Liliuokalani)[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina), succeeded him; she was the last monarch of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 1893, Queen Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina) announced plans for a new constitution. On January 14, 1893, a group of mostly Euro-American business leaders and residents formed the [Committee of Safety](/wiki/Committee_of_Safety_(Hawaii)) to stage a [coup d'état](/wiki/Overthrow_of_the_Kingdom_of_Hawaii) against the kingdom and seek annexation by the United States. United States Government Minister [John L. Stevens](/wiki/John_L._Stevens), responding to a request from the Committee of Safety, summoned a company of U.S. Marines. According to historian William Russ, these troops effectively rendered the monarchy unable to protect itself.[[46]](#cite_note-46)

### Overthrow of 1893—the Republic of Hawaii (1894–1898)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=16)]

[Template:POV section](/wiki/Template:POV_section)

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|left|](/wiki/File:Liliuokalani_in_1891.jpg)[Queen Lili](/wiki/Liliuokalani)[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina), the last reigning monarch of the Hawaiian Kingdom.|alt=Queen Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina), seated inside [Template:OkinaIolani](/wiki/Template:Okina) Palace.

[thumb|The](/wiki/File:NORTHEAST_FACADE_-_Iolani_Palace,_King_and_Richards_Streets,_Honolulu,_Honolulu_County,_HI_HABS_HI,2-HONLU,8-7.tif) [Template:OkinaIolani](/wiki/Template:Okina) Palace in [Honolulu](/wiki/Honolulu), formerly the residence of the Hawaiian monarch, was the capitol of the Republic of Hawaii.

In January 1893, Queen Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina) was overthrown and replaced by a provisional government composed of members of the American Committee of Safety. American lawyer [Sanford B. Dole](/wiki/Sanford_B._Dole) became President of the Republic when the [Provisional Government of Hawaii](/wiki/Provisional_Government_of_Hawaii) ended on July 4, 1894. Controversy ensued in the following years as the Queen tried to regain her throne. The administration of President [Grover Cleveland](/wiki/Grover_Cleveland) commissioned the [Blount Report](/wiki/Blount_Report), which concluded that the removal of Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina) had been illegal. The U.S. government first demanded that Queen Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina) be reinstated, but the Provisional Government refused.

Congress conducted an independent investigation, and on February 26, 1894, submitted the [Morgan Report](/wiki/Morgan_Report), which found all parties, including Minister Stevens—with the exception of the Queen—"not guilty" and not responsible for the coup.[[47]](#cite_note-47) Partisans on both sides of the debate questioned the accuracy and impartiality of both the Blount and Morgan reports over the events of 1893.[[46]](#cite_note-46)[[48]](#cite_note-48)[[49]](#cite_note-49)[[50]](#cite_note-50) In 1993, the US Congress passed a joint [Apology Resolution](/wiki/Apology_Resolution) regarding the overthrow; it was signed by President [Bill Clinton](/wiki/Bill_Clinton). The resolution apologized for the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom and acknowledged that the United States had annexed Hawaii unlawfully.[[50]](#cite_note-50) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### {{anchor|annexation}}Annexation—the Territory of Hawaii (1898–1959)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=17)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|alt = The USS Shaw explodes during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.|The Japanese](/wiki/File:USS_SHAW_exploding_Pearl_Harbor_Nara_80-G-16871_2.jpg) [attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor) in 1941 was the primary event that galvanized the United States into entering [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II).

After [William McKinley](/wiki/William_McKinley) won the 1896 U.S. presidential election, advocates pressed to annex the Republic of Hawaii. The previous president, Grover Cleveland, was a friend of Queen Lili[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina). McKinley was open to persuasion by U.S. expansionists and by annexationists from Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina). He met with three annexationists: [Lorrin A. Thurston](/wiki/Lorrin_A._Thurston), Francis March Hatch and [William Ansel Kinney](/wiki/William_Ansel_Kinney). After negotiations in June 1897, Secretary of State [John Sherman](/wiki/John_Sherman_(politician)) agreed to a treaty of annexation with these representatives of the Republic of Hawaii.[[51]](#cite_note-51) The [U.S. Senate](/wiki/U.S._Senate) never ratified the treaty. Despite the opposition of most native Hawaiians,[[52]](#cite_note-52) the [Newlands Resolution](/wiki/Newlands_Resolution) was used to annex the Republic to the U.S.; it became the [Territory of Hawaii](/wiki/Territory_of_Hawaii). The Newlands Resolution was passed by the House on June 15, 1898, by 209 votes in favor to 91 against, and by the Senate on July 6, 1898, by a vote of 42 to 21.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

In 1900, Hawaii was granted self-governance and retained [Template:OkinaIolani](/wiki/Template:Okina) Palace as the territorial capitol building. Despite several attempts to become a state, Hawaii remained a territory for sixty years. Plantation owners and capitalists, who maintained control through financial institutions such as the [Big Five](/wiki/Big_Five_(Hawaii)), found territorial status convenient because they remained able to import cheap, foreign labor. Such immigration and labor practices were prohibited in many states.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Puerto Rican immigration to Hawaii](/wiki/Puerto_Rican_immigration_to_Hawaii) began in 1899 when Puerto Rico's sugar industry was devastated by two hurricanes, causing a worldwide shortage of sugar and a huge demand for sugar from Hawaii. Hawaiian [sugarcane](/wiki/Sugarcane) [plantation](/wiki/Sugar_plantations_in_Hawaii) owners began to recruit experienced, unemployed laborers in Puerto Rico. Two waves of [Korean immigration to Hawaii](/wiki/Korean_immigration_to_Hawaii) occurred in the 20th century. The first wave arrived between 1903 and 1924; the second wave began in 1965 after President [Lyndon B. Johnson](/wiki/Lyndon_B._Johnson) signed the [Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965](/wiki/Immigration_and_Nationality_Act_of_1965) into law.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) was the target of a surprise [attack on Pearl Harbor](/wiki/Attack_on_Pearl_Harbor) by [Imperial Japan](/wiki/Imperial_Japan) on December 7, 1941. The attack on Pearl Harbor and other military and naval installations, carried out by [aircraft](/wiki/Warplane) and by [midget submarines](/wiki/Midget_submarine), brought the United States into [World War II](/wiki/World_War_II).

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### Political changes of 1954—the State of Hawaii (1959–present)[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=18)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|alt = Three young women pack pineapples into cans in 1928.|Prior to the postwar labor movement, Hawaii was governed by U.S. agricultural elites and entrepreneurs. Here, three young women pack pineapples into cans in 1928.](/wiki/File:Food-Hawaii-Canning._Native_girls_packing_pineapple_into_cans._-_NARA_-_522863.tif)

In the 1950s, the power of the plantation owners was broken by the descendants of immigrant laborers, who were born in the incorporated U.S. territory and were U.S. citizens. They voted against the [Hawaii Republican Party](/wiki/Hawaii_Republican_Party), strongly supported by plantation owners. The new majority voted for the [Democratic Party of Hawaii](/wiki/Democratic_Party_of_Hawaii), which dominated territorial and state politics for more than 40 years. Eager to gain full voting rights, Hawaii's residents actively campaigned for statehood.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) There was concern from both political parties in the U.S. that Hawaii would be a permanent Republican Party stronghold so the admission of Alaska, thought to be a permanent Democratic Party stronghold, was to happen the same year. These predictions turned out to be inaccurate; today, Hawaii votes Democratic predominately, and Alaska votes Republican.[[53]](#cite_note-53)[[54]](#cite_note-54)[[55]](#cite_note-55)[[56]](#cite_note-56) In March 1959, Congress passed the Hawaii Admission Act, which U.S. President [Dwight D. Eisenhower](/wiki/Dwight_D._Eisenhower) signed into law.[[57]](#cite_note-57) The act excluded [Palmyra Atoll](/wiki/Palmyra_Atoll) from statehood; it had been part of the Kingdom and Territory of Hawaii. On June 27, 1959, a referendum asked residents of Hawaii to vote on the statehood bill; 94.3% voted in favor of statehood and 5.7% opposed it.[[58]](#cite_note-58) The referendum asked voters to choose between accepting the Act and remaining a U.S. territory. The United Nations' [Special Committee on Decolonization](/wiki/Special_Committee_on_Decolonization) later removed Hawaii from [its list of self-governing territories](/wiki/United_Nations_list_of_Non-Self-Governing_Territories).

After attaining statehood, Hawaii quickly modernized through construction and a rapidly growing tourism economy. Later, state programs promoted Hawaiian culture.[Template:Which](/wiki/Template:Which) The [Hawaii State Constitutional Convention of 1978](/wiki/1978_Hawaii_State_Constitutional_Convention) created institutions such as the [Office of Hawaiian Affairs](/wiki/Office_of_Hawaiian_Affairs) to promote indigenous language and culture.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Demographics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=19)]

### Population[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=20)]

[thumb|250px|Population density map of the Hawaiian islands.](/wiki/File:Hawaii_population_map.png) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) After the arrival of Europeans and Americans, the population of Hawaii fell dramatically until an influx of primarily Asian settlers arrived as migrant laborers at the end of the 19th[Template:Nbspcentury](/wiki/Template:Nbsp).[[59]](#cite_note-59) The [United States Census Bureau](/wiki/United_States_Census_Bureau) estimates the population of Hawaii was 1,431,603 on July 1, 2015; an increase of 5.24% since the [2010 United States Census](/wiki/2010_United_States_Census).[[60]](#cite_note-60) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Hawaii had an estimated population of 1,431,603; an increase of 12,042 from the previous year and an increase of 71,302 (5.24%) since 2010. This includes a natural increase of 48,111 (96,028 births minus 47,917 deaths) and an increase due to net migration of 16,956 people into the state. Immigration from outside the United States resulted in a net increase of 30,068; migration within the country produced a net loss of 13,112 people. The center of population of Hawaii is located between the two islands of [O'ahu](/wiki/O'ahu) and [Moloka'i](/wiki/Moloka'i). Large numbers of Native Hawaiians have moved to [Las Vegas](/wiki/Las_Vegas), which has been called the "ninth island" of Hawaii.[[61]](#cite_note-61)[[62]](#cite_note-62) Hawaii has a *de facto* population of over 1.4[Template:Nbspmillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp), due in part to a large number of military personnel and tourist residents. [O'ahu](/wiki/O'ahu) is the most populous island; it has the highest population density with a resident population of just under one million in [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert), about 1,650 people per square mile.[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Hawaii's 1.4[Template:Nbsp;million](/wiki/Template:Nbsp;) residents, spread across [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of land, results in an average population density of 188.6 persons per square mile.[[63]](#cite_note-63) The state has a lower population density than [Ohio](/wiki/Ohio) and [Illinois](/wiki/Illinois).[[64]](#cite_note-64) The average projected lifespan of people born in Hawaii in 2000 is 79.8 years; 77.1 years if male, 82.5 if female—longer than the average lifespan of any other [U.S. state](/wiki/U.S._state).[[65]](#cite_note-65) [Template:Asof](/wiki/Template:Asof) the U.S. military reported it had 42,371 personnel on the islands.<ref name=Hawaii\_mil>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref>

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Historical population[[66]](#cite_note-66) | | |
| **Year** | **Population** | **Notes** |
| 1778 | 300,000 |  |
| 1805 | 264,160 |  |
| 1831 | 130,313 | Census |
| 1850 | 82,000 |  |
| 1853 | 73,134 | 2,119 foreigners |
| 1872 | 56,897 |  |
| 1876 | 53,900 |  |
| 1884 | 80,000 | The native population continues to decline. |
| 1890 | 40,000 native Hawaiians |  |
| 1900 | 154,001 | About 25% Hawaiian/part-Hawaiian; 40% Japanese; 16% Chinese; 12% Portuguese; and about 5% other Caucasian |
| 1910 | 191,874 | 26,041 Hawaiians and 12,056 part-Hawaiians |
| 1920 | 255,881 | 42.7% of the population is of Japanese descent. |
| 1930 | 368,336 |  |
| 1940 | 420,770 |  |
| 1950 | 499,794 |  |
| 1960 | 632,772 |  |
| 1970 | 769,913 |  |
| 1980 | 964,691 |  |
| 1990 | 1,108,228 |  |
| 2000 | 1,211,537 | 239,655 native Hawaiians; Japanese: 21%; Filipino: 17.7%; Chinese: 8.3%; German: 5.8% |
| 2010 | 1,360,301 | 10% Native Hawaiians or other Pacific Islanders; Two or more races may include some of the remainder |

### Race and ethnicity[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=21)]

[Template:Further](/wiki/Template:Further)

[thumb|Mixed Hawaiian/European-American family in Honolulu, 1860s](/wiki/File:Hermann_A._Widemann_and_family,_ca._1860s.jpg)

[Template:US Census population](/wiki/Template:US_Census_population)

According to the 2010 United States Census, Hawaii had a population of 1,360,301. The state's population identified as 38.6% [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American); 24.7% [White](/wiki/White_American) (22.7% Non-Hispanic White Alone); 23.6% from two or more races; 10.0% Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders; 8.9% [Hispanics](/wiki/Hispanic_and_Latino_Americans) and Latinos of any race; 1.6% Black or African American; 1.2% from some other race; and 0.3% Native American and Alaska Native.[[67]](#cite_note-67)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Hawaii Racial Breakdown of Population** | | | | |
| **Racial composition** | **1970**[**[68]**](#cite_note-68) | **1990**[**[68]**](#cite_note-68) | **2000**[**[69]**](#cite_note-69) | **2010**[**[70]**](#cite_note-70) |
| [White](/wiki/White_American) | 38.8% | 33.4% | 24.3% | 24.7% |
| [Asian](/wiki/Asian_American) | 57.7%[[71]](#cite_note-71) | 61.8%[[71]](#cite_note-71) | 41.6% | 38.6% |
| [Native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) and [other Pacific Islander](/wiki/Pacific_Islander) | – | – | 9.4% | 10.0% |
| [Black](/wiki/African_American) | 1.0% | 2.5% | 1.8% | 1.6% |
| [American Indian and Alaskan Native](/wiki/Native_Americans_in_the_United_States) | 0.1% | 0.5% | 0.3% | 0.3% |
| [Other race](/wiki/Race_and_ethnicity_in_the_United_States_Census) | 2.4% | 1.9% | 1.2% | 1.2% |
| [Two or more races](/wiki/Multiracial_American) | – | – | 21.4% | 23.6% |

Hawaii has the highest percentage of Asian Americans and multiracial Americans and the lowest percentage of White Americans of any state. It is the only state where Asian Americans identify as the largest ethnic group. In 2011, 14.5% of births were to white, non-Hispanic parents.[[72]](#cite_note-72) Hawaii's Asian population consists mainly of 198,000 (14.6%) Filipino Americans, 185,000 (13.6%) Japanese Americans, roughly 55,000 (4.0%) Chinese Americans, and 24,000 (1.8%) [Korean Americans](/wiki/Korean_American).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) There are over 80,000 Indigenous Hawaiians—5.9% of the population.[[73]](#cite_note-73) Including those with partial ancestry, Samoan Americans comprise 2.8% of Hawaii's population, and Tongan Americans comprise 0.6%.[[74]](#cite_note-74) Over 120,000 (8.8%) of Hispanic and Latino Americans live in Hawaii. Mexican Americans number over 35,000 (2.6%); Puerto Ricans exceed 44,000 (3.2%). Multiracial Americans comprise almost 25% of Hawaii's population, exceeding 320,000 people. Eurasian Americans are a prominent mixed-race group, numbering about 66,000 (4.9%). The Non-Hispanic White population numbers around 310,000—just over 20% of the population. The multi-racial population outnumbers the non-Hispanic white population by about 10,000 people.[[73]](#cite_note-73) In 1970, the Census Bureau reported Hawaii's population was 38.8% white and 57.7% Asian and Pacific Islander.[[75]](#cite_note-75) The five largest European ancestries in Hawaii are German (7.4%), Irish (5.2%), English (4.6%), Portuguese (4.3%) and Italian (2.7%). About 82.2% of the state's residents were born in the United States. Roughly 75% of foreign-born residents originate in Asia. Hawaii is a [majority-minority state](/wiki/Majority-minority_state). It is expected to be one of three states that will not have a non-Hispanic white plurality in 2014; the other two are [California](/wiki/California) and [New Mexico](/wiki/New_Mexico).[[76]](#cite_note-76) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Ancestry groups[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=22)]

[thumb|Japanese immigration to Hawaii was largely fueled by the high demand for plantation labor in Hawaii post-annexation.](/wiki/File:Early_Japanese_immigrants_to_Hawaii.jpg) [thumb|Many Portuguese immigrants were](/wiki/File:Portuguese_immigrant_family_in_Hawaii_during_the_19th_century.jpg) [Azorean](/wiki/Azores) or [Madeiran](/wiki/Madeira). They brought with them Roman Catholicism and insular Portuguese language and cuisine.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Population of Hawaii**[[77]](#cite_note-77) | | |
| **Ancestry** | **Percentage** | **Main article:** |
| [Filipino](/wiki/Philippines) | **13.6%** | *See* [*Filipinos in Hawaii*](/wiki/Filipinos_in_Hawaii) |
| [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_people) | **12.6%** | *See* [*Japanese in Hawaii*](/wiki/Japanese_in_Hawaii) |
| [Polynesian](/wiki/Polynesia) | **9.0%** | *See* [*Native Hawaiians*](/wiki/Native_Hawaiians) |
| [Germans](/wiki/Germans) | **7.4%** | *See* [*German American*](/wiki/German_American) |
| [Irish](/wiki/Irish_people) | **5.2%** | *See* [*Irish American*](/wiki/Irish_American) |
| [English](/wiki/English_people) | **4.6%** | *See* [*English American*](/wiki/English_American) |
| [Portuguese](/wiki/Portugal) | **4.3%** | *See* [*Portuguese American*](/wiki/Portuguese_American) |
| [Chinese](/wiki/China) | **4.1%** | *See* [*Chinese in Hawaii*](/wiki/Chinese_in_Hawaii) |
| [Korean](/wiki/Korea) | **3.1%** | *See* [*Korean American*](/wiki/Korean_American) |
| [Mexican](/wiki/Mexico) | **2.9%** | *See* [*Mexican American*](/wiki/Mexican_American) |
| [Puerto Rican](/wiki/Puerto_Rico) | **2.8%** | *See* [*Puerto Rican*](/wiki/Puerto_Rican_American) |
| [Italian](/wiki/Italy) | **2.7%** | *See* [*Italian American*](/wiki/Italian_American) |
| [African](/wiki/Africa) | **2.4%** | *See* [*African American*](/wiki/African_American) |
| [French](/wiki/France) | **1.7%** | *See* [*French American*](/wiki/French_American) |
| [Samoan](/wiki/America_Samoa) | **1.3%** | *See* [*Samoan American*](/wiki/Samoan_American) |
| [Scottish](/wiki/Scotland) | **1.2%** | *See* [*Scottish American*](/wiki/Scottish_American) |

The third group of foreigners to arrive in Hawaii were from China. Chinese workers on Western trading ships settled in Hawaii starting in 1789. In 1820, the first American missionaries arrived to preach Christianity and teach the Hawaiians Western ways.[[78]](#cite_note-78) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), a large proportion of Hawaii's population have Asian ancestry—especially Filipino, Japanese and Chinese. Many are descendants of immigrants brought to work on the sugarcane plantations in the mid-to-late 19th century. The first 153 Japanese immigrants arrived in Hawaii on June 19, 1868. They were not approved by the then-current Japanese government because the contract was between a broker and the [Tokugawa shogunate](/wiki/Tokugawa_shogunate)—by then replaced by the [Meiji Restoration](/wiki/Meiji_Restoration). The first Japanese current-government-approved immigrants arrived on February 9, 1885, after Kalākaua's petition to [Emperor Meiji](/wiki/Emperor_Meiji) when Kalākaua visited Japan in 1881.[[79]](#cite_note-79)[[80]](#cite_note-80) Almost 13,000 Portuguese migrants had arrived by 1899; they also worked on the sugarcane plantations.[[81]](#cite_note-81) By 1901, over 5,000 Puerto Ricans were living in Hawaii.[[82]](#cite_note-82)

### Languages[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=23)]

[English](/wiki/English_language) ([General American](/wiki/General_American)) and [Hawaiian](/wiki/Hawaiian_language) are listed as Hawaii's "official languages" in the state's 1978 constitution. Article XV, Section 4 specifies that "Hawaiian shall be required for public acts and transactions only as provided by law". [Hawai](/wiki/Hawaiian_Pidgin)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Creole English, locally referred to as "Pidgin", is the native language of many native residents and is a second language for many others.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

As of the 2000 Census, 73.44% of Hawaii residents aged five and older exclusively speak English at home.<ref name=mla>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> According to the 2008 American Community Survey, 74.6% of Hawaii's residents over the age of five speak only English at home.[[77]](#cite_note-77) In their homes, 21.0% of state residents speak an additional [Asian language](/wiki/Languages_of_Asia), 2.6% speak Spanish, 1.6% speak other [Indo-European languages](/wiki/Indo-European_language) and 0.2% speak an other language.[[77]](#cite_note-77) After English, other languages popularly spoken in the state are [Tagalog](/wiki/Tagalog_language), Japanese and [Ilokano](/wiki/Ilokano_language). Significant numbers of European immigrants and their descendants also speak their native languages; the most numerous are German, Portuguese, Italian and French.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) 5.37% of residents speak Tagalog—which includes non-native speakers of [Filipino language](/wiki/Filipino_language), the national, co-official, Tagalog-based language; 4.96% speak Japanese and 4.05% speak [Ilokano](/wiki/Ilokano_language); 1.2% speak Chinese, 1.68% speak Hawaiian; 1.66% speak Spanish; 1.61% speak [Korean](/wiki/Korean_language); and 1.01% speak [Samoan](/wiki/Samoan_language).<ref name=mla/>

Finally, [Hawai'i Sign Language](/wiki/Hawai'i_Sign_Language) is spoken on the islands, but is dwindling in numbers due to [American Sign Language](/wiki/American_Sign_Language) supplanting HSL through schooling and various other domains.

The keyboard layout used for Hawaiian is [QWERTY](/wiki/QWERTY).[[83]](#cite_note-83) It is closely related to other [Polynesian languages](/wiki/Polynesian_languages), such as [Marquesan](/wiki/Marquesan_language), [Tahitian](/wiki/Tahitian_language), [Māori](/wiki/Māori_language), [Rapa Nui](/wiki/Rapa_Nui_language) (the language of [Easter Island](/wiki/Easter_Island)), and less closely to [Samoan](/wiki/Samoan_language) and [Tongan](/wiki/Tongan_language).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

According to Schütz, the Marquesans colonized the archipelago in roughly 300 CE[[85]](#cite_note-85) and were later followed by waves of seafarers from the [Society Islands](/wiki/Society_Islands), [Samoa](/wiki/Samoa) and [Tonga](/wiki/Tonga).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

These Polynesians remained in the islands; they eventually became the Hawaiian people and [their languages](/wiki/Hawaiian_language#Family_and_origin) evolved into the Hawaiian language.[[86]](#cite_note-86) Kimura and Wilson say, "[l]inguists agree that Hawaiian is closely related to Eastern Polynesian, with a particularly strong link in the Southern Marquesas, and a secondary link in Tahiti, which may be explained by voyaging between the Hawaiian and Society Islands".[[87]](#cite_note-87) Before the arrival of Captain James Cook, the Hawaiian language had no written form. That form was developed mainly by American Protestant |missionaries between 1820 and 1826. They assigned to the Hawaiian phonemes letters from the Latin alphabet.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Interest in Hawaiian increased significantly in the late 20th century. With the help of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, specially designated immersion schools in which all subjects would be taught in Hawaiian were established. The [University of Hawaii](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii_System) developed a Hawaiian language graduate studies program. Municipal codes were altered to favor Hawaiian place and street names for new civic developments.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) A [sign language](/wiki/Sign_language) for the deaf, based on the Hawaiian language, has been in use in the islands since the early 1800s. [Hawaiʻi Sign Language](/wiki/Hawaiʻi_Sign_Language) is now nearly extinct.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Hawaiian distinguishes between [long and short vowel sounds](/wiki/Vowel_length). In modern practice, vowel length is indicated with a [macron](/wiki/Macron) ([*kahakō*](/wiki/Hawaiian_language#Orthography_(writing_system))). Hawaiian-language newspapers (*nūpepa*) published from 1834 to 1948 and traditional native speakers of Hawaiian generally omit the marks in their own writing. The [Template:Okinaokina](/wiki/Template:Okina) and kahakō are intended to help non-native speakers.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) The Hawaiian language uses the [glottal stop](/wiki/Glottal_stop) ([*Template:Okinaokina*](/wiki/Template:Okina)) as a consonant. It is written as a symbol similar to the apostrophe or left-hanging (opening) single quotation mark.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

#### Hawaiian Pidgin[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=25)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:Unreferenced section](/wiki/Template:Unreferenced_section) Some residents of Hawaii speak [Hawai](/wiki/Hawaiian_Pidgin)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Creole English (HCE), endonymically called *pidgin* or *pidgin English*. The lexicon of HCE derives mainly from English but also uses words that have derived from Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Portuguese, [Ilocano](/wiki/Ilocano_language) and Tagalog. During the 19th century, the increase in immigration—mainly from China, Japan, Portugal—especially from the [Azores](/wiki/Azores) and [Madeira](/wiki/Madeira), and Spain—catalyzed the development of a hybrid variant of English known to its speakers as *pidgin*. By the early 20th century, pidgin speakers had children who acquired it as their first language. HCE speakers use some Hawaiian words without those words being considered archaic.[Template:Clarify](/wiki/Template:Clarify) Most place names are retained from Hawaiian, as are some names for plants and animals. For example, tuna fish is often called by its Hawaiian name, *ahi*.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

HCE speakers have modified the meanings of some English words. For example, "aunty" and "uncle" may either refer to any adult who is a friend or be used to show respect to an elder. [Syntax](/wiki/Syntax) and [grammar](/wiki/Grammar) follow distinctive rules different from those of General American English. For example, instead of "it is hot today, isn't it?", an HCE speaker would say simply "stay hot, eh?"[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) The term [*da kine*](/wiki/Da_kine) is used as a [filler](/wiki/Filler_(linguistics)); a substitute for virtually any word or phrase. During the [surfing](/wiki/Surfing) boom in Hawaii, HCE was influenced by surfer slang. Some HCE expressions, such as *brah* and *da kine*, have found their ways elsewhere through surfing communities.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Religion[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=26)]

[thumb|alt = The façade of a Christian church in downtown Honolulu.|The Makiki Christian Church in Honolulu heavily draws upon](/wiki/File:Perspective_view_of_northwest_elevation_-_Makiki_Christian_Church,_829_Pensacola_Street,_Honolulu,_Honolulu_County,_HI_HABS_HI-533-1.tif) [Japanese architecture](/wiki/Japanese_architecture).

The largest denominations by number of adherents were the Catholic Church with 249,619 adherents in 2010[[88]](#cite_note-88) and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints with 68,128 adherents in 2009.[[89]](#cite_note-89) The third-largest religious group includes all non-denominational churches, with 128 congregations and 32,000 members. The third-largest denominational group is the [United Church of Christ](/wiki/United_Church_of_Christ), with 115 congregations and 20,000 members. The Southern Baptist Convention has 108 congregations and 18,000 members in Hawaii.[[90]](#cite_note-90) According to data provided by religious establishments, religion in Hawaii in 2000 was distributed as follows:[[91]](#cite_note-91)[[92]](#cite_note-92)[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* Christianity: 351,000 (29%)
* [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism): 110,000 (9%)
* Judaism: 10,000 (0.8%)
* Other: 100,000 (10%)[Template:Efn-lg](/wiki/Template:Efn-lg)
* Unaffiliated: 650,000 (51%)[Template:Efn-lg](/wiki/Template:Efn-lg)

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

A Pew poll found that the religious composition was as follows:[[93]](#cite_note-93)[Template:Div col](/wiki/Template:Div_col)

* 44% – [Protestantism](/wiki/Protestantism)
* 22% – [Catholicism](/wiki/Roman_Catholicism)
* 6% – [Buddhism](/wiki/Buddhism)
* 5% – [The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints](/wiki/The_Church_of_Jesus_Christ_of_Latter-day_Saints)
* 1% – [Hinduism](/wiki/Hinduism)
* 0.5% – [Judaism](/wiki/Judaism)
* 0.5% – [Islam](/wiki/Islam)
* 17% – Irreligion (including agnostics, [atheists](/wiki/Atheism) and [deists](/wiki/Deist))

[Template:Div col end](/wiki/Template:Div_col_end)

A 2010 [Glenmary Research Center](/wiki/Glenmary_Home_Missioners) study also places the Roman Catholic population as greater than 22%.[[94]](#cite_note-94)

#### Religion notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=27)]

[Template:Notelist-lg](/wiki/Template:Notelist-lg)

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### LGBT[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=28)]

Hawaii has had a long history of [queer](/wiki/Queer) identities. *Māhū* people, who often traversed gender as defined by Western standards, were a respected group of pre-colonization people who were widely known in society as healers. Another Hawaiian word, *aikāne*, referred to same-sex relationships. According to journals written by Captain Cook's crew, it is widely believed that many *ali*[*Template:Okinai*](/wiki/Template:Okina) engaged in *aikāne* relationships. Hawaiian scholar Lilikalā Kame[Template:Okinaeleihiwa](/wiki/Template:Okina) said, "If you didn't sleep with a man, how could you trust him when you went into battle? How would you know if he was going to be the warrior that would protect you at all costs, if he wasn't your lover?"[[95]](#cite_note-95) A 2012 poll by Gallup found that Hawaii had the largest proportion of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) adults in the U.S., at 5.1%, comprising an estimated adult LGBT population of 53,966 individuals. The number of same-sex couple households in 2010 was 3,239; a 35.45% increase of figures from a decade earlier.[[96]](#cite_note-96)[[97]](#cite_note-97) In 2013, Hawaii became the fifteenth U.S. state to legalize same-sex marriage; a University of Hawaii researcher said the law may boost tourism by $217 million.[[98]](#cite_note-98)

## Economy[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=29)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also)

[thumb|alt = In a pineapple field, a laborer stands with his hat in hand.|Post-annexation, Hawaii's economy and demographic changes were fueled by American agricultural interests.](/wiki/File:Pineapple_field_near_Honolulu,_Hawaii,_1907_(CHS-418).jpg) [thumb|alt = An American soldier at Schofield Barracks.|The U.S. military is Hawaii's second largest industry.](/wiki/File:US_Navy_111218-N-RI884-097_The_U.S._Pacific_Fleet_Marching_Band_participates_in_a_parade_through_downtown_Waikiki_honoring_Japanese-American_vetera.jpg) [thumb|upright|alt = A painting of two white women surfing, circa 1935.|Especially from postwar United States onward, depictions and photographs of Hawaii as a tropical leisurely paradise such as this encouraged the growth of tourism in Hawaii into becoming one of the largest industries of the islands today.](/wiki/File:'Two_Surfer_Girls'_by_William_Fulton_Soare,_oil_on_canvas,_c._1935.JPG)

The history of Hawaii's economy can be traced through a succession of dominant industries; [sandalwood](/wiki/Sandalwood),[[99]](#cite_note-99) [whaling](/wiki/Whaling),[[100]](#cite_note-100) sugarcane, [pineapple](/wiki/Pineapple), military, tourism and education. Since statehood in 1959, tourism has been the largest industry, contributing 24.3% of the gross state product (GSP) in 1997, despite efforts to diversify. The state's gross output for 2003 was [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)[Template:Nbspbillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp); per capita income for Hawaii residents was [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Hawaiian exports include food and clothing. These industries play a small role in the Hawaiian economy, due to the shipping distance to viable markets, such as the West Coast of the continental U.S. The state's food exports include coffee, macadamia nuts, pineapple, livestock, sugarcane and honey.[[101]](#cite_note-101) By weight, honey bees may be the state's most valuable export.[[102]](#cite_note-102) According to the Hawaii Agricultural Statistics Service, agricultural sales were [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)[Template:Nbspmillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) from diversified agriculture, [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)[Template:Nbspmillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) from pineapple, and [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)[Template:Nbspmillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) from sugarcane. Hawaii's relatively consistent climate has attracted the seed industry, which is able to test three generations of crops per year on the islands, compared with one or two on the mainland.[[103]](#cite_note-103) Seeds yielded [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$) million in 2012, supporting 1,400 workers.<ref name=ny1310>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>

As of December 2015, the state's unemployment rate was 3.2%.[[104]](#cite_note-104) In 2009, the United States military spent [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)[Template:Nbspbillion](/wiki/Template:Nbsp) in Hawaii, accounting for 18% of spending in the state for that year. 75,000 United States Department of Defense personnel live in Hawaii.[[105]](#cite_note-105) According to a 2013 study by Phoenix Marketing International, Hawaii had the fourth-largest number of millionaires per capita in the United States, with a ratio of 7.18%.[[106]](#cite_note-106)

### Taxation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=30)]

Hawaii residents pay the most per person in state taxes in the United States.<ref name= taxes>[Template:Cite web](/wiki/Template:Cite_web)</ref> Millions of tourists pay [general excise tax](/wiki/Excise) and hotel room tax.<ref name= taxes/>

The Hawaii Tax Foundation considers the state's tax burden too high, which it says contributes to higher prices and the perception of an unfriendly business climate.<ref name= taxes/>

[State Senator](/wiki/Hawaii_Senate) [Sam Slom](/wiki/Sam_Slom) says state taxes are comparatively higher than other states because the state government handles education, health care, and social services that are usually handled at a county or municipal level in most other states.<ref name= taxes/>

### Cost of living[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=31)]

The cost of living in Hawaii, specifically Honolulu, is high compared to that of most major U.S. cities. However, the cost of living in Honolulu is 6.7% lower than in New York City and 3.6% lower than in San Francisco.[[107]](#cite_note-107) These numbers may not take some costs, such as increased travel costs for flights, additional shipping fees, and the loss of promotional participation opportunities for customers outside the continental U.S., into account. While some online stores offer free shipping on orders to Hawaii,[[108]](#cite_note-108) many merchants exclude Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and certain other U.S. territories.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Hawaiian Electric Industries](/wiki/Hawaiian_Electric_Industries), a privately owned company, provides 95% of the state's population with electricity, mostly from fossil-fuel power stations. Average electricity prices in October 2014 ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) were nearly three times the national average ([Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert)) and 80% higher than the second-highest state, Connecticut.[[109]](#cite_note-109) The median home value in Hawaii in the 2000 U.S. Census was [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$), while the national median home value was [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$). Hawaii home values were the highest of all states, including California with a median home value of [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$).[[110]](#cite_note-110) Research from the [National Association of Realtors](/wiki/National_Association_of_Realtors) places the 2010 median sale price of a single family home in Honolulu, Hawaii, at [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$) and the U.S. median sales price at [Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$). The sale price of single family homes in Hawaii was the highest of any U.S. city in 2010, just above that of the Silicon Valley area of California ([Template:US$](/wiki/Template:US$)).[[111]](#cite_note-111) Hawaii's very high [cost of living](/wiki/Cost_of_living) is the result of several interwoven factors of the global economy in addition to domestic U.S. government trade policy. Like other regions with desirable weather throughout the year, such as areas of [California](/wiki/California), [Arizona](/wiki/Arizona) and [Florida](/wiki/Florida), Hawaii's residents can be considered to be subject to a "[Sunshine tax](/wiki/Sunshine_tax)". This situation is further exacerbated by the natural factors of geography and world distribution that lead to higher prices for goods due to increased shipping costs, a problem which many [island states and territories](/wiki/Island_country) suffer from as well. The situation is compounded even further by what could possibly be the single largest contributor to the high costs of living in Hawaii, a U.S. trade law known as the [Jones Act, or the Merchant Marine Act of 1920](/wiki/Merchant_Marine_Act_of_1920). This trade regulation prohibits any foreign-flagged ships from carrying cargo between two American ports—a practice known as [cabotage](/wiki/Cabotage). Most consumer goods in the United States are manufactured by [outsourced](/wiki/Outsourcing) labor in East Asia, then transported by [container ships](/wiki/Container_ship) to ports on the [U.S. mainland](/wiki/Contiguous_United_States), and Hawaii also receives the same goods. Being located in the central Pacific Ocean, right between major Pacific shipping lanes, it would be very economical to unload Hawaiian-bound goods in [Honolulu](/wiki/Honolulu), before continuing on to the mainland. However, this would effectively make the second leg of the voyage between Hawaii and the mainland a domestic route between two American ports. Because most large cargo ships operate under [foreign "flags of convenience"](/wiki/Flag_of_convenience) such as [Liberia](/wiki/Liberia), [Vanuatu](/wiki/Vanuatu) or [Papua New Guinea](/wiki/Papua_New_Guinea), allowing them to avoid the more stringent, and thus more costly, regulations of developed nations' ports, the domestic leg of the voyage would be disallowed by the Jones Act. Instead, those cargo ships must proceed directly to the West Coast, where distributors [break bulk](/wiki/Break_bulk_cargo) and transport the Hawaiian-bound, Asian-manufactured goods back across the ocean by U.S.-flagged ships and increasing the length of the voyage by more than 50%. This highly-inefficient system of shipping Hawaii's consumer cargo comes at a very hefty price for the average Hawaiian citizen, and makes the cost of living in Hawaii much, much higher than it would otherwise be.[[112]](#cite_note-112)[[113]](#cite_note-113) Hawaiian consumers ultimately bear the expense of transporting goods imposed by the Jones Act. This law makes Hawaii less competitive than West Coast ports as a shopping destination for tourists from countries with much higher taxes like Japan, even though prices for Asian-manufactured goods should be cheaper because Hawaii is much closer than mainland states to Asia.[[114]](#cite_note-114)[[115]](#cite_note-115) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Culture[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=32)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section)

The aboriginal culture of Hawaii is Polynesian. Hawaii represents the northernmost extension of the vast [Polynesian Triangle](/wiki/Polynesian_Triangle) of the south and central Pacific Ocean. While traditional Hawaiian culture remains as vestiges in modern Hawaiian society, there are re-enactments of the ceremonies and traditions throughout the islands. Some of these cultural influences, including the popularity (in greatly modified form) of [*lū*](/wiki/Luau)[*Template:Okinaau*](/wiki/Template:Okina) and [*hula*](/wiki/Hula), are strong enough to affect the wider United States.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Cuisine[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=33)]

[thumb|upright|alt = A painting of a man carrying taro by a yoke.|](/wiki/File:Man_with_a_Yoke_Carrying_Taro_by_Joseph_Strong,_oil_on_canvas_board,_1880,_Honolulu_Museum_of_Art,_accession_12692.1.JPG)[Taro](/wiki/Taro), or in Hawaiian *kalo*, was one of the primary staples in Ancient Hawaii and remains a central ingredient in Hawaiian gastronomy today.

The [cuisine of Hawaii](/wiki/Cuisine_of_Hawaii) is a fusion of many foods brought by immigrants to the Hawaiian Islands, including the earliest Polynesians and [Native Hawaiian cuisine](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian_cuisine), and [American](/wiki/Cuisine_of_the_United_States), [Chinese](/wiki/Chinese_cuisine), [Filipino](/wiki/Philippine_cuisine), [Japanese](/wiki/Japanese_cuisine), [Korean](/wiki/Korean_cuisine), [Polynesian](/wiki/Polynesian_cuisine) and [Portuguese](/wiki/Portuguese_cuisine) origins. Plant and animal food sources are imported from around the world for agricultural use in Hawaii. [*Poi*](/wiki/Poi_(food)), a starch made by pounding [taro](/wiki/Taro), is one of the traditional foods of the islands. Many local restaurants serve the ubiquitous [plate lunch](/wiki/Plate_lunch), which features two scoops of rice, a simplified version of American [macaroni salad](/wiki/Macaroni_salad) and a variety of toppings including [hamburger](/wiki/Hamburger) patties, a fried egg, and [gravy](/wiki/Gravy) of a [*loco moco*](/wiki/Loco_moco), Japanese style [*tonkatsu*](/wiki/Tonkatsu) or the traditional lū[Template:Okinaau](/wiki/Template:Okina) favorites, including [*kālua*](/wiki/Kalua) pork and [*laulau*](/wiki/Laulau). [*Spam musubi*](/wiki/Spam_musubi) is an example of the fusion of ethnic cuisine that developed on the islands among the mix of immigrant groups and military personnel. In the 1990s, a group of chefs developed [Hawaii regional cuisine](/wiki/Hawaii_regional_cuisine) as a contemporary fusion cuisine.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Customs and etiquette[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=34)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) Some key customs and etiquette in Hawaii are as follows: when visiting a home, it is considered good manners to bring a small gift for one's host (for example, a dessert). Thus, parties are usually in the form of potlucks. Most locals take their shoes off before entering a home. It is customary for Hawaiian families, regardless of ethnicity, to hold a luau to celebrate a child's first birthday. It is also customary at Hawaiian weddings, especially at Filipino weddings, for the bride and groom to do a money dance (also called the pandango). Print media and local residents recommend that one refer to non-Hawaiians as "locals of Hawaii" or "people of Hawaii".

### Hawaiian mythology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=35)]

[thumb|upright|A stone carving of a Hawaiian deity, housed at a German museum.](/wiki/File:Ethnologisches_Museum_Dahlem_Berlin_Mai_2006_009.jpg) [Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

Hawaiian mythology comprises the legends, historical tales, and sayings of the ancient Hawaiian people. It is considered a variant of a more general [Polynesian mythology](/wiki/Polynesian_mythology) that developed a unique character for several centuries before about 1800. It is associated with the [Hawaiian religion](/wiki/Hawaiian_religion), which was officially suppressed in the 19th century but was kept alive by some practitioners to the modern day.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Prominent figures and terms include [Aumakua](/wiki/Aumakua), the spirit of an ancestor or family god and [Kāne](/wiki/Kāne), the highest of the four major Hawaiian deities.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### Polynesian mythology[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=36)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[thumb|upright|A sacred god figure wrapping for the war god](/wiki/File:Tahiti-Oro.jpg) ['Oro](/wiki/'Oro), made of woven dried coconut fibre ([sennit](/wiki/Sennit)), which would have protected a Polynesian god effigy (*to'o*), made of wood.

Polynesian mythology is the [oral traditions](/wiki/Oral_tradition) of the people of Polynesia, a grouping of Central and South Pacific Ocean island [archipelagos](/wiki/Archipelago) in the [Polynesian triangle](/wiki/Polynesian_triangle) together with the scattered cultures known as the [Polynesian outliers](/wiki/Polynesian_outliers). Polynesians speak languages that descend from a language reconstructed as [Proto-Polynesian](/wiki/Proto-Polynesian_language) that was probably spoken in the area around Tonga and Samoa in around 1000 BCE.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Prior to the 15th century, [Polynesian people](/wiki/Polynesian_culture) migrated east to the [Cook Islands](/wiki/Cook_Islands), and from there to other island groups such as Tahiti and the [Marquesas](/wiki/Marquesas). Their descendants later discovered the islands Tahiti, Rapa Nui and later the Hawaiian Islands and New Zealand.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The Polynesian languages are part of the Austronesian language family. Many are close enough in terms of vocabulary and grammar to be [mutually intelligible](/wiki/Mutual_intelligibility). There are also substantial cultural similarities between the various groups, especially in terms of social organization, childrearing, horticulture, building and textile technologies. Their mythologies in particular demonstrate local reworkings of commonly shared tales. The Polynesian cultures each have distinct but related oral traditions; legends or myths are traditionally considered to recount ancient history (the time of "pō") and the adventures of gods ("[atua](/wiki/Atua)") and deified ancestors.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

### List of state parks[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=37)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

There are [many Hawaiian state parks](/wiki/List_of_Hawaiian_state_parks).

* The [Island of Hawai](/wiki/Hawaii_(island))[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) has state parks, recreation areas, and historical parks.
* [Kaua](/wiki/Kauai)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) has the [Ahukini State Recreation Pier](/wiki/Ahukini_State_Recreation_Pier), six state parks, and the [Russian Fort Elizabeth State Historical Park](/wiki/Russian_Fort_Elizabeth_State_Historical_Park).
* [Maui](/wiki/Maui) has two state monuments, several state parks, and the [Polipoli Spring State Recreation Area](/wiki/Polipoli_Spring_State_Recreation_Area). [Moloka‘i](/wiki/Moloka‘i) has the [Pala'au State Park](/wiki/Pala'au_State_Park). \*[O](/wiki/Oahu)[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) has several state parks, a number of state recreation areas, and a number of monuments, including the [Ulu Pō Heiau State Monument](/wiki/Ulu_Pō_Heiau_State_Monument).

### Literature[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=38)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

The literature of Hawaii is diverse and includes authors [Kiana Davenport](/wiki/Kiana_Davenport), [Lois-Ann Yamanaka](/wiki/Lois-Ann_Yamanaka), and [Kaui Hart Hemmings](/wiki/Kaui_Hart_Hemmings). Hawaiian magazines include [*Hana Hou!*](/wiki/Hana_Hou!), [*Hawaii Business Magazine*](/wiki/Hawaii_Business_Magazine) and [*Honolulu*](/wiki/Honolulu_(magazine)), among others.

### Music[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=39)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Bonnaroo08_jackjohnson2_lg.jpg)[Jack Johnson](/wiki/Jack_Johnson_(musician)), folk rock musician, was born and raised on [Oahu's North Shore](/wiki/North_Shore_(Oahu)). [thumb|left|upright|alt = A young man holds a small four-stringed instrument and strums.|A young](/wiki/File:Chã_das_Caldeiras-Musicien.jpg) [Cape Verdean](/wiki/Cape_Verde) man plays the Portuguese [*cavaquinho*](/wiki/Cavaquinho), a four-stringed instrument from which the [Template:Okinaukulele](/wiki/Template:Okina) is descended.

The music of Hawaii includes traditional and popular styles, ranging from native Hawaiian folk music to modern [rock](/wiki/Rock_music) and [hip hop](/wiki/Hip_hop_music). Hawaii's musical contributions to the [music of the United States](/wiki/Music_of_the_United_States) are out of proportion to the state's small size. Styles like [slack-key guitar](/wiki/Slack-key_guitar) are well-known worldwide, while Hawaiian-tinged music is a frequent part of [Hollywood](/wiki/Hollywood) soundtracks. Hawaii also made a major contribution to [country music](/wiki/Country_music) with the introduction of the [steel guitar](/wiki/Steel_guitar).[[116]](#cite_note-116) Traditional Hawaiian folk music is a major part of the state's musical heritage. The Hawaiian people have inhabited the islands for centuries and have retained much of their traditional musical knowledge. Their music is largely religious in nature, and includes chanting and dance music. Hawaiian music has had an enormous impact on the [music of other Polynesian islands](/wiki/Polynesian_music); according to Peter Manuel, the influence of Hawaiian music a "unifying factor in the development of modern Pacific musics".[[117]](#cite_note-117)

## Tourism[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=40)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [thumb|](/wiki/File:Punaluu_Beach_Park,_Big_Island,_Hawaii.jpg) [Punalu'u Beach](/wiki/Punalu'u_Beach) on the Big Island. [Tourism](/wiki/Tourism_in_Hawaii) is Hawaii's leading employer. Tourism is an important part of the Hawaiian economy. In 2003, according to state government data, there were over 6.4 million visitors, with expenditures of over $10 billion, to the Hawaiian Islands.[[118]](#cite_note-118) Due to the mild year-round weather, tourist travel is popular throughout the year. The major holidays are the most popular times for outsiders to visit, especially in the winter months. Substantial numbers of Japanese tourists still visit the islands but have now been surpassed by Chinese and Koreans due to the collapse of the value of the Yen and the weak Japanese economy. The average Japanese stays only 5 days while other Asians spend over 9.5 days and spend 25% more.[[119]](#cite_note-119)[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Hawaii hosts numerous cultural events. The annual [Merrie Monarch Festival](/wiki/Merrie_Monarch_Festival) is an international Hula competition.[[120]](#cite_note-120) The [Hawaii International Film Festival](/wiki/Hawaii_International_Film_Festival) is the premier film festival for Pacific rim cinema.[[121]](#cite_note-121) Honolulu hosts the state's long-running LGBT film festival, the [Rainbow Film Festival](/wiki/Rainbow_Film_Festival).[[122]](#cite_note-122)[[123]](#cite_note-123)

## Health[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=41)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), Hawaii's health care system insures 92% of residents. Under the state's plan, businesses are required to provide insurance to employees who work more than twenty hours per week. Heavy regulation of insurance companies helps reduce the cost to employers. Due in part to heavy emphasis on preventive care, Hawaiians require hospital treatment less frequently than the rest of the United States, while total health care expenses measured as a percentage of state GDP are substantially lower.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Proponents of [universal health care](/wiki/Universal_health_care) elsewhere in the U.S. sometimes use Hawaii as a model for proposed federal and state health care plans.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

## Education[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=42)]

### Public schools[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=43)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|alt=Façade of a public high school.|Waianae High School, located in](/wiki/File:Waianae_High_School_(5888481033).jpg) [Wai](/wiki/Waianae,_Hawaii)[Template:Okinaanae](/wiki/Template:Okina), houses an educational community media center.

Hawaii has the only school system within the U.S. that is unified statewide. Policy decisions are made by the fourteen-member state [Board of Education](/wiki/Hawaii_Board_of_Education), which sets policy and hires the superintendent of schools, who oversees the state [Department of Education](/wiki/Hawai'i_Department_of_Education). The Department of Education is divided into seven districts; four on O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) and one for each of the other three counties. The main rationale for centralization is to combat inequalities between highly populated O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) and the more rural Neighbor Islands, and between lower-income and more affluent areas. In most of the U.S., schools are funded from local property taxes. Educators struggle with children of non-native-English-speaking immigrants, whose cultures are different from those of the mainland, where most course materials and testing standards originate.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Public elementary, middle and high school test scores in Hawaii are below national averages on tests mandated under the [No Child Left Behind Act](/wiki/No_Child_Left_Behind_Act). The Hawaii Board of Education requires all eligible students to take these tests and report all student test scores; some other states—Texas and Michigan, for example—do not. This may have unbalanced the results that reported in August 2005 that of 282 schools across the state, 185 failed to reach federal minimum performance standards in mathematics and reading.[[124]](#cite_note-124) The [ACT college placement tests](/wiki/ACT_(examination)) show that in 2005, seniors scored slightly above the national average (21.9 compared with 20.9),[[125]](#cite_note-125) but in the widely accepted [SAT](/wiki/SAT) examinations, Hawaii's college-bound seniors tend to score below the national average in all categories except mathematics.

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Private schools[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=44)]

Hawaii has the highest rates of private school attendance in the nation.[[2]](#cite_note-2) During the 2011-2012 school year, Hawaii public and charter schools had an enrollment of 181,213,[[126]](#cite_note-126) while private schools had 37,695.[[127]](#cite_note-127) Private schools educated over 17% of students in Hawaii that school year, nearly three times the approximate national average of 6%.[[128]](#cite_note-128) It has four of the largest independent schools; [Template:OkinaIolani](/wiki/Template:Okina) School, [Kamehameha Schools](/wiki/Kamehameha_Schools), [Mid-Pacific Institute](/wiki/Mid-Pacific_Institute) and [Punahou School](/wiki/Punahou_School). [Pacific Buddhist Academy](/wiki/Pacific_Buddhist_Academy), the second Buddhist high school in the U.S. and first such school in Hawaii, was founded in 2003. The first native controlled public charter school was the [Kanu O Ka Aina New Century Charter School](/wiki/Kanu_O_Ka_Aina_New_Century_Charter_School).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Independent and charter schools can select their students, while the public schools are open to all students in their district. The Kamehameha Schools are the only schools in the U.S. that openly grant admission to students based on ancestry; collectively, they are one of the wealthiest schools in the United States, if not the world, having over eleven billion [US dollars](/wiki/US_dollars) in estate assets.[[129]](#cite_note-129) In 2005, Kamehameha enrolled 5,398 students, 8.4% of the Native Hawaiian children in the state.[[130]](#cite_note-130)

### Colleges and universities[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=45)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Unreferenced section](/wiki/Template:Unreferenced_section) [thumb|right| Main Entrance of the](/wiki/File:University_of_Hawaii_at_Hilo.jpg) [University of Hawaii at Hilo](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii_at_Hilo)

Graduates of secondary schools in Hawaii often enter directly into the workforce. Some attend colleges and universities on the mainland or other countries, and the rest attend an institution of higher learning in Hawaii. The largest is the [University of Hawaii System](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii_System), which consists of: the research university at [Mānoa](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii_at_Manoa), two comprehensive campuses at [Hilo](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii_at_Hilo) and [West O](/wiki/University_of_Hawaii-West_Oahu)[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina), and seven community colleges. Private universities include [Brigham Young University–Hawaii](/wiki/Brigham_Young_University–Hawaii), [Chaminade University of Honolulu](/wiki/Chaminade_University_of_Honolulu), [Hawaii Pacific University](/wiki/Hawaii_Pacific_University), and [Wayland Baptist University](/wiki/Wayland_Baptist_University). [Saint Stephen Diocesan Center](/wiki/Saint_Stephen_Diocesan_Seminary,_Honolulu) is a [seminary](/wiki/Seminary) of the [Roman Catholic Diocese of Honolulu](/wiki/Roman_Catholic_Diocese_of_Honolulu). Kona hosts the [University of the Nations](/wiki/University_of_the_Nations), which is not an [accredited](/wiki/Educational_accreditation) university.

### Pūnana Leo[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=46)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main) First opened in 1984 illegally in [Kekaha](/wiki/Kekaha), [Kaua'i](/wiki/Kaua'i), the Pūnana Leo or "Language Nest" (lit. "Nest of Voices") were the first indigenous language immersion schools in the United States. Modelled after the Māori language [Kōhanga reo](/wiki/Kohanga_reo) of [New Zealand](/wiki/New_Zealand), they provide preschool aged children the opportunity to engage in early education through a Hawaiian language medium, generally taught by elders. Graduates from the Pūnana Leo schools have achieved several measures of academic success in later life. As of 2006, there were a total of eleven Pūnana Leo preschools, with locations on five of the islands.

[Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Transportation[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=47)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [thumb|The main welcome sign for Honolulu Airport.](/wiki/File:HonoluluAirportWelcomeSign.jpg)

A [system of state highways](/wiki/List_of_Hawaii_state_highways) encircles each main island. Only O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) has federal highways, and is the only area outside the contiguous 48 states to have signed [Interstate highways](/wiki/Interstate_Highway_System). Narrow, winding roads and congestion in populated places can slow traffic. Each major island has a public bus system.

[Honolulu International Airport](/wiki/Honolulu_International_Airport) ([IATA](/wiki/International_Air_Transport_Association_airport_code):[Template:NbspHNL](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)), which shares runways with the adjacent [Hickam Field](/wiki/Hickam_Field) (IATA:[Template:NbspHIK](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)), is the major commercial aviation hub of Hawaii. The commercial aviation airport offers intercontinental service to North America, Asia, Australia and Oceania. [Hawaiian Airlines](/wiki/Hawaiian_Airlines), [Mokulele Airlines](/wiki/Mokulele_Airlines) and [go!](/wiki/Go!_(airline)) use jets to provide services between the large airports in Honolulu, Līhu[Template:Okinae](/wiki/Template:Okina), Kahului, Kona and Hilo. [Island Air](/wiki/Island_Air_(Hawaii)) and [Pacific Wings](/wiki/Pacific_Wings) serve smaller airports. These airlines also provide air freight services between the islands.

Until air passenger services began in the 1920s,[[131]](#cite_note-131) private boats were the sole means of traveling between the islands. Seaflite operated hydrofoils between the major islands in the mid-1970s.[[132]](#cite_note-132) The [Hawaii Superferry](/wiki/Hawaii_Superferry) operated between O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina) and Maui between December 2007 and March 2009, with additional routes planned for other islands. Protests and legal problems over environmental impact statements ended the service, though the company operating Superferry has expressed a wish to recommence ferry services in the future.[[133]](#cite_note-133) Currently there are passenger ferry services in [Maui County](/wiki/Maui_County) between Moloka[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) and Maui,[[134]](#cite_note-134) and between Lana[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) and Maui,[[135]](#cite_note-135) though neither of these take vehicles. Currently [Norwegian Cruise Lines](/wiki/Norwegian_Cruise_Lines) and [Princess Cruises](/wiki/Princess_Cruises) provide passenger cruise ship services between the larger islands.[[136]](#cite_note-136)[[137]](#cite_note-137) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

### Rail[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=48)]

At one time Hawaii had a network of railroads on each of the larger islands that transported farm commodities and passengers. Most were [Template:RailGauge](/wiki/Template:RailGauge) [narrow gauge](/wiki/Narrow_gauge) systems but there were some [Template:RailGauge](/wiki/Template:RailGauge) gauge on some of the smaller islands. The standard gauge in the U.S. is [Template:RailGauge](/wiki/Template:RailGauge). By far the largest railroad was the [Oahu Railway and Land Company](/wiki/Oahu_Railway_and_Land_Company) (OR&L) that ran lines from Honolulu across the western and northern part of Oahu.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The OR&L was important for moving troops and goods during World War II. Traffic on this line was busy enough for signals to be used to facilitate movement of trains and to require [wigwag](/wiki/Wigwag_(railroad)) signals at some railroad crossings for the protection of motorists. The main line was officially abandoned in 1947, although part of it was bought by the U.S. Navy and operated until 1970. [Template:Convert](/wiki/Template:Convert) of track remain; preservationists occasionally run trains over a portion of this line.[[138]](#cite_note-138) The [Honolulu High-Capacity Transit Corridor Project](/wiki/Honolulu_High-Capacity_Transit_Corridor_Project) aims to add elevated passenger rail on Oahu to relieve highway congestion.[[2]](#cite_note-2)

## Governance[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=49)]

[Template:Refimprove section](/wiki/Template:Refimprove_section) [Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Gallery](/wiki/Template:Gallery) [thumb|The](/wiki/File:Iolani_Palace_(1328).JPG) [Template:OkinaIolani](/wiki/Template:Okina) Palace in [Honolulu](/wiki/Honolulu), formerly the residence of the Hawaiian monarch, was the capitol of the Republic of Hawaii.

### State government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=50)]

The state government of Hawaii is modeled after the federal government with adaptations originating from the kingdom era of Hawaiian history. As codified in the [Constitution of Hawaii](/wiki/Constitution_of_Hawaii), there are three [branches of government](/wiki/Branches_of_government): executive, legislative and judicial. The executive branch is led by the [Governor of Hawaii](/wiki/Governor_of_Hawaii), who is assisted by the [Lieutenant Governor of Hawaii](/wiki/Lieutenant_Governor_of_Hawaii), both of whom are elected on the same ticket. The governor is the only state public official elected statewide; all others are appointed by the governor. The lieutenant governor acts as the [Secretary of State](/wiki/Secretary_of_State_of_Hawaii). The governor and lieutenant governor oversee twenty agencies and departments from offices in the [State Capitol](/wiki/Hawaii_State_Capitol). The official residence of the governor is [Washington Place](/wiki/Washington_Place).[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

The legislative branch consists of the [bicameral](/wiki/Bicameralism) [Hawaii State Legislature](/wiki/Hawaii_State_Legislature), which is composed of the 51-member [Hawaii House of Representatives](/wiki/Hawaii_House_of_Representatives) led by the [Speaker of the House](/wiki/Speaker_(politics)), and the 25-member [Hawaii Senate](/wiki/Hawaii_Senate) led by the [President of the Senate](/wiki/President_of_the_Senate). The Legislature meets at the State Capitol. The unified judicial branch of Hawaii is the [Hawaii State Judiciary](/wiki/Hawaii_State_Judiciary). The [state's highest court](/wiki/State_supreme_court) is the [Supreme Court of Hawaii](/wiki/Supreme_Court_of_Hawaii), which uses [Ali](/wiki/Aliiolani_Hale)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina)ōlani Hale as its chambers.

### Political subdivisions and local government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=51)]

[Template:See also](/wiki/Template:See_also) [Template:Unreferenced section](/wiki/Template:Unreferenced_section) The movement of the Hawaiian royal family from Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Island to Maui, and subsequently to O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina), explains the modern-day distribution of population centers. [Kamehameha III](/wiki/Kamehameha_III) chose the largest city, Honolulu, as his capital because of its natural harbor—the present-day [Honolulu Harbor](/wiki/Honolulu_Harbor). Now the state capital, Honolulu is located along the southeast coast of O[Template:Okinaahu](/wiki/Template:Okina). The previous capital was [Lahaina](/wiki/Lahaina,_Hawaii), Maui, and before that [Kailua-Kona](/wiki/Kailua-Kona), Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina). Some major towns are [Hilo](/wiki/Hilo,_Hawaii); [Kāne](/wiki/Kāne'ohe,_Hawai'i)[Template:Okinaohe](/wiki/Template:Okina); [Kailua](/wiki/Kailua,_Honolulu_County,_Hawaii); [Pearl City](/wiki/Pearl_City,_Hawaii); [Waipahu](/wiki/Waipahu,_Hawaii); [Kahului](/wiki/Kahului,_Hawaii); [Kailua-Kona](/wiki/Kailua,_Hawaii_County,_Hawaii). [Kīhei](/wiki/Kihei,_Hawaii); and [Līhu](/wiki/Lihue,_Hawaii)[Template:Okinae](/wiki/Template:Okina).

Hawaii comprises five counties: the [City and County of Honolulu](/wiki/Honolulu_County,_Hawaii), [Hawaii County](/wiki/Hawaii_County,_Hawaii), [Maui County](/wiki/Maui_County,_Hawaii), [Kauai County](/wiki/Kauai_County,_Hawaii), and [Kalawao County](/wiki/Kalawao_County,_Hawaii).

Hawaii has the fewest local governments among U.S. states.[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140) Unique to this state is the lack of [municipal governments](/wiki/Municipal_corporation). All local governments are generally administered at the [county](/wiki/County_(United_States)) level. The only incorporated area in the state is [Honolulu County](/wiki/Honolulu_County,_Hawaii), a [consolidated city–county](/wiki/Consolidated_city–county) that governs the entire island of Oahu. County executives are referred to as mayors; these are the [Mayor of Hawaii County](/wiki/Mayor_of_Hawaii_County), [Mayor of Honolulu](/wiki/Mayor_of_Honolulu), [Mayor of Kaua](/wiki/Mayor_of_Kauai)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina), and the [Mayor of Maui](/wiki/Mayor_of_Maui). The mayors are all elected in [nonpartisan](/wiki/Nonpartisan) elections.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed) Kalawao County has no elected government,[[141]](#cite_note-141) and as [mentioned above](/wiki/#Education) there are no local [school districts](/wiki/School_district) and instead all local public education is administered at the state level by the [Hawaii Department of Education](/wiki/Hawaii_Department_of_Education). The remaining local governments are [special districts](/wiki/Special-purpose_district).[[139]](#cite_note-139)[[140]](#cite_note-140)

### Federal government[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=52)]

[Template:Gallery](/wiki/Template:Gallery)

Hawaii is represented in the [United States Congress](/wiki/United_States_Congress) by two senators and two [representatives](/wiki/United_States_House_of_Representatives). [Template:As of](/wiki/Template:As_of), all four are Democrats. [Mark Takai](/wiki/Mark_Takai) represents the [1st congressional district](/wiki/Hawaii's_1st_congressional_district) in the House, representing southeastern Oahu, including central Honolulu. [Tulsi Gabbard](/wiki/Tulsi_Gabbard) represents the [2nd congressional district](/wiki/Hawaii's_2nd_congressional_district), representing the rest of the state, which is largely rural and semi-rural.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

[Brian Schatz](/wiki/Brian_Schatz) is the senior United States Senator from Hawaii. He was appointed to the office on December 26, 2012, by Governor [Neil Abercrombie](/wiki/Neil_Abercrombie), following the death of former senator [Daniel Inouye](/wiki/Daniel_Inouye). The state's junior senator is [Mazie Hirono](/wiki/Mazie_Hirono), the former representative from the second congressional district. Hirono is the first female Asian American senator and the first Buddhist senator. Hawaii incurred the biggest [seniority](/wiki/Seniority_in_the_United_States_Senate) shift between the [112th](/wiki/112th_United_States_Congress) and [113th](/wiki/113th_United_States_Congress) Congresses. The state went from a delegation consisting of senators who were first and twenty-first in seniority[Template:Efn](/wiki/Template:Efn) to their respective replacements, relative newcomers Schatz and Hirono.[[142]](#cite_note-142) Federal officials in Hawaii are based at the [Prince Kūhiō Federal Building](/wiki/Prince_Kuhio_Federal_Building) near the [Aloha Tower](/wiki/Aloha_Tower) and Honolulu Harbor. The [Federal Bureau of Investigation](/wiki/Federal_Bureau_of_Investigation), [Internal Revenue Service](/wiki/Internal_Revenue_Service) and the [Secret Service](/wiki/United_States_Secret_Service) maintain their offices there; the building is also the site of the [federal](/wiki/United_States_federal_courts) [District Court for the District of Hawaii](/wiki/United_States_District_Court_for_the_District_of_Hawaii) and the [United States Attorney for the District of Hawaii](/wiki/United_States_Attorney_for_the_District_of_Hawaii).

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### National politics[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=53)]

Since gaining statehood and participating in its first election in[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)[1960](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1960), Hawaii has supported Democrats in all but two presidential elections; [1972](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1972) and[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)[1984](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_1984), both of which were landslide victories for Republicans [Richard Nixon](/wiki/Richard_Nixon) and [Ronald Reagan](/wiki/Ronald_Reagan) respectively. In Hawaii's statehood tenure, only Minnesota has supported Republican candidates fewer times in presidential elections.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Hawaii hasn't elected a Republican to represent the state in the U.S. Senate since [Hiram Fong](/wiki/Hiram_Fong) in 1970; since 1977, both of the state's U.S. Senators have been Democrats.[[143]](#cite_note-143)[[144]](#cite_note-144) In [2004](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2004), [John Kerry](/wiki/John_Kerry) won the state's four electoral votes by a margin of nine percentage points with 54% of the vote. Every county supported the Democratic candidate. In 1964, [favorite son](/wiki/Favorite_son) candidate senator [Hiram Fong](/wiki/Hiram_Fong) of Hawaii sought the [Republican](/wiki/Republican_Party_(United_States)) presidential nomination, while [Patsy Mink](/wiki/Patsy_Mink) ran in the Oregon primary in 1972.[Template:Citation needed](/wiki/Template:Citation_needed)

Honolulu-born [Barack Obama](/wiki/Barack_Obama), then serving as [United States Senator](/wiki/United_States_Senator) from [Illinois](/wiki/Illinois), was elected the [44th](/wiki/List_of_United_States_Presidents) President of the United States on [November 4, 2008](/wiki/United_States_presidential_election,_2008) and was re-elected for a second term on [November 6, 2012](/wiki/United_States_Presidential_Election,_2012). Obama had won the Hawaii Democratic caucus on February 19, 2008, with 76% of the vote. He was the third Hawaii-born candidate to seek the nomination of a major party and the first presidential nominee from Hawaii.[[145]](#cite_note-145)[[146]](#cite_note-146) [Template:Clear](/wiki/Template:Clear)

## Legal status of Hawaii[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=54)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

While Hawaii is internationally recognized as a state of the United States of America while also being broadly accepted as such in mainstream understanding, the legality of this status has been raised in U.S. District Court,<ref name=district/> the U.N., and other international forums.<ref name=UN-forum/> Domestically, the debate is a topic covered in the [Kamehameha Schools](/wiki/Kamehameha_Schools) curriculum.<ref name=curriculum/> On September 29, 2015 the [Department of the Interior](/wiki/Department_of_the_Interior) announced a procedure to recognize a [Native Hawaiian government](/wiki/United_States_federal_recognition_of_Native_Hawaiians).<ref name=Lauer>[Template:Cite news](/wiki/Template:Cite_news)</ref>[[147]](#cite_note-147)

### Hawaiian sovereignty movement[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=55)]

[Template:Main](/wiki/Template:Main)

[Political](/wiki/Political) organizations seeking some form of sovereignty for Hawaii have been active since the 1880s. Generally, their focus is on [self-determination](/wiki/Self-determination) and [self-governance](/wiki/Self-governance), either for Hawaii as an independent nation (in many proposals, for "Hawaiian nationals" descended from subjects of the Hawaiian Kingdom or declaring themselves as such by choice), or for people of whole or part [native Hawaiian](/wiki/Native_Hawaiian) ancestry in an indigenous "*nation to nation*" relationship akin to [tribal sovereignty](/wiki/Tribal_sovereignty) with [US federal recognition of Native Hawaiians](/wiki/US_federal_recognition_of_Native_Hawaiians).

Some groups also advocate some form of redress from the [United States](/wiki/United_States) for the [1893 overthrow](/wiki/Overthrow_of_the_Kingdom_of_Hawaii) of [Queen Lili](/wiki/Liliuokalani)[Template:Okinauokalani](/wiki/Template:Okina), and for what is described as a prolonged [military occupation](/wiki/Military_occupation) beginning with the 1898 annexation. The movement generally views both the overthrow and annexation as illegal, with the [Apology Resolution](/wiki/Apology_Resolution) passed by US Congress in 1993 cited as a major impetus by the movement for Hawaiian sovereignty.[[148]](#cite_note-148) The sovereignty movement considers Hawaii to be an illegally occupied nation.[[149]](#cite_note-149)[[150]](#cite_note-150)[[151]](#cite_note-151)

## Gallery[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=56)]

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## See also[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=57)]

[Template:Portal](/wiki/Template:Portal)

* [Index of Hawaii-related articles](/wiki/Index_of_Hawaii-related_articles)
* [Outline of Hawaii](/wiki/Outline_of_Hawaii) – organized list of topics about Hawaii

## References[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=58)]

[Template:Reflist](/wiki/Template:Reflist)

### Notes[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=59)]

[Template:Notelist](/wiki/Template:Notelist)

## Further reading[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=60)]

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* Schamel, Wynell and Charles E. Schamel. "The 1897 Petition Against the Annexation of Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina)." Social Education 63, 7 (November/December 1999): 402–408.
* Stokes, John F.G. "Spaniard and the Sweet Potato in Hawai[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) and Hawaiian-American Contacts." American Anthropologist, New Series, vol. 34, no. 4 (1932) pp.[Template:Nbsp](/wiki/Template:Nbsp)594–600.

## External links[[edit](/index.php?title=(none)&action=edit&section=61)]

[Template:Sister project links](/wiki/Template:Sister_project_links)

* [Template:Official website](/wiki/Template:Official_website)
* [Hawaii State Guide from the Library of Congress](http://www.loc.gov/rr/program/bib/states/hawaii/index.html)
* [Template:Dmoz](/wiki/Template:Dmoz)
* [Hawai](http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/state-fact-sheets/state-data.aspx?StateFIPS=15&StateName=Hawaii#.U8PzP_ldUeo)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) State Fact Sheet from the U.S. Department of Agriculture
* [USGS real-time, geographic, and other scientific resources of Hawaii](http://www.usgs.gov/state/state.asp?State=HI)
* [Energy Data & Statistics for Hawaii](http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/state/state_energy_profiles.cfm?sid=HI)
* [Satellite image of Hawaiian Islands](http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Newsroom/NewImages/images.php3?img_id=15304) at [NASA's](/wiki/NASA) [Earth Observatory](/wiki/Earth_Observatory)
* [Documents relating to Hawaii Statehood, Dwight D. Eisenhower Presidential Library](http://eisenhower.archives.gov/research/online_documents/hawaii_statehood.html)
* [Happily a State, Forever an Island](http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/21/opinion/21theroux.html?pagewanted=all) by *The New York Times*
* [Hawai](https://web.archive.org/web/20101103095527/http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/50681/hawaii-then-and-now)[Template:Okinai](/wiki/Template:Okina) Then and Now – slideshow by [*Life magazine*](/wiki/Life_magazine) (Archived from [the original](http://www.life.com/image/first/in-gallery/50681/hawaii-then-and-now) on November 3, 2010)
* [Template:Osmrelation-inline](/wiki/Template:Osmrelation-inline)
* [Hawaiian Imprint Collection](http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/coll/110.html) From the [Rare Book and Special Collections Division at the Library of Congress](http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/)

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[Template:Navboxes](/wiki/Template:Navboxes) [Template:United States political divisions](/wiki/Template:United_States_political_divisions) [Template:United States topics](/wiki/Template:United_States_topics)

[Template:Geographic location](/wiki/Template:Geographic_location)

[Template:S-start](/wiki/Template:S-start) [Template:S-bef](/wiki/Template:S-bef) [Template:S-ttl](/wiki/Template:S-ttl) [Template:S-non](/wiki/Template:S-non) [Template:S-end](/wiki/Template:S-end)

[Template:Authority control](/wiki/Template:Authority_control)

[Category:Hawaii](/wiki/Category:Hawaii) [Category:States and territories established in 1959](/wiki/Category:States_and_territories_established_in_1959) [Category:States of the United States](/wiki/Category:States_of_the_United_States) [Category:Western United States](/wiki/Category:Western_United_States) [Category:1959 establishments in the United States](/wiki/Category:1959_establishments_in_the_United_States)