



Is Moving to Hawaii Right for You? **Overview for Moving to Hawaii**

This short overview of moving to Hawaii is designed to aid those of you who are considering or are already in the process of making the move to the Hawaiian Islands. This should not be considered an all-inclusive moving overview by any means, but it should be a good guide to get you started. Furthermore, this is meant to serve as a guide for not only what you consider in the process of the move, but it also covers some good to know tidbits about the Big Island.

Shipping Your Possessions to Hawaii

This is one of the biggest hurdles for some people when moving to Hawaii. The idea of packing up and shipping everything you own to Hawaii can be intimidating. In fact, it can be downright overwhelming and that's exactly why we personally discourage it. Unless you're overwhelmingly financially capable of doing so, shipping everything you own is probably a mistake. Not only is it an excessive financial burden, it's an unnecessary objective as a whole – the chances of you needing all that stuff is remote. Simply pack as you would for a vacation, with the idea that less is more. If you're really attached to your furniture, then it's probably worth taking since quality furniture can be hard to come by on the islands. But the more weight you add, typically the higher the costs.

In our experience most decide to only take the fundamental items that would be needed on the islands, and basically restart here. If you're having trouble taking such a giant leap of faith, consider putting things in storage for a year or so. Then, if you do stay in the islands, you can sell it all at a garage sale or consignment shop to recoup your storage fees. Or, if you're bolder, just sell as much as you can upfront and use the money to aid with the move itself. Either way, plan for this to be a big step – it's not like moving across town or even across the country. Everything you ship that's not mailable (definitely mail what you can that's reasonable to mail), will be put into a container, put on a boat, and shipped to Hawaii.

Finally, make sure anything you do ship is packed properly for shipment via container and on the ship. You'll want to pack the container as tightly as possible, so hiring professional movers with experience in this type of thing is probably well worth the money.

Another tip: There are dozens of companies that can "cheaply" move you to Hawaii. If the rates sound too good to be true, they probably are. Some carriers have a lot of deceptive tactics you might not even think of to nickel and dime you, so be very careful who you choose. Finding a reputable company is very important.

Shipping a vehicle

This section mirrors what was stated above regarding moving your belongings. Unless you're already on the West Coast, have a newer car or have an attachment to your car, you may find it a lot cheaper to just buy a car on-island. Remember that island humidity / air, terrain can have an impact on any used cars you may choose to purchase on island - so do your research. We moved our vehicles from Northern California with Matson because they were newer. The cost was approximately \$1100 per vehicle at the time. The cars arrived in about 2.5 weeks and without a scratch. Finding a reputable company is very important.

Taking Your Pets to Hawaii

This is another big issue a lot of people face when moving to Hawaii. After all, your pets are your family and you'll certainly want to take them with you. You basically have two options here: Either keep excellent records of your pet's shots and vaccination history (recommended) and follow the recommended process on bringing pets to Hawaii Island OR expect to have an extended quarantine period once they arrive in the islands. You understand the details of the move, and even then it can be stressful; so imagine being poor Fido or Fluffy in quarantine. That's why we urge you to have meticulous vet records well in advance of the move. Follow the checklist provided and be prepared to jump over several hurdles and to have some red tape on this one, as Hawaii is rabies free and they go to great lengths to keep it this way. Do your homework on this early- for you and for your pet(s). Being prepared and following the checklist will allow your fur babies to go home with you directly from the airport when you land.

Jobs in Hawaii

Employment in Hawaii isn't like the one on the mainland. If you will need to work, it is best to plan your job strategy out far in advance of your move. Don't come and just wing it, so to speak. Ask yourself (and be honest) about your skills, how many jobs you're actually willing to work (part-time), and how much you're willing to work for. Chances are that wages in Hawaii won't meet what you earn where you live now. Be prepared to work part-time-- perhaps as a contractor-- and maybe even more than one job at a time to make ends meet. As you establish yourself you'll find ways to improve this, but you'll likely have to adapt quickly and often to the job environment on the islands.

If you are fortunate enough to work remotely or able to transfer with a position with a current employer, keep in mind that although you may live comfortably on your salary on the mainland, it may not provide you with the same standard of living in Hawaii. Be sure to do some research on this.

All this being said - there is work here. You may need to pound the pavement, be open minded and do in-person contacts with employers along with online application. Our son moved here and within 2 weeks had 2 jobs. It is absolutely doable.

Hawaii Health Insurance

This is probably one of the largest hurdles many have faced in their move to Hawaii. A lot of things may change given the current state of healthcare in the U.S., but don't ignore the cost of insurance when planning your move. Since many employers do hire part-time or on a contractual basis, insurance is not always a given in Hawaii. While it is required for all full-time employees to provide insurance in Hawaii, you may find it harder to find a full-time job than you would on the mainland. The most common insurers here are Kaiser, HMSA and HMAA – so do your research and plan for this as far in advance as possible.

Housing in Hawaii

Unless you're coming from an already expensive part of the world, downsizing may be needed for the same costs you're paying now. All that said, the Big Island of Hawaii is absolutely the most affordable of the Hawaii islands AND YES there are still great deals to be had.

Please read the taxation information included in your packet to better understand property taxes in Hawaii.

If you are needing to rent first, this next part can vary greatly depending on where on the island you're moving to and how large your family is. Rental spaces in condos around 1,000 sq. ft. are going for between \$1,500 - \$2,000 a month. Renting a single family home can be higher. Often people rent rooms or part of a home as well. Sometimes utilities are included and other times they are not. Work your budget out on this in advance if possible and be sure to add some padding to be safe. Also, attempt to view each rental in person if you do rent, and try to reach a longer-term agreement when possible, as you don't want to be "bouncing around" from place to place once you arrive. Also please note that many rentals have restrictions on animals (number, weight (under 25 lbs) etc) and a large percentage simply do not allow pets.

Culture of Hawaii

This isn't the mainland, brah! And it's never going to be, and Hawaii is mo'bettah for it too, yeah? – Be prepared to adapt to Hawaii if you plan to make it here. Hawaii has its own style, culture, and time flow – things are slower here, more laid back, and if the surf's up, your water heater problem might have to wait a few days before the repair person makes it over. It's a pretty big cultural change for many people, so do your homework and learn as much as you can about the incredible history that is Hawaii.

Once in Hawaii, the spirit of Aloha becomes contagious. Known as the "Melting Pot of the Pacific", Hawaii blends different ethnic groups and cultures from many lands into a culture of its own. This ethnic variety is a source of pride for the people of Hawaii. It is that diversity of backgrounds and cultures that makes Hawaii so special.

Generosity, friendliness, compassion, and the love of music, dance and celebration all play an integral part of life in Hawaii. In the island's climate, tension is abated, rushing is obsolete, and thus the expression of doing things on "Hawaiian Time" is created.

After living in Hawaii for a while, you'll inevitably adopt the habit of removing your shoes when entering most homes. A warm embrace is treasured among friends and relatives upon a greeting or departure. The closeness, the bond, can be referred to as having "Aloha" for someone. Bringing a small gift or offering is a common gesture when visiting another's home. The most cherished gift of all is the GIFT of ALOHA.

In a local family, one of the most celebrated among special occasions is a child's first birthday, for which the family will bar no expense for a grand celebration.

Both men and women enjoy the gifts of aloha, for it has no prejudices. Everyone enjoys the flower lei or the ceremonial "haku" lei. At parties or gatherings you will easily recognize the host or honored guest because that celebrated someone will likely be wearing a special flower lei. Flowers and leis are given to friends or relatives upon arrivals or departures on trips or for any other special occasion, which can include birthdays, weddings, proms, anniversaries, graduations, births, promotions, appointments, or anything that moves the spirit. Hawaii is a unique haven with its kaleidoscopic lifestyle, reminding us every day "Lucky we live Hawaii!"

About Hawaii Island Agriculture

Diversified agriculture includes all crops, livestock and aquaculture except for sugar and pineapple. With the diminishment of Hawaii sugar and pineapple industries the diversified crops have expanded.

Kona Coffee

The Kona area is the proud producer of Kona coffee, a world-famous gourmet coffee. There are more than 2000 acres planted in coffee with over 600 individual coffee farms dotting the mountain slopes. There are coffee farms and processing mills open to visitors in Kona with many serving complimentary coffee.

Macadamia Nuts

The Big Island features the largest macadamia nut industry in the world. The state's top diversified crop by value is the macadamia nut, with over \$30 million a year farm value. The Big Island is the state's leading producer of these gourmet nuts with the world's largest macadamia nut orchard located in South Kona. Roasted nuts, along with the many macadamia nut bakery products and cooking oil are sold throughout the island.

Avocado

Hawaii County has 500 acres devoted to the avocado and is the major avocado growing area in the state, There are 60 growers producing 1.5 million pounds of avocado per year with a retail value of \$2 million. Over 90% of the avocados produced on the Big Island are marketed in Honolulu.

Flowers and Nursery Products

By combining all flowers, foliage and nursery products, Hawaii's number one diversified agriculture industry emerges. Over 26% of all diversified agriculture falls into these categories and most of that is on the Big Island. Many of the tropical flowers and nursery products grown on the Big Island can be packed and shipped to the mainland U.S. and other destinations. They must be from certified nurseries and inspected by the agriculture inspections services. These beautiful island gifts can be found at many locations on the Big Island.

Bird of paradise have both brilliant and subdued colors, a variety of unusual shapes and sizes, and last longer than other flowers. Many varieties of orchids are grown commercially on the island and are marketed as both cut and potted plants, Palms, bamboo and a variety of dracaenas, which decorate the interior of many homes and offices, come from the Big Island's fastest growing agriculture crop. These large foliage plants are in great demand for island hotels, golf courses and export markets.

Exotic Tropical Fruits

Many fruits, native to Southeast Asia and South America, make up the new and growing industry of tropical fruits. These quality Hawaii grown fruits are available for a fresh exotic taste during their harvest season. Lychee and related rambutan, moya, star fruit and mango are among the many tropical fruits being grown on the Big Island. These tropical delicacies can be found at markets and are sold at hotels on the Big Island.

More information can be obtained from the following Agricultural Service Hawaii Macadamia Nut Association, Hawaii Avocado Association. Hawaii Tropical Fruit Growers, Hawaii State Guava Association, Hawaii Agricultural Promotional Association, State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture Hawaii County, Department of Research and Development.

Livestock

Big Island cattle ranches, including Parker Ranch, one of the largest solely owned ranches in the United States, produce about a third by volume of livestock marketed in Hawaii. The Big Island cattle operation produces over 20 million pounds of beef a year, which is 60% of the state's beef supply, on 700,000 acres of grazing land. The world's largest privately owned cattle ranch is the Parker Ranch located in Kamuela. Other cattle operations are scattered throughout the island, primarily in the North Kohala, Kona, and Ka'u districts. The hog operations located in Kona produce a large part of the one half million pounds of pork per year, valued at over one-half million dollars.

The County of Hawaii has:

- The largest macadamia nut industry in the world.
- The largest orchid growing business in the world.
- The major coffee industry in the United States.
- The major ginger producer in the United States.
- Expanding export industries in papayas, tropical flowers, foliage, and dry-land taro.

Other things to consider:

- Kids and Schools
- Relocating your business and obtaining the proper documents
- Potential Higher Cost of Living - budget

I wish you the best of luck as you embark on this new journey, Moving to Hawaii is a wonderful experience... It was the BEST move we EVER made!!!

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