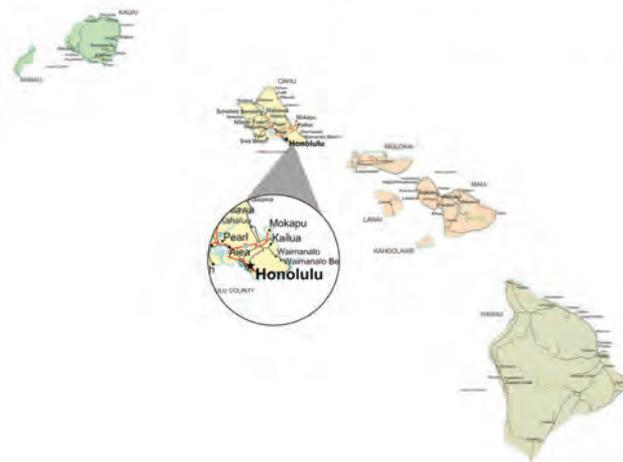




# Honolulu, Hawaii



**H**onolulu, the capital of Hawaii, means "sheltered harbor" in Hawaiian. Although the city and county of Honolulu encompass the entire island of Oahu, the primary urban center of Honolulu consists of the urban area on the southern coastline of Oahu that includes Pearl Harbor and Waikiki.

Honolulu is Oahu's center of art, history, and culture. In the downtown's Capitol District, Iolani Palace was built by King Kalākaua and is the only royal palace in the United States. Honolulu Hale (City Hall), State Library, and the statue of King Kamehameha I are also in the Capitol District. Museums include the Hawaii State Art Museum, which is dedicated to presenting the work of Hawaiian artists; the Bishop Museum, which houses the historical, cultural, and natural treasures of Hawaii and the Pacific; the Contemporary Museum, which is devoted to contemporary art; and the Honolulu Academy of Arts, which is Hawaii's only general fine arts museum. Pearl Harbor's memorials and museums commemorate the 1941 attack by Japan and include the USS *Arizona* Memorial, USS Battleship *Missouri* Memorial, USS *Bowfin* Submarine Museum & Park, Pacific Aviation Museum, and USS *Oklahoma* Memorial.

Other cultural attractions include the Honolulu Symphony and the Hawaii Opera Theatre, which perform at the Neal Blaisdell Concert Hall; the Hall also serves as the venue for Broadway productions. The Neal Blaisdell Arena hosts concerts, sports, and family entertainment. The Royal Hawaiian Band performs past and present Hawaiian music. Iona Contemporary Dance Theatre performs dances that blend Eastern, Western, and indigenous influences. The ARTS at Marks Garage, a collaborative neighborhood-based arts center, includes the Hawaii Watercolor Society; Hawai'i Craftsmen; Pacific Handcrafters Guild; PHG Foundation; The Lizard Loft; Hawaii Academy of Performing Arts; Hawaii Shakespeare Festival; Meader Arts; Orig Media, LLC; Smash Box Productions; Tim Bostock Productions; and Upside-Down Dance. The Hawaii Theatre is a multipurpose state-of-the-art performance center.

## NEIGHBORHOODS

Residential neighborhoods in the urban center of Honolulu vary from unpretentious areas such as Makiki—which was the boyhood home of President Barack Obama and consists of a mix of modest bungalows and 1960s cinderblock walkup apartments—to beachfront neighborhoods such as Kahala, Diamond Head, and Black Point, which are some of the most expensive in the country. Mānoa is located in a valley surrounded by mountains on three sides and experiences rain almost daily. No single style dominates Mānoa, where some of Honolulu's oldest homes and the University of Hawaii at Mānoa are located. Nuuanu Valley was a popular residential site for Hawaiian royalty because it was close to the ocean and cooled by the Koolau Mountains. Nuuanu has many elegant single-family homes, gated communities, and condominiums. Pacific Heights is a smaller community on the hillside overlooking Punchbowl Crater and downtown Honolulu and features well-maintained older homes. Generally sunny and dry, Kaimuki, an older, established area with residents whose families have lived there for generations, is located just above Diamond Head and near Mānoa Valley. Although some of the homes here were built recently, many date from the 1940s and 1950s. The arid neighborhoods of St. Louis Heights, Wilhelmina Rise, and Maunalani Heights feature a mix of older and newer homes, many with city and ocean views.

## PARKS AND RECREATION

Honolulu has 87 parks; swimming pools are available at 21 parks, 48 parks have tennis courts, and 10 parks have community gardening opportunities. The Waipio Soccer Complex has 19 regulation fields and a 5,000-seat lighted stadium. Leahi, also known as Diamond Head, is a 760-foot crater caused by a volcanic eruption; it is also a National Natural

Landmark and a popular hiking destination. Honolulu's largest public parks are Ala Moana Beach Park, which features beach and general recreation areas, and Kapiolani Park, which is located near Diamond Head and has tennis courts, soccer fields, and beaches. Kapiolani Park also contains the Honolulu Zoo; the Waikiki Aquarium; the Queen Kapiolani Garden, known for its hibiscus plants and roses; and the Waikiki Shell, the site of concerts and shows. Honolulu Botanical Gardens is dedicated to the conservation of plants from the tropics and is located in five different ecological settings around Oahu.

Among the many beaches, Waikiki is the most famous. The Duke Kahanamoku Statue on the beach at Waikiki commemorates the father of modern surfing.

Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve and its Marine Education Center are dedicated to safeguarding the fragile marine life in the Bay, one of the most spectacular natural resources in Hawaii.

Hawaii does not have professional sports teams; however, the University of Hawaii has various men's and women's team sports.

## EDUCATION

Hawaii is the only state with a single unified school system. The Honolulu District educates more than 30,000 students in 37 elementary schools, 9 middle schools, and 6 high schools. In addition, the District has two schools for students with specific special needs, six public charter schools, and three community schools for adults.

Many opportunities for higher education are available. The University of Hawaii at Mānoa has the John A. Burns School of Medicine and a School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene as well as undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Hawaii Pacific University and Chaminade University are private universities that offer undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Honolulu Community College and Kap'olani Community College, which are both part of the University of Hawaii system, offer liberal arts, career, and technical education at the associate's degree level. Heald College and Remington College also offer associate's degree programs.

## HEALTH CARE

Honolulu is served by six hospitals with over 1,600 acute-care beds. In addition, Honolulu has a Shriners Hospital for Children with an orthopedic focus; Tripler Army Medical Center, which also houses the Spark M. Matsunaga Veterans Affairs Medical Center; two rehabilitation hospitals for physical rehabilitation; and two facilities for adults with mental health issues.

### CITY STATS

2008

City Population	373,295
Metropolitan Statistical Area Population	902,745
Per Capita Personal Income, Honolulu, HI, MSA	\$45,205