



**HOW TO PLAN FOR LIFE IN HAWAII**

**Weather in Hawaii**

As you would expect in paradise, Hawaii has a tropical and warm climate all year. Check the weather link on our website for today’s weather and a forecast to see what the weather will be like.

**What clothes to pack?**

Because of our climate and lifestyle, people in Hawaii usually dress more casually than in other places. Hawaii’s climate is sunny, tropical and mild (70° to 85° Fahrenheit, 20° to 30° Celsius) with a cooler/rainy season from November to April. Casual clothing is appropriate for most situations. Bring a sweater or light jacket, an umbrella and comfortable walking shoes. Light cotton and other cool washable clothing is recommended. National dress may be worn for special occasions.

**Packing Tips:**

- Do NOT pack or take prohibited items to the airport. Please visit <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/sop/index.shtm> to see a list of prohibited items. If you bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint you will have to get rid of it before going through. *Bringing a prohibited item to a security checkpoint, even accidentally, is illegal.*
- Liquids of 3 ounces or less (by volume) need to be packed in a quart-sized, clear, zip-top plastic bag. For more information, please visit: <http://www.tsa.gov/311/311-brochures.shtm>
- Checked baggage will go through a security screening process which may differ, depending on equipment, at each airport.
- Put undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film.
- Place identification tags in and on all of your baggage. Don't forget to label your laptop computer. Computers are one of the most forgotten items at screening checkpoints.

**Packing List:**

Here is a recommended packing check-list for you:

**Clothes:**

- \_\_\_ Shorts
- \_\_\_ Jeans/Long pants (thin, not too heavy)
- \_\_\_ T-shirts
- \_\_\_ Sleeveless tops
- \_\_\_ Skirts, Sundresses
- \_\_\_ Long sleeve tops (thin, not too heavy)
- \_\_\_ Swimsuit
- \_\_\_ Socks and Underwear
- \_\_\_ Sun hat
- \_\_\_ Running Shoes / Flip-flops / Sandals

**Toiletries:**

- \_\_\_ Shower soap
- \_\_\_ Tooth brush
- \_\_\_ Shampoo
- \_\_\_ Lotion / Moisturizer
- \_\_\_ Make-up
- \_\_\_ Deodorant
- \_\_\_ Razor and shaving soap

**Other:**

- \_\_\_ Camera
- \_\_\_ Dictionary
- \_\_\_ Sunscreen
- \_\_\_ Sunglasses
- \_\_\_ Study materials [pen, notebook, bag, etc.]

**Carry-on the plane items:**

- \_\_\_ I-20 form [students with student visas]
- \_\_\_ Passport
- \_\_\_ Money--Cash or traveler’s check in US\$; credit/debit card (MasterCard and Visa most widely accepted)
- \_\_\_ HELP Contact Information
- \_\_\_ Jacket
- \_\_\_ Flight / Accommodation Information
- \_\_\_ Computer

**Arriving in the U.S.** Have these documents with you on the airplane:

- Passport (including attached envelope of immigration documents) with nonimmigrant visa;
- SEVIS Form I-20AB, I-20MN, or DS-2019;

- Visa exempt/waiver nationals presenting a SEVIS Form I-20AB, I-20MN or DS-2019 issued on or after September 1, 2004, who are entering the United States for the first time should have a Form I-797, Receipt Notice or Internet Receipt verifying SEVIS Fee payment.
- Evidence of financial resources,
- Acceptance letter from HELP, which includes the name and contact information for the Director of HELP, who is the Designated School Official (DSO);

Flight attendants on board your airplane will distribute CF-6059--Customs Declaration Forms and Form I-94--Arrival-Departure Record for immigration, before you land at the Honolulu airport or your initial point-of-entry in the U.S. Complete these forms while you are on the aircraft. **If you do not understand a form, ask the flight attendant for assistance.**

Upon arrival at the port-of- entry, proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers for inspection. As you approach the inspection station, **make sure that you have:** passport, SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019; completed Form I-94 Arrival-Departure Record; and, CF-6059 Customs Declaration Form available for presentation to the CBP Officer. The Form I-94 should reflect the address where you will reside (not the address of the school or program sponsor).

Like all entering visitors, you will be asked to state the reason you wish to enter the United States. If you have a student visa and I-20, tell the officer that you will be a full time student. If you are coming in on a visa waiver, you should say that you are going to enjoy Hawaii and take some part-time language classes.

Once your inspection is complete, the inspecting officer will:

- Stamp your SEVIS Form for duration of status (“D/S”) for F and J visa holders;
- Stamp the Form I-94 and staple it in the passport;
- Return the SEVIS Form.

*If you experience difficulties at the port-of-entry, contact the HELP Director Joel Weaver at 381-2686 (mobile).*

### **What to Expect on the First Day of School**

- Arrive by 8:00 am and check in at the student lounge. Make sure you bring your passport, I-20 form [students with student visas], I-94 form, proof of medical insurance, a pen and notebook with you.
- A HELP staff member will greet you and ask to see your passport, I-20 form [if you have a student visa], I-94 form [it should be stapled in your passport], and proof of medical insurance.
- You will be given an orientation packet and a nametag. You can start filling out the new student information sheet until all new students have arrived and you are taken to a classroom for a placement test covering reading, writing, speaking, and listening.
- While the placement tests are graded, enjoy lunch provided by HELP in the student lounge.
- After lunch we will give you an orientation to HELP and UH and answer any questions you may have about the program, the accommodations, the activities, and other information about making the most of your time in our program.
- You will get a chance to register for classes after your placement tests are scored and we know your English level. This will determine your class schedule during that term.
- Finally, we will give you a tour of the HELP program and the UH campus to familiarize you with the school and the UH services that you can use as a HELP student, including sports facilities, libraries, computer labs, cafeterias, and the UH bookstore.
- After the tour—usually by 3:00pm—you are free to return to your accommodation or explore Honolulu on your own.