

Section 5
Area, Geography, and Climate

Statistics in this section relate to area, climatological, and topographic measurements of Hawaii. Reports of the U. S. Bureau of the Census, Coast and Geodetic Survey, Geological Survey, and Weather Bureau are the chief source for this information. Persons desiring additional information should consult personnel of the Bernice P. Bishop Museum, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, or Hawaii Department of Planning and Research. Comparable statistics for the mainland are given in the Statistical Abstract of the United States: 1961, Section 6.

Table 1.--GREAT CIRCLE DISTANCES FROM HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

(Honolulu International Airport is located at 21°19' N. latitude and 157°55' W. longitude.)

Place	Statute miles	Place	Statute miles
In Hawaii:		Sidney (Port Jackson),	
Hilo, Hawaii.....	214	Australia.....	5,070
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii....	168	Wake Island.....	2,294
Kahului, Maui.....	98	Apra Harbor, Guam.....	3,806
Lanai Airport.....	72	Manila.....	5,293
Molokai Airport.....	54	Hong Kong.....	5,541
Lihue, Kauai.....	103	Tokyo.....	3,847
French Frigate Shoal...	556	Anchorage.....	2,782
Kure Island.....	1,367	Vancouver, B. C.	2,709
		Seattle.....	2,679
Midway Island.....	1,309	Portland, Oregon.....	2,595
Johnston Island.....	820	Chicago.....	4,179
Palmyra Island.....	1,101	New York City.....	4,959
Papeete, Tahiti.....	2,741	Washington, D. C.	4,829
Pago Pago, Tutuila.....	2,606	Miami, Florida.....	4,856
Suva, Fiji.....	3,159	San Francisco.....	2,397
Auckland, New Zealand....	4,393	Los Angeles.....	2,557
		Cristobal, Panama.....	5,214

Source: U. S. Geological Survey, records.

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Table 2.--AREA, SHORELINE, AND MAXIMUM ELEVATION, BY COUNTY AND ISLAND

County and island	Area (square miles)		Tidal shoreline (stat. miles)	Highest point ¹	
	Land and water	Land		Mountain	Elev. (feet)
The State.....	6,424	6,415	1,052	Mauna Kea....	13,796
Hawaii Co. and Isl. .	4,021	4,021	313	....do.....	13,796
Honolulu Co.	605	598	234	Kaala.....	4,040
Oahu Island.....	602	595	209	....do.....	4,040
Outlying islands ² ..	3	3	25	Nihoa Isl. ..	910
Kauai County.....	625	623	162	Kawaikini....	5,170
Kauai Island.....	553	551	110	....do.....	5,170
Kaula Island.....	0.2	0.2	2	.....	550
Niihau Island ³	72	72	50	Paniau.....	1,281
Maui and Kalawao Co. ⁴	1,173	1,173	343	Haleakala....	10,023
Kahoolawe Isl.	45	45	36	Lua Makika...	1,477
Lanai Island.....	141	141	52	Lanaihale....	3,370
Maui Island.....	728	728	149	Haleakala....	10,023
Molokai Island.....	259	259	106	Kamakou.....	4,970

¹Other mountains over 5,000 feet are Mauna Loa (13,680), Hualalai (8,271) and Kohala (5,480) on Hawaii, Puu Kukui (5,788) on Maui, and Waialeale (5,080) on Kauai.

²Includes Nihoa Island, Necker Island, French Frigate Shoal, Gardner Pinnacles, Maro Reef, Laysan Island, Lisianski Island, Pearl and Hermes Reef, and Kure Island.

³Includes Lehua Island.

⁴Maui County, 1,159 square miles; Kalawao County (all on Molokai), 14.

Source: Data from U. S. Bureau of the Census, Coast and Geodetic Survey, and Geological Survey, cited in Hawaii Department of Planning and Research, Land Areas and Population Densities in Hawaii, 1960 (Research Report 13, October 24, 1961) and Geographic Statistics for Hawaii (Research Report 15, January 15, 1962).

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Table 3.--LONGEST RIVERS

Name and island	Length (miles)
Kaukonahua Str., Oahu.....	30.0
Wailuku Str., Hawaii.....	22.7
Waimea River, Kauai.....	19.7

Table 4.--LARGEST NATURAL LAKES

Name and island	Area (acres)
Halalii Lake, Niihau (intermittant).....	896
Salt Lake, Oahu.....	256
Meyer Lake, Molokai.....	6

Source of tables 3 and 4: Data from Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources and U. S. Geological Survey, cited in Hawaii Department of Planning and Research, Geographic Statistics for Hawaii (Research Report 15, January 15, 1962).

Table 5.--VOLCANIC ERUPTIONS AND TSUNAMIS: 1922 TO 1961

Calendar years	Volcanic eruptions					Tsunamis		
	Number		Duration (days)	Area covered (square miles) ¹	Volume (millions of cubic yards)	Severe damage	Moderate damage	No damage
	Mauna Loa	Kilauea						
1922-1926...	1	4	45	13.7	150	-	1	2
1927-1931...	-	5	52	0.4	27	-	-	5
1932-1936...	2	1	92	16.0	270	-	1	1
1937-1941...	1	-	133	3.9	100	-	-	1
1942-1946...	2	-	16	10.6	100	1	-	3
1947-1951...	2	-	168	40.6	677	-	-	-
1952-1956...	-	3	227	6.8	192	-	1	-
1957-1961...	-	6	104	4.7	224	1	1	1

¹Sum of estimates for successive eruptions.

Source: U. S. Geological Survey data, cited in Hawaii Department of Planning and Research, Geographic Statistics for Hawaii (Research Report 15, January 15, 1962).

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Table 6.--TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION, FOR SPECIFIED PLACES

Island and station	Elevation (feet)	Mean temp. (°F.)		Extreme temp. (°F.)		Annual precipitation (in.)
		Coldest month	Hottest month	Lowest	Highest	
Kauai:						
Lihue.....	207	69.9	77.1	46	91	52.94
Waialeale.....	5,075	...	...	...	...	472
Oahu:						
Hon. Airport.....	7	72.2	79.4	55	92	21.70
Hon. Fed. Bldg....	12	72.0	78.3	56	88	23.81
Tantalus.....	1,360	67.2	71.7	46	90	101.18
Maui:						
Haleakala.....	7,030	50.4	57.5	29	80	51.36
Lahaina.....	45	71.1	77.5	52	93	13.02
Hawaii:						
Hilo.....	40	70.7	75.7	53	92	140.40
Pahala.....	865	68.9	74.0	50	100	46.62
Puako.....	6	...	...	...	...	8.93

Table 7.--CLIMATIC SUMMARY FOR HONOLULU

Subject	Annual	Selected months			
		Feb.	May	Aug.	Nov.
Normal temp., average (°F.).....	75.2	72.0	75.1	78.5	75.2
Maximum (°F.).....	79.7	76.7	79.5	82.8	79.7
Minimum (°F.).....	70.6	67.2	70.6	74.1	70.7
Highest temp. of record (°F.).....	88	82	84	88	86
Lowest temp. of record (°F.).....	57	58	64	68	62
Normal precipitation (inches).....	23.9	2.5	1.0	1.1	2.1
Mean pct. of possible sunshine.....	70	62	71	75	65
Mean wind speed (m.p.h.).....	12.0	10.9	12.9	14.1	11.1
Mean relative humidity (%), 8 a.m....	73	78	69	70	74
Mean (%), 2 p.m.	58	61	56	56	62

Source of tables 6 and 7: U. S. Weather Bureau data, cited in Hawaii Department of Planning and Research, Geographic Statistics for Hawaii (Research Report 15, January 15, 1962).