Honolulu ranked 10th among the 102 largest U.S. metropolitan areas in the national economic rankings. (Source: On Numbers Economic Index)

Honolulu ranked as the 4th busiest international port of entry in the nation. (Source: U.S. Department of Commerce)

Hawaii ranks as one of the 10 most entrepreneurial states in the country. (Source: 2013 CNN Money report)

Hawaii is the only location in the world hosting the headquarters for the largest U.S. combatant command (U.S. Pacific Command), the Pacific component commands for the U.S. Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard, and combat ready land, sea and air forces.

Per capita personal income in Hawaii is 2.5% higher than the U.S. average.*

Median family income in Hawaii in 2013 was 23.3% higher than the U.S. average.*

Percentage of people living in poverty is 11.5%, 4.2% points lower than the U.S. average.*

Hawaii ranks as one of the top states whose civilian population has health insurance, 7.9% above the national average.*


* Source: State of Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism

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Gateway to Asia-Pacific

Hawaii serves as an economic gateway to economies in the Asia-Pacific Region, located 2,390 miles from California, 3,850 miles from Japan, 4,662 miles from Korea, 4,900 miles from China and 5,280 miles from the Philippines.

Hawaii is home to over 25 Consulates of Asia-Pacific and European nations, including Japan, Republic of Korea, Philippines, Taipei, Australia, New Zealand and American Samoa.

Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Broadband infrastructure, including the newly inducted Honolulu Rail Transit system, new infrastructure projects and the DBEDT HI Growth Initiative, support innovation and expansion. Entrepreneurship in the islands include the invention of DeconGel, a decontamination solution, and VeriFone, a payment solutions company active in 150+ countries.

The University of Hawaii System is one of only a handful of universities nationwide to hold the distinction of being a land, sea and space-grant institution, ranking in the top 50 public universities in research funding by the National Science Foundation. Research at the University of Hawaii has brought in over $350 million in extramural grants and contracts. Seven of UH Manoa’s faculty are currently members of the National Academy of Science, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Institute of Medicine. The University is known for its pioneering research in such fields as oceanography, astronomy, Pacific Islands and Asian area studies, linguistics, cancer research and genetics.

Varied Industries

- Visitor
- Defense
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Research and Development
- Clean Energy
- Creative
- Fishing
- Services
  - Community, business, personal services
  - Government, in support of military
  - Finance, insurance, real estate
Skilled Workforce

With 41.6% of the population having a two- or four-year college degree, Hawaii hosts a skilled and motivated workforce. Another 29.6% of Hawaii’s population, aged 25 and over, has a bachelor’s degree or higher, above the national average. Additionally, Hawaii’s unemployment rate is at 4.6%, 2.6% points lower than the national average.

Points of Difference

- Rated top ten in Forbes’ 2013 “Happiest States” list.
- Ranked #1 for quality of life in CNBC’s 2014 “America’s Top States for Business.”
- Ranked #1 for “Healthiest States” in 2013 America’s Health Rankings Report.
- 2013 LANPAC Symposium and Exposition held in Hawaii, leveraging the state’s strategic location to bring together international government and industry representatives from our allies in the Asia-Pacific.
- Hosted the 2011 APEC (Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation) Economic Leaders’ Meeting.
- RIMPAC (Rim of the Pacific Exercise), the world’s largest international maritime exercise, is held in Hawaii every two years.
- Hawaii is the only state hosting all of the military commands.
- State-supported Foreign Trade Zone with 2,600 acres across 13 sites throughout the Hawaiian Islands.
- One of the most successful trade zone programs in the United States, the Hawaii Foreign Trade Zone, No. 9 in 2009, handled almost $7 billion worth of merchandise from 237 firms. Exports to foreign countries totaled $474,179,964.
- Hawaii provides tax and other incentives for certain types of business activity via the Hawaii Enterprise Zones Partnership.
- Hawaii residents have the highest life expectancy in the nation.
- Hawaii has a population of over a million permanent residents.
- Time Zone: Hawaii Standard Time (GMT-10 hours), -2 hours from the U.S. West Coast, -4 hours from the U.S. Midwest, -5 hours from the U.S. East Coast (an additional hour behind during Daylight Saving Time), +18 hour from China, +19 hours from Japan.
- The Hawaiian island chain consists of eight main islands: Niihau, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, Kahoolawe and the Big Island of Hawaii.

Diversity

Hawaii is one of the most ethnically and multi-culturally diverse states in the nation, represented largely by Asian Americans and multiracial Americans. Unlike most states, no racial or ethnic group constitutes the majority.

Everyone is a minority in Hawaii—there are no racial majorities. Caucasians constitute about 33% of the population, Japanese about 33%, Filipino-Americans about 16%, and Chinese-Americans about 5%. Most of the population has mixed ethnicities.