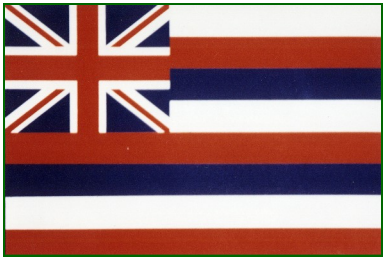
Hawai'i Facts & Figures

State of Hawaii
Dept. of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

March 2022

HAWAII, THE ALOHA STATE
Discovered by Polynesians between the 3rd and 7th centuries A.D. and later by British Captain James Cook in 1778.
Hawaii became the 50th state on August 21, 1959.



Honolulu, the State Capital is located on the Island of Oahu.

HAWAII'S EIGHT MAJOR ISLANDS
Described by Mark Twain as "the loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean", Hawaii is a string of 137 islands encompassing a land area of 6,423 square miles in the north central Pacific Ocean about 2,400 miles from the west coast of the continental United States.

Stretching from northwest to southeast, the major islands are: Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe, Maui, and Hawaii.

State Flower: Yellow hibiscus (*pua ma'o hau hele; Hibiscus brackenridgei*)
State Bird: Hawaiian goose (*nene; Branta sandvicensis*)
State Tree: Candlenut (*kukui; Aleurites moluccana*)
State Song: Hawaii Pono'i
State Seal and Motto: Ua mau ke ea o ka 'aina i ka pono (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness)

Hawaii has four counties with each having its own mayor and council:

City & County of Honolulu (the Island of Oahu and the Northwest Hawaiian Islands excluding Midway)
Hawaii County (Hawaii Island)
Maui County (Islands of Maui, Molokai, Lanai and Kahoolawe)
Kauai County (Islands of Kauai and Niihau)

HAWAII'S PEOPLE: 2020 Census population

State resident population	1,455,271
City & County of Honolulu	1,016,508
Hawaii County	200,629
Maui County	164,836
Maui Island	154,100
Molokai Island	7,369
Lanai Island	3,367
Kauai County	73,298
Kauai Island	73,214
Niihau Island	84
State de facto population (Includes all persons physically present, e.g., military and visitors, but excludes residents temporarily absent)	1,487,018

Population density: 227 persons per square mile
Number of households: 490,267

By race group: White race alone (22.9%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race alone (10.8%); Asian race alone (37.2%); Other race alone (3.7%); Two or more races (25.3%)

HAWAII'S GOVERNMENT

The two levels of government in Hawaii are state and county. Counties perform most services usually assigned to cities and towns (fire protection, police, refuse collection, construction and maintenance of streets and other public works). There is only one school district, which is administered by the State.

David Ige

Governor: David Y. Ige
Lieutenant Governor: Josh Green
Legislature: 51-member House and 25-member Senate

Congressional members:
U.S. Senators: Brian Schatz and Mazie Hirono
U.S. Representatives: Ed Case (Dist.1) and Kaiali'i (Kai) Kahele (Dist. 2)

EDUCATION

Hawaii is America's most multicultural state, located at the crossroads of East and West in a string of islands renowned for their natural beauty.

For more than two centuries, the islands of Hawaii have welcomed international visitors with the spirit of ‘Aloha.’ Some have come as students to take advantage of our outstanding education and training opportunities. Many who have studied in Hawaii have returned to be leaders back home - they have entered government service, became doctors, teachers, business people, and acted as positive change agents for their own countries.

The University of Hawaii system had 49,773 students enrolled in Fall 2021. It awarded 4,521 bachelor's degrees, 904 Master's degrees and 443 doctoral and professional degrees in 2019.

During the 2019-20 school year, Hawaii's statewide public school system had enrollment of 181,088 students in grades Pre-K through 12. There were also 100 private schools as of the 2019-20 school year. Enrollment in private schools was 33,862.

Institutions with an international focus are the East-West Center, the Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies, the Japan-America Institute of Management Science, Hawaii Pacific University, Chaminade University, and the University of Hawaii.

The University of Hawaii Manoa campus.

The University of Hawaii fosters research in all aspects of science and technology with international recognition in areas such as astronomy, ocean sciences, geology and biomedical research.

Notably, astronomy plays a key role in Hawaii's commitment to scientific research. The exceptionally clear skies at the summits of Hawaii Island's Maunakea and Maui Island's Haleakala offer optimum conditions for astronomical observations. There were thirteen observatories on Maunakea and three observatories on Haleakala in operation in 2018.

The 'Imiloa Astronomy Center explores the connections between Hawaiian cultural traditions and the science of astronomy.

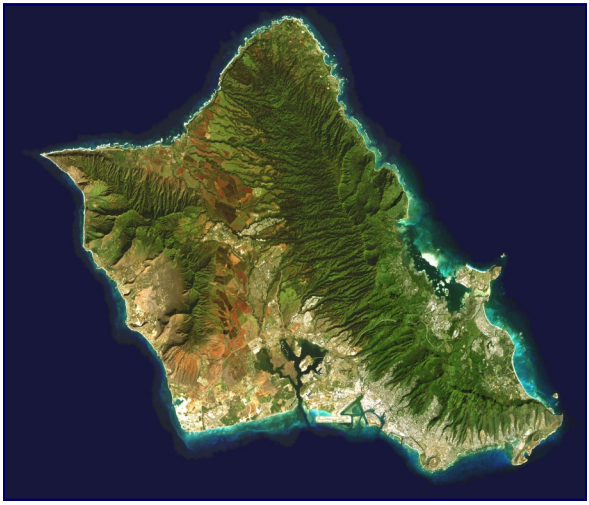
On Maunakea alone, 13 major facilities representing the cooperation of eleven countries are in operation.

Honolulu County

For practical purposes, the City and County of Honolulu is the Island of Oahu. Known as the "Gathering Place", Oahu has a land area of 600.7 square miles.

It is the center of business and government for the State of Hawaii. Downtown Honolulu is Hawaii's financial center while Waikiki, the world famous tourist destination, is only a few miles away.

The smallest of the four counties in geographical size, it has 68.8% of the State's population.



Legally it includes most Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to Kure Atoll which is 1,367 miles from Honolulu.

Oahu's flower is the ‘ilima which may have yellow or orange blossoms.

Average temperatures range from 71° to 84° F.

Rainfall at the coast averages 22 inches per year and the humidity 68%.

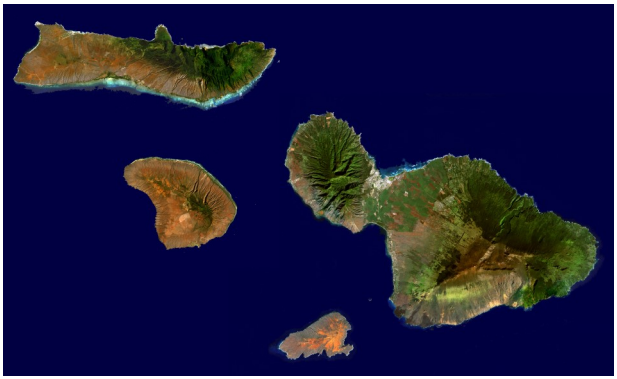
POPULATION
Resident population (2020): 1,016,508
By race group (2020): White race alone (18.5%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race alone (10.0%); Asian race alone (43.0%); Other race alone (4.0%); Two or more races (24.5%)

GOVERNMENT
Mayor: Rick Blangiardi; nine-member city council

Maui County

The second largest county in the State, it includes four major islands with a land area of 1,173.5 square miles.

Maui Island (772.0 sq. miles), also known as the "Valley Isle", is the economic center and seat of county government. Its flower is the pink cottage rose called loke lani.



Molokai (260.5 sq. miles) also includes Kalawao, a state-administered hospital settlement. It is known as the "Friendly Isle" and its flower is the white kukui blossom.

Lanai (141.1 sq. miles), once known as the "Pineapple Isle", is now the home of two luxury resorts. Its flower is the kauna‘oa, a yellow and orange air plant.

Kahoolawe (44.6 sq. miles) is uninhabited. Formerly used as a bombing practice range by the U.S. Navy and Air Force, it is now being restored and replanted. Its flower is the beach heliotrope called hinahina.

In Kahului average temperatures range from 67°-84° F. The chilly slopes of Haleakala Crater have a temperature range of 15°-73° F.

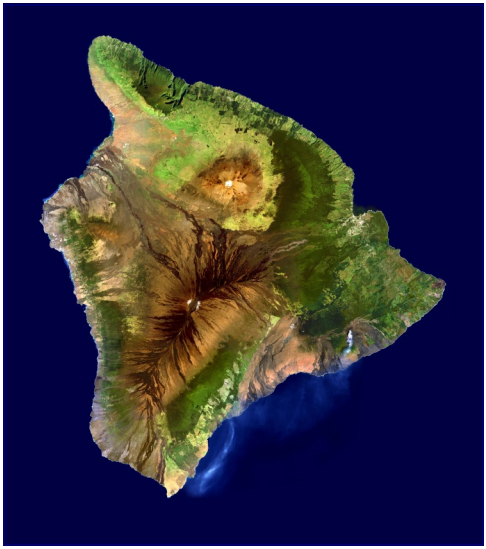
POPULATION
Resident population (2020): 164,836
By race group (2020): White race alone (32.9%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race alone (12.1%); Asian race alone (26.9%); Other race alone (3.7%); Two or more races (24.4%)

GOVERNMENT
Mayor: Mike Victorino; nine-member council

Hawaii County

Encompassing the island of Hawaii and the youngest island in the chain, the “Big Island” was formed by five volcanoes, two of which are still active (Mauna Loa and Kilauea).

It is known as the "Big Island" and as the "Orchid Isle". With a land area of 4,028.4 square miles, it is almost twice the combined size of the other islands.



Ka Lae, also known as South Point, is the southernmost point in the United States.

Mauna Kea, which rises 13,796 feet above sea level, is the world's tallest mountain when measured from the ocean floor. It is often snowcapped in winter.

The island flower is a red blossom called pua lehua.

Average daily temperatures: Hilo (73.9° F.); Kailua-Kona (73.1° F.) Mauna Kea summit temperatures range from 18° to 85° F.

Average annual rainfall: 125 inches at Hilo Airport; 9 inches near Puako.

POPULATION
Resident population (2020): 200,629
By race group (2020): White race alone (33.6%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race alone (14.0%); Asian race alone (19.7%); Other race alone (3.1%); Two or more races (29.5%)

GOVERNMENT
Mayor: Mitch Roth; nine-member county council

Kauai County

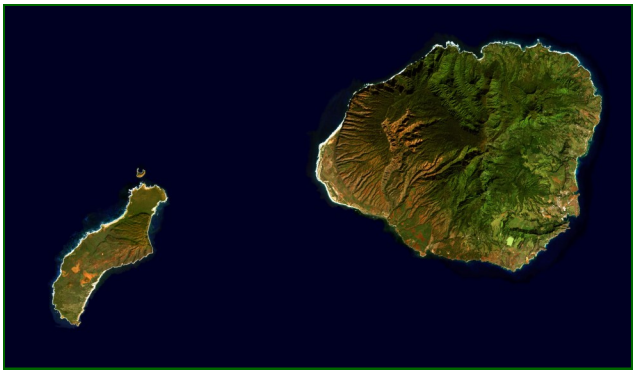
Kauai County includes the islands of Kauai, Niihau and uninhabited Lehua and Kaula.

Kauai is known as the "Garden Island" and has a land area of 552.4 square miles.

Niihau is privately owned and sometimes called the "Forbidden Island." Public access is allowed only with permission of the owners. Its land area is 67.6 square miles.

Geologically, Kauai is the oldest of Hawaii's major islands and the site of the first Hawaii landing by Captain James Cook in 1778.

Average temperatures at Lihue Airport range from 70° to 81°F. The summit of Waialeale is among the wettest spots in the world with an average rainfall of 444 inches per year. Average rainfall at Po‘ipu Beach is 32 inches per year.



Kauai's flower is a green berry known as mokihana. Niihau's flower is a small shell called pupu.

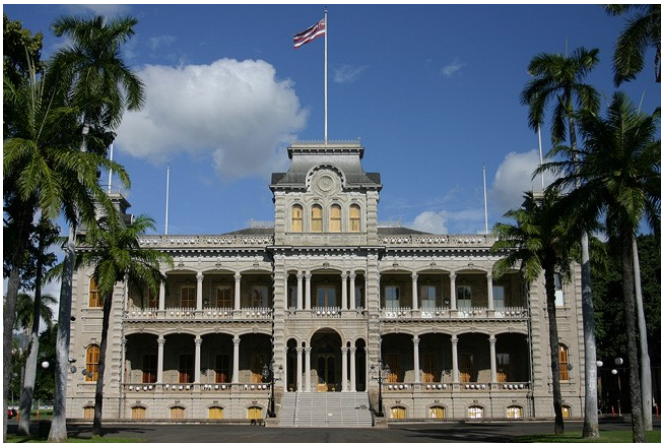
POPULATION
Resident population (2020): 73,298
By race group (2020): White race alone (31.7%); Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander race alone (9.9%); Asian race alone (28.8%); Other race alone (2.4%); Two or more races (27.3%)

GOVERNMENT
Mayor: Derek Kawakami; seven-member county council

The Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor is the most popular tourist destination in Hawaii.

Canonized in 2009, Saint Damien of Molokai was a Roman Catholic priest from Belgium who was recognized for his ministry to people with Hansen's disease on Molokai.

Iolani Palace, built in 1882 by King David Kalakaua, was the official residence of Hawaii's monarchy from 1882 to 1893. It is now a museum open to public.



Flower lei are a traditional gift of Aloha in Hawaii. The breadth and variety of lei are limited only by the imagination.

The Hawaii Convention Center is a state-of-the-art facility with 350,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space.

Hanauma Bay is a popular wildlife refuge on Oahu.

www.Hawaii.gov

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