“Tips for Living in Hawaiʻi”

Fall 2021

International Student Services

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Due to COVID-19 many on-campus offices and off-campus establishments, office and businesses have changed their operation hours and or services.

Please contact them directly for the most updated operation hours and services.
Undergoing Quarantine?

Review the [ISS Resources During Quarantine](#).
Choose Cell Phone

1. Unlocked cell phone from home and purchase SIM card here.
   - buy SIM card at Walmart or Target or go directly to phone provider stores (Verizon, AT&T, T-Mobile, Sprint).

2. Buy new cell phone and set up pre-paid plan.
   - more $, SSN/credit check not required

   - 2 years contract, need SSN/credit check
HOUSING

- Location, location, location—Waikiki and Mānoa can be more expensive.
- Consider sharing apartment with roommate(s); share internet and cable costs.
- Don’t pay for anything before seeing the place.
- Tip: If you will be taking the bus to commute to campus, check for housing along the bus route.
- Read your rental contract.
BANKING

- Open a local bank account to avoid costly ATM service charges or foreign credit card charges.
- Savings account? Checking Account?
- College or Student Checking Account.
- Checking card will allow you to pay for product and services easily.
- Bank services and cost vary considerably.
- Tip: University of Hawaiʻi Federal Credit Union is located on campus.
Transportation mode:

The Bus

- Avoid parking cost.
- Avoid insurance cost.
- Avoid gas/car cost.
- Day, monthly, annual pass available.
- Download the app: DaBUS2
- Need exact fare- no change ($2.75).

Bus Route on Campus:

- A going towards Ala Moana Ctr: Sinclair Circle
- 4 going towards Chinatown/Nuuanu: University/Dole (by Sinclair Circle), Banan
Transportation mode:

- **Biki** - Bikeshare
- **Uber** or **Lyft**

  - Download the apps.
  - Request, ride, and pay via your phone.
UH-Commuter Services

Maximise commuting access to UH Mānoa:

- Parking permits (car, moped, motorcycle)
- Carpool parking permits
- Rainbow Shuttle
- Moped registration
- Free bike repair
- Secure bike cage parking
- EV Charging Provider
- Cost-effective car rental

*https://www.hawaiicarrentals.net/hawaii-underage-driver-fees.php
Shop Wholesale/Discount Stores

- Buy bulk food: can food/frozen food/dry food at large discount stores like Sam’s Club and Costco.
- Shop for clothes, small home appliances at Ross, Walmart and Target for low prices.
- Share cost with roommates whenever possible.
Major Oahu Grocery Chains

- Don Quixote - Grocery (near Ala Moana Shopping Center)
- Foodland Super Markets - Grocery (various locations)
- Times Supermarkets - Grocery (various locations)
- Safeway Stores - Grocery, Drugstore (various locations)
- Down to Earth - Grocery, Health market, Organic Food
- Whole Foods (various location; Amazon Prime)
Discount Cards
Shop Sales- be flexible & be creative

- Look for weekly specials, ads, coupons.
Pharmacies (Drugstores)

Long’s Drugstore (CVS) - various locations.
Walgreens Pharmacy - various locations.
Many supermarkets also have pharmacies: Walmart, Safeway.

University Health Services Mānoa Pharmacy Department located on campus, has wide variety of over-the-counter medications at very affordable cost.
- Shop at local farmer’s market or Chinatown
- Farmers’ market listing Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture
Thrift Stores

- Lightly used clothing, housewares, kitchenware, office supplies, small furniture, appliances.
- Salvation Army Thrift Store.
- Goodwill Hawaiʻi.
Ask for kama’aina discount

If you live in Hawai‘i and have a local ID like the State ID or Hawai‘i driver license, you qualify for Kama’aina discount. Usually 10-15% off your purchase.
Meals

- Go out for breakfast and lunch, try to avoid dinner.
- You’ll spend less for daytime meals than you will for dinner.
- Try locals’ favorite eateries.
- Tip: Download the Yelp app
Tipping

Show service providers that you appreciate what they’ve done for you.

- Airport porters: $1-$2 per bag
- Taxi drivers: 15%-20%
- Hotel Bellhops: $2 per bag, $5 per two bags
- Hotel housekeeping: $2 per each day you stay
- Waiters: 15%-20%
Hawaiʻi climate

- Mild temperature throughout the year, moderate humidity, persistence trade winds, significant differences in rainfall within short distances, occasional storms.

- Two seasons: Summer May-Oct
  85-90°F (29-32°C)
  Winter Nov-April
  79-83°F (26-28°C)

- Winter is also rainy season: little downpour for a minute or two can happen anywhere on the island. Snow does not fall in Hawaiʻi except for the peaks on Mauna Loa and Mauna Kea, both located on the island of Hawaiʻi (Big Island).
Cold classrooms & rainy Mānoa!
General Medical Clinic & Specialty Clinics
Illness/Injury, Dermatology, Nutrition, Psychiatry, Sports Medicine, Women’s Health

- Immunizations
- Laboratory
- Pharmacy
- Travel Medicine
- Telehealth Appointment-call (808) 956-8965
- After Hours “Medical Advise Line”-call (808) 956-8965
- UHMS’s Patient Access Portal
- Urgent Care Hawai‘i- Waikiki
- Island Urgent Care-Kapahulu, Kahala, Hawai‘i Kai, Kakaako
- Kahala Mall Minute Clinic
- Kuhio Walk-In Medical Clinic
Hospitals

- Kaiser Permanente Moanalua Medical Center
- Kapiolani Medical Center for Women & Children
- Kuakini Medical Center
- The Queen’s Medical Center
- Straub Clinic & Hospital
Out and About

● Avoid Jaywalking- Crossing the street outside of a crosswalk or away from street corner.
● Fine starting at $130
Out and About

No texting while crossing street
Starts October 25th, 2017
Fine: starts at $15, escalates up to $99 for recurrent
Out and About

- Have a valid ID on you- Hawaii State ID/driver’s license
- Legal drinking age in Hawai‘i is 21.
- Do not drink and drive.
- Legal smoking age is 21.
- No using cell phone/texting while driving- fine of $200.
- Wearing seat belts is mandatory for all car occupants- front and back.
Out and About
Free and low cost activities

- Stay healthy: yoga, swimming, etc.
- Join UH Mānoa campus club or organization
- 808youth.com - Searchable database of government, private and nonprofit organization offering services or activities for children and youth in Hawai‘i

Be safe and have fun!
Mahalo!

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