

GAO

Far East Office

July 1992

# Living in Hawaii

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# A Message From the Director, Far East Office

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This brochure is written for those of you who may be considering assignment with GAO's Far East Office in Hawaii. We hope it will assist you in preparing for your move to Hawaii and settling in once you get here.

The Far East Office is located in Honolulu on the island of Oahu, an exceptionally beautiful island whose people are a blend of many ethnic groups and are proud, young, and vigorous. Working in the Far East and living on Oahu can be an interesting, professionally rewarding, and educational experience for the entire family. Living away from the mainland and frequently traveling to many different lands requires some changes in lifestyle; however, most make the adjustments quite easily and thoroughly enjoy their tours, the challenging work experiences, and the family-type atmosphere of the Far East Office.

Foreign travel assignments are a fact of life here, and staff members may be away from home up to 40 percent of the time. But, we visit and work in locales that many only read about.

After you have been selected, you will be assigned a "sponsor" to assist you in the many details involved in the transition process. Please feel free to call or write either your sponsor or me if we can help in your move.

Aloha,



Walter C. Herrmann, Jr.  
Director

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**Abbreviations**

CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CINCPAC	Commander-in-Chief, Pacific
CONUS	continental United States
FEO	Far East Office
FPMR	Federal Property Management Regulations
FTR	Federal Travel Regulation
GAO	General Accounting Office
GGD	General Government Division
GSA	General Services Administration
IMTEC	Information Management and Technology Division
NSIAD	National Security and International Affairs Division
PEMD	Program Evaluation and Methodology Division
TI	taxable income
TQSE	temporary quarters subsistence expense

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# Hawaii: The Fiftieth State

The state of Hawaii, located in the North Pacific Ocean, is composed of the longest chain of islands in the world, stretching northwest from the island of Hawaii for 1,523 nautical miles. Hawaii consists of 124 minor islands and the following 8 major islands:

- Hawaii,
- Maui,
- Oahu,
- Kauai
- Molokai,
- Lanai,
- Niihau, and
- Kahoolawe.

The combined land area of the Hawaiian Islands is 6,423 square miles. The state ranks 47th in the nation—larger than Connecticut, Delaware, and Rhode Island. The estimated population in 1990 was 1,108,229.

As the 50th state, Hawaii is appropriately called the “youngest state” because the median age is 32.6 years. Hawaii’s population is not only very young, but very diversified, as shown in table 1.1.

**Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition of Population as of 1990**

Race or Ethnic Origin	Number	Percent
Native American, Eskimo, or Aleut	5,099	0.5
Asian or Pacific Islander	685,236	61.8
Chinese	68,804	6.2
Filipino	168,682	15.2
Japanese	247,486	22.3
Korean	24,454	2.2
Vietnamese	5,468	0.5
Hawaiian	138,742	12.5
Samoan	15,034	1.4
Other	16,566	1.5
Black	27,195	2.5
White	369,616	33.4
Other race	21,083	1.9
Hispanic	81,390	7.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,108,229</b>	<b>100.0</b>

Source: State of Hawaii Data Book, November 1991.

The semitropical climate and the influence of many cultures make life in Hawaii more informal than in many other states. The Hawaiian spirit of aloha prevails throughout the state.

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## **Oahu, "the Gathering Place"**

In ancient times, Oahu was called "the gathering place" because it was the common meeting ground for Hawaiian Island kings. Today, Oahu is the state's business, finance, government, and education center and is the military command center for the Pacific. Oahu is the most populous of the Hawaiian Islands with a 1990 population estimated at 836,207 residents, most of whom live in Honolulu. Located on Oahu's southern shore, Honolulu is the state capital and home to GAO's Far East Office (FEO), which is located in the Prince Jonah Kuhio Kalaniana'ole Federal Building in downtown Honolulu.

### **Office location**

Federal Building, Room 3108  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **Mailing address**

P.O. Box 50187  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Waikiki is just a few miles from the Federal Building and contains many of Hawaii's most popular beaches; hotels; restaurants; shopping districts; the Honolulu Zoo; an aquarium; and Hawaii's most famous landmark, Diamond Head.

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## **Geography of Oahu**

Oahu is located about 2,400 miles southwest of San Francisco and is the third largest island in the Hawaiian chain. It covers 604 square miles and is about 42 miles long and 28 miles wide. The northeastern side of the island is called the windward side because of the prevailing trade winds. It is mountainous with rugged, steep cliffs rising from the sea. On the southwestern, or leeward, side, the mountains slope gradually to the ocean. Mountains in the interior rise to 4,000 feet and are covered with forests and tropical vegetation interspersed with small streams, pools, and waterfalls. There are no large lakes or rivers.

Metropolitan Honolulu, Pearl Harbor, the University of Hawaii, state and federal government offices, and Waikiki Beach are on the leeward side. On

the windward side are the smaller, primarily residential, cities of Kailua and Kaneohe. Direct access between the leeward and windward areas is provided by two four-lane highways through the Koolau Mountains: the Likelike Highway and the Pali Highway.

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## Climate and Environment

Oahu's semitropical climate is cooled by trade winds nearly all year. Although the humidity is high, the climate is typically free from uncomfortable extremes. At various locations on Oahu, the average temperature ranges from 68 to 73 degrees for the coolest month and from 75 to 81 degrees for the warmest month. The all-time lowest temperature recorded at the Honolulu International Airport was 53 degrees, and 94 degrees was the highest. Temperatures on the windward side are about 5 degrees cooler than on the leeward side.

Scarcely a day passes on Oahu without sunshine, though rainfall varies throughout the island. Most of the rainfall occurs in the early part of the year, and the windward side receives proportionately more rain. As a general rule, the closer you are to the mountains, the more rain you will get.

Various measures of air pollution indicate that Honolulu is one of the cleanest cities in the nation. In 1991, Hawaii's overall environmental health score ("Green Index") ranked 12th in the nation and ranked 1st for current air conditions.

Due to the differences in climate and related vegetation, individuals prone to bronchial or respiratory illnesses, asthma, arthritis, or similar afflictions sometimes feel that their condition worsens after living in the Islands for a period of time. We suggest that you consult with your physician before deciding to move to Hawaii.

In a 1991 comparative study of the "quality of life" in 300 American metropolitan areas, Honolulu was ranked 27th.

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## Economy

Hawaii's economy relies upon a few major industries. These industries account for the majority of the state's total income and are shown in table 1.2 with 1990 income.

Table 1.2: Major Industries and 1990  
Income

Dollars in billions	
Industry	Income
Tourism	\$9.4
Construction	4.0
Federal defense spending	3.2
Sugar	.33
Pineapple	.22

Source: State of Hawaii Data Book, November 1991.

Of the 6.9 million persons that visited the Islands in 1990, about 4.2 million came from the mainland, 1.4 million from Japan, and 318,000 from Canada. Over half of the hotel units in the state are on Oahu, chiefly in Waikiki.

Construction is a significant industry with housing units increasing by 64,000 since 1980. Yet the demand remains high. The vacancy rate for housing on Oahu in 1990 was only 2.7 percent. Consequently, construction is expected to remain a significant income source in the future.

Defense expenditures are also a significant income source to Hawaii. Members of the armed forces stationed in Hawaii and their dependents make up over 10 percent of the population.

The majority of Hawaii's manufacturing plants are located on Oahu. Food processing—mostly sugar and pineapple—account for about 41 percent of the total value of manufactured products. Other important industries include apparel; printing and publishing; and stone, clay, and glass products.

In agriculture, major crops are sugar, pineapple, flowers, nursery products, and macadamia nuts.

Many of the crops consumed in Hawaii are grown on the islands. In 1990, Hawaiian farmers produced 32 percent of the fresh vegetables, 57 percent of the fresh fruits, 26 percent of the beef and veal, 16 percent of the pork, 15 percent of the chicken, and 92 percent of the eggs consumed in Hawaii.

The civilian labor force in Hawaii in 1990 averaged 539,000 people with about 524,000 people employed, resulting in an unemployment rate of 2.8 percent.

In 1990, a budget for a four-person family living on Oahu was estimated at \$52,139. This family budget was 25 percent higher than the corresponding urban mainland average.

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## Government

Hawaii is considered a progressive state. It was the first state to enact a comprehensive long-range plan establishing goals, objectives, and policies to guide it. With the passage of some of its laws, e.g., a law regarding universal health care, it has remained in the forefront of new legislative changes.

Hawaii's governmental structure is unique among the 50 states. There are only five major administrative units within the state: the city and county of Honolulu, the county of Maui, the county of Hawaii, the county of Kauai, and the county of Kalawao. There are no independent school districts or smaller government jurisdictions. Hawaii has 2 U.S. Senators, 2 U.S. Representatives, a governor and a lieutenant governor, 25 state senators, and 51 state representatives. Legal voting age is 18. In order to vote, eligible residents must claim permanent domicile. Otherwise, they vote by absentee ballot in their home states.

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## The Armed Services in Hawaii

As the military command center for all U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific, Hawaii's strategic position is critical and pivotal. The Commander-in-Chief, Pacific (CINCPAC), is headquartered on Oahu. Pearl Harbor is the home of the Pacific Fleet. Pacific Air Forces is headquartered at Hickam Air Force Base, while the Army Command is at Fort Shafter and Schofield Barracks. The Marine headquarters is at Camp Smith close to Pearl Harbor, and the Kaneohe Marine Corps Air Station is also on Oahu.

# Moving to Hawaii

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If you are selected for a position in FEO, you will be assisted by the following:

- the Office of the Assistant Comptroller General for Operations, which will send you the forms necessary to start the transfer process and various documents discussing permanent change of station;
- the Travel and Transportation Branch of the Office of Financial Management, which will issue travel orders, assist in the sale of your residence, arrange for shipment and/or storage of household goods, and arrange for shipment of your car; and
- your "sponsor," a member of the FEO staff who will provide instructions, answer questions, give advice, and assist you in completing your move.

Therefore, this part provides only general information on what the temporary quarters subsistence expense (TQSE) is, where you will stay when you arrive, what to carry with you, what to have shipped by air, how to ship your household goods and car, how to open a bank account, what your mailing address will be, and what to do with your pets.

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## Temporary Quarters Subsistence Expense

You may be reimbursed for subsistence expenses up to 120 days while occupying temporary housing in Honolulu and/or in the continental United States (CONUS). But you are advised to find permanent housing as soon as possible after arriving in Hawaii. The amount that may be reimbursed while occupying temporary housing is limited to the lesser of actual allowable expenses incurred for each 30-day period, or the amounts in table 2.1.

**Table 2.1: Maximum Average Daily TQSE Reimbursement**

Location	Amount
<b>Honolulu</b>	
<b>First 30 days (\$137 rate)</b>	
Employee	100% of \$137.00 = \$137.00
Accompanying spouse	2/3 of 137.00 = 91.33
Family member 12 years or older	2/3 of 137.00 = 91.33
Family member under 12 years	1/2 of 137.00 = 68.50
<b>Subsequent days</b>	
Employee	75% of \$137.00 = \$102.75
Accompanying spouse	75% of 91.33 = 68.50
Family member 12 years or older	75% of 91.33 = 68.50
Family member under 12 years	75% of 68.50 = 51.37
<b>CONUS</b>	
<b>First 30 days (\$66 rate)</b>	
Employee	100% of \$66.00 = \$66.00
Accompanying spouse	2/3 of 66.00 = 44.00
Family member 12 years or older	2/3 of 66.00 = 44.00
Family member under 12 years	1/2 of 66.00 = 33.00
<b>Subsequent days</b>	
Employee	75% of \$66.00 = \$49.50
Accompanying spouse	75% of 44.00 = 33.00
Family member 12 years or older	75% of 44.00 = 33.00
Family member under 12 years	75% of 33.00 = 24.75

Your initial travel advance will most likely include an amount for your first 30 days of TQSE. For more information on subsistence allowances, see the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR), title 41, Code of Federal Regulations, chapter 302, "Relocation Allowances."

## Temporary Housing in Honolulu

Your sponsor will reserve a condominium for you if you desire. The condominiums are usually in Waikiki; are fully furnished including linens, towels, kitchenware, and tableware; may have a parking space; are a short bus ride from the office; and serve as an excellent base from which to seek permanent housing. Your sponsor will need a firm arrival date to make the reservation. The earlier this is done, the better. Once the reservation is made, you must make a refundable deposit of approximately \$500 to confirm the reservation.

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## What to Carry With You

As discussed above, the condominiums are fully furnished. You are allowed three pieces of luggage, plus a carry-on piece, which should be adequate for the clothing and personal items needed until your air shipment arrives (about 3 weeks). In addition, you might consider hand-carrying items such as jewelry and cameras, as well as valuable papers, such as insurance policies, car registration, car title, birth certificates, passports, and travel orders. Also, your tax returns for the past 5 years will likely be needed if you apply for a loan. In selecting clothing to hand-carry, be advised that women's office attire is similar to that worn on the mainland during the summertime, but perhaps a little more casual. Men wear lightweight dress slacks and short-sleeved shirts—without ties. (In all likelihood, men will buy a few short-sleeved "aloha" shirts shortly after arrival.) Coats and ties for men and comparable business wear for women are necessary when meeting with senior officials on the island and most locations overseas. Certainly, your luggage should contain clothing and items needed for outdoor activities, such as swimsuits, sunglasses, and athletic shoes.

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## What to Ship by Air

GAO will arrange and pay for air freight shipments. In deciding what to include in your air freight shipment of 175 pounds for each traveler, determine what you will need until you find permanent housing and your household goods arrive and are unpacked. It will take 30 to 60 days to rent an apartment and perhaps 90 days to buy a home or a condominium. You will need clothing to supplement that brought in your luggage. It should include some heavier clothing, including an all-weather coat in the event you are sent to countries such as Japan or Korea, where winter weather is cold. Bring your telephone and answering machine as these items will help in your search for a new home. In addition, you may want items such as a tape player, cassettes, and books. It is well to remember, however, that you will ultimately have to move air-shipped items from temporary to permanent housing.

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## Shipping Household Goods

GAO will select a moving company to ship and/or store your household goods and pay the company for those services. You will be asked to provide GAO with the estimated weight of household goods shipped and/or stored and the date for the move. In addition, you will deal directly with the moving company to set dates for packing household goods and moving.

You will need to decide which of your household goods you want shipped to Hawaii and which to store. In making such decisions, keep in mind that the average family in Hawaii lives in a smaller house or apartment than is

customary on the mainland. For example, one-bedroom condominiums in Honolulu are on the order of 750 square feet in total. Closet space meets basic needs for clothing and linens, and additional storage space is minimal, if it exists at all. Bedrooms are somewhat smaller, and many homes do not have formal dining areas or separate living and family rooms. You may, therefore, wish to store selected pieces of furniture for these rooms. Also, be selective in shipping chromed metal and brass items since they are subject to heavy corrosion.

Not all major appliances may be needed in Hawaii. Gas appliances, for example, may be troublesome if you choose to live in an area where only bottled gas is available. Also, a washer and a dryer may not be necessary because many homes and condominiums sell and rent with them. Appliances that are useful include a freezer for storing meats, vegetables, and other foods that can be purchased at considerable savings during periodic sales. A dehumidifier for use in storage rooms is also a good idea. Large electrical appliances are somewhat more expensive in Hawaii, but almost all of the major dealers are represented, and most warranties are honored. Most homes in Hawaii have a lanai (patio), so outdoor furniture is very useful. Aluminum nylon web furniture is more expensive in Hawaii, so it is advisable to bring what you have.

If you plan to rent a condominium or an apartment in Waikiki, keep in mind that many units are furnished. Therefore, you may wish to store much of your furniture.

Whatever you ship, be sure that your household effects are adequately insured. In determining whether the combined liability of the carrier and the government provides adequate coverage, you should become familiar with GAO's Permanent Change of Station (PCS) Handbook; the General Services Administration's (GSA) brochure, Shipping Your Household Goods; and GAO Order 0267.1 on claims for personal property lost or damaged.

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## Shipping Your Automobile

GAO will arrange and pay for the shipment of one car to Honolulu. You must decide on whether you want your car shipped from your former residence or whether to drive it to a West Coast shipping terminal. Shipping time from your former residence on the East Coast will be about 8 weeks versus 2-3 weeks from the West Coast. GAO will pay you for mileage and you and your family members per diem and will authorize administrative leave for driving your car to the West Coast.

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When you drop your car off at the shipping terminal, be sure to list on the shipping manifest all easily removable items, such as the rearview mirror, mats, cushions, cigarette lighters, hubcaps, and windshield wiper blades. Although these kinds of items have been known to disappear en route, staff members who have shipped cars to Hawaii in recent years have not encountered this problem. If such accessories are listed, they will be replaced by the insurance company. Also, remove everything from the glove compartment and the trunk (except the spare tire and the jack). Before releasing your car to the shipper, be sure the shipper supplies you with a copy of its inspection of the car. You may want to have your car fully undercoated and waxed before shipment to minimize salt air corrosion.

Any costs for interim transportation after arriving in Honolulu for house-hunting and becoming acquainted with your new surroundings are not reimbursable.

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## Banks

Opening an account in a local bank before arrival in Hawaii is advisable. If you do not, you will experience difficulties in writing and cashing out-of-state checks. Because of the large number of tourists, banks are reluctant to cash checks from the mainland and will usually put a 21-working-day hold on mainland checks deposited. Your sponsor can assist you in opening a bank account before you arrive. Full service banks are comparable to those of any large mainland city. There are two major banks in Hawaii—First Hawaiian Bank and Bank of Hawaii. You will find many branches of these banks on Oahu and the neighboring islands. Many other smaller full-service banks, savings and loan associations, and a Federal Credit Union are also available. The Federal Credit Union is located in the Federal Building.

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## Mail Service

You may use the FEO address given below as your temporary (and permanent) mailing address. Most single staff members use the FEO address exclusively. When notifying the Postal Service of your forwarding address, please be sure to state "Change of address due to official orders" and provide a copy of your transfer orders. This will avoid your having to pay postage for first-class mail that is forwarded. FEO's mailing address is

U.S. General Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 50187  
Honolulu, HI 96850

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A post office box may be rented with the cost varying with the box size and the location of the post office. The cost starts at \$39 for 1 year at the post office nearest to FEO. It takes about 2 months to reach the top of the waiting list and you must apply in person.

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## Pets

The Islands are free of rabies. To prevent rabies, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture picks up all cats and dogs brought into Hawaii at the airport and places them in a state-operated station for 120 days. The quarantine fee is \$466 for dogs and \$412 for cats with an additional nominal fee for a local veterinarian who is required to be on standby. At your first visit, you will be asked to pay the fee in full. You will be reimbursed for quarantine fees under the miscellaneous expense allowance. All miscellaneous expenses above \$350 (single employee) or \$700 (employee with family) must be supported by receipts and other appropriate documentation. But you will not be reimbursed for your pet's transportation expenses to Hawaii. After your pet is released, you should obtain a license as soon as possible. Licensing may be done by mail.

Most household birds may be brought in, but a permit and a health certificate approved by a veterinarian in your state must be obtained before shipment. Since requirements vary by species, we suggest that if you want to ship a bird, you write to the State Plant Inspection Office, 701 Ilalo Street, Honolulu, HI 96813, for information and applications or telephone (808) 568-0844.

Direct inquiries concerning animal boarding and restrictions on the importation of plant life to the Department of Agriculture, State of Hawaii, P.O. Box 5425, Honolulu, HI 96814, or telephone (808) 488-8462.

Some helpful and commonly used telephone numbers are found in appendix III.

# Living in Hawaii

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Living in Hawaii is different from living anywhere else in the United States. Here's why.

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## Clothing

What you normally wear in summer on the mainland will be adequate practically year-round in Hawaii. But you will need some fall and winter clothing for winter travel assignments to various countries in the Orient. Weather in Japan and Korea during the winter, for example, is comparable to weather in Washington, D.C., and some northern states on the mainland.

In the office, men wear lightweight dress slacks and short-sleeved shirts. Neckties are not required in the office. Women's office attire is similar to that worn on the mainland in summer months. Coats and ties for men and comparable business wear for women, however, are worn when meeting with senior officials on the island and most locations overseas. Evening wear is also more casual than on the mainland.

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## Higher Cost of Living

It costs more to live in Honolulu than in mainland cities, but the 22.5-percent cost-of-living-allowance (which is exempt from federal income taxes) helps offset the higher costs. Housing is very expensive. Groceries cost more; for example, milk is \$3.50 a gallon and other items are comparably higher. Car insurance is high (rates are similar to inner-city rates on the mainland), and the graduated Hawaii state income tax tops out at 10 percent. The cost of utilities is somewhat lower than on the mainland, however, and costs for dining out are reasonable.

Housing is especially expensive. The average selling price in 1990 was \$225,901 for condominium units and \$498,511 for single family homes. The median selling price in 1990 was \$187,000 and \$352,000, respectively. Rents in Honolulu are higher than anywhere else in the United States. (See table 3.1.)

**Table 3.1: Average Monthly Rent for a Three-Room, One-Bath, 800-Square-Foot Apartment in Honolulu and 10 Most Expensive Other Cities (1991)**

City	Amount
Honolulu	\$960
New York (Westchester Co.)	840
Boston	825
Washington, D.C.	825
San Francisco	710
Los Angeles	705
Chicago	705
Hartford	630
Providence	600
Philadelphia	595
U.S. median	400

Source: State of Hawaii Data Book, November 1991.

Housing choices range from furnished studio apartments to unfurnished single family homes. In the better residential areas of Honolulu, acceptable furnished studio apartments rent for about \$800 a month, one-bedroom furnished apartments rent for about \$1,100 a month, and three-bedroom partly furnished homes (appliances included) rent for at least \$1,800 a month. Unfurnished apartments rent for about \$100 a month less than furnished apartments.

Prospective buyers and renters cannot escape the initial shock of not only high prices, but the smaller size and less rugged construction. On Oahu, the low vacancy rate, land scarcity, distance from suppliers, and the premium placed on home ownership have created an inflated market. Prospective homeowners have a choice of "fee simple" land to which they have permanent title (usually more expensive) and "lease-hold" land, which entitles them to full use for an annual fee. Leaseholds generally have a 55-year life with options to renew at a renegotiated price.

Mortgages of various types are available in Hawaii. For example, there are variable interest rate mortgages with payback periods ranging from 6 to 30 years. As in many other locations, the availability of money and the terms change rapidly at times.

During a tight credit situation, many homes are sold under an "Agreement of Sale," whereby the seller extends credit at about the going interest rate for a period of 2 to 5 years or until suitable mortgage financing is obtained. The terms are usually negotiable.

Certain costs related to selling a house on the mainland and buying one in Hawaii will be borne by the government. Review GAO Order 0300.1 on travel and transportation; part IV of the order on relocation allowances; and GSA Bulletin FPMR A-40, Supplement I (also called FPMR 101-7 FTR, chapter 2, part 6). These regulations also specify the maximum reimbursable amount and the time limitation.

Your decision to sell your home on the mainland and/or to buy a residence in Hawaii should be weighed carefully. Many cost factors should be considered. You may want to consider renting first to allow time to familiarize yourself with the island before buying. In addition, your personal situation now and your probable situation when completing your tour in Hawaii should be considered.

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## Automobiles and Transportation

All motor vehicles must be registered annually. An auto registered in another state and brought to Hawaii may be operated in the Islands until the license expires as long as a temporary permit is obtained within 10 days of the entry date. Registration is completed by presenting to the Division of Licenses, City and County of Honolulu, your application with

- an out-of-state certificate of registration,
- the title document,
- an automobile shipping document,
- a certificate of safety inspection, and
- proof of no-fault insurance.

Proof of no-fault insurance is shown by a current insurance agent identification card issued by the insurer. A Hawaii insurance agent can provide an identification card immediately after a policy is obtained. If your present insurance company is authorized to transact motor vehicle insurance business in Hawaii, however, your policy may be converted by your company to a no-fault policy that complies with the state of Hawaii no-fault law.

At the time your temporary registration expires, present the documents listed above plus the title document and a verification of auto weight and identification number to the Division of Licenses. The cost of the Hawaii registration and the license is based on the weight of the car and averages about \$60 a year.

If you have a driver's license from another state, you may continue to drive in Hawaii until your license expires. Licenses held by minors from 15 to 17 years of age are not valid in Hawaii, however. The signatures of both parents are required when minors apply for licenses. You must submit your birth certificate and social security card and take the written and vision tests. You must surrender your valid home-state driver's license to obtain a state of Hawaii driver's license. If you do not have a valid license, you must take a driving test.

You must wear a seat belt in Hawaii, and children up to 3 years of age must ride in federally approved car seats.

All standard makes of American cars and many foreign models may be purchased in Hawaii. Prices for American cars, however, are several hundreds dollars above mainland prices. Automobile service and parts outlets are ample. A number of FEO staff members have purchased used rental cars for substantially lower costs. Used rental cars are available with a 12-month maintenance guarantee at no additional cost.

Honolulu's bus system is very convenient and inexpensive. The one-way fare to any serviced location on the island is only 60 cents. High school and grade school students ride for 25 cents. Adult and student monthly bus tickets may be purchased for \$15 and \$7.50, respectively, at Foodland stores and other outlets.

Most passenger traffic between Honolulu and the neighboring islands is provided by two interisland airlines. Service between islands is frequent, and the longest air trip between Oahu and Hawaii, the "Big Island," takes only 45 minutes.

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## Mail, Telephone, Television, Radio, and Newspapers

First-class letters sent between the mainland and Hawaii via air generally arrive within 6 to 7 days. Other classes of mail shipped via boat take up to 3 weeks and longer.

Honolulu telephone service is comparable to that on the mainland. Calls anywhere on Oahu are considered local. Calls to the mainland can be direct-dialed and are surprisingly inexpensive. For example, a 10-minute direct-dialed call from Honolulu to Washington, D.C., made on the weekend costs approximately \$2.

A public television station and six commercial stations service Oahu. Programs include mainland offerings, as well as programs in Far Eastern languages. Major sports programs are available live via satellite. Cable service is a near necessity for decent television reception. Two cable systems provide Oahu residents with basic service, including cable stations, at a cost of about \$20 per month. There is an additional charge for pay movie channels.

Commercial radio is aired by 17 commercial AM stations, 10 commercial FM stations, and 3 noncommercial stations in Honolulu. Many have programs in Japanese and other languages.

Hawaii has two major daily newspapers. The Honolulu Advertiser is published in the morning, and the Honolulu Star Bulletin is published in the afternoon.

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## Utilities

Water is billed on a bimonthly basis, with average costs in the drier areas ranging from \$60 to \$80 a month. Electricity is billed on a monthly basis. A household of four with a complement of electrical appliances can expect to spend about \$60 to \$100 a month. A single apartment dweller can expect to spend \$20 to \$30 a month on electricity.

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## Schools and Colleges

The public school system of Hawaii, operated by the State Department of Education, ranges from kindergarten through high school. The island of Oahu has many private and parochial schools, as well as facilities for the handicapped. In addition, technical schools are available for adult education and training. Public schools also offer courses (many are free) in adult education and specialized skills, such as sewing, art, ukulele, and woodworking.

A free tax-supported public school transportation system does not exist. But public bus service to the schools is available. Some of the schools are located centrally in the residential districts, and the children can walk or ride their bikes to them. In some areas, private school buses are available.

The University of Hawaii at Manoa (Oahu) is a land grant state university accredited by the Western College Association. Other colleges on Oahu include the Brigham Young University, Hawaii Campus, at Laie; Chaminade University of Honolulu; Hawaii Pacific College in Honolulu; and Hawaii Loa

College in windward Oahu. Evening and adult education classes are offered by these colleges.

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## Health Care

Professional medical care is readily available in Hawaii. In 1991, the state of Hawaii had 25 acute care hospitals (with 3,175 beds), 40 long-term care facilities (with 2,995 beds), and 9 specialty care facilities (with 821 beds). There were 2,563 physicians and surgeons, 915 dentists, 8,848 professional nurses, and 591 pharmacists licensed and living in Hawaii in 1991.

Several health plans for which you and the government share payment of premiums through payroll deductions are available. Some of these health plans include the Government-Wide Service Benefit Plan; the Government-Wide Indemnity Benefit Plan; the Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, a statewide health maintenance organization; and the Hawaii Medical Service Association, which is comparable to Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

If the health plan you are carrying in your present location is available in Hawaii, you must wait until the government has an open season to change plans. If your present plan is not available in Hawaii, you may change plans immediately.

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## Taxes

Hawaii has a graduated state income tax, which tops out at 10 percent, as shown in appendix IV. Most of the staff can expect to pay about a 9 percent tax on their taxable incomes. The current 22.5-percent cost-of-living allowance is subject to state but not federal income tax. Payroll deductions for state income taxes become effective on the date of arrival and are withheld by the GAO payroll office in the same manner as federal taxes. But deductions on the cost-of-living allowance are not made automatically. Staff must notify the GAO payroll office if they wish to have these deductions made.

Hawaii has a 4.16-percent sales tax on all consumer goods, including food, medicines, services, and rentals.

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## Shopping Facilities and Dining Out

Ala Moana Shopping Mall, one of the largest shopping centers in the world, is located near Waikiki. Other shopping facilities are available in all major residential areas. Stores carry an adequate supply of most merchandise manufactured on the mainland, and excellent products of local and foreign manufacturers are also available. Hawaiian recreational clothes for every member of the family are reasonably priced.

Numerous specialty shops feature Japanese, Chinese, and Philippine imports; hand-crafted Hawaiian wood products; black coral and jade jewelry; and various art objects.

You will find food and many other items to be priced higher than on the mainland. Other than the higher prices and occasional limited selections, shopping in Hawaii is generally no different from shopping on the mainland.

Honolulu has numerous fine restaurants serving foods from traditional American to Hawaiian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and other types of food. Prices are comparable to those in large mainland cities, varying from inexpensive to quite expensive depending on the atmosphere and the entertainment. Dining in Honolulu can be an adventure in itself, and you'll enjoy trying the variety of restaurants and tasting ethnic foods that add to the city's melting-pot culture.

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## Leisure Time

There are many things to do on the Islands, most of which are done outdoors. They include swimming, scuba diving, boogie boarding, surfing, sailing, boating, deep sea fishing, surf casting, camping, flying, hang gliding, soaring, parachuting, biking, walking, and hiking. Golf, tennis, volleyball, and jogging are widely enjoyed, and public parks and playgrounds are plentiful.

Television sports coverage in Hawaii is similar to that on the mainland. Most events are brought in live by satellite and appear rather early in the day, leaving the rest of the day free for the beach and other activities. For example, Sunday's professional football games start at about 8 a.m.

For those interested in the performing arts, the Honolulu Community Theatre, the University of Hawaii Theatre Group, and the Windward Theatre present Broadway shows, musical comedies, and dramatic classics during the year using local talent. The Honolulu Symphony Orchestra

offers a full program of symphonic classics, as well as opera selections, in cooperation with the Honolulu Opera Theater.

Oahu has 39 island and cultural attractions, including a planetarium, an aquarium, an oceanarium, a zoo, botanic gardens, museums, and parks. The Bishop Museum is noted for its collection of Pacific and Hawaiian artifacts. The Honolulu Academy of Arts in Hawaii is a museum with Oriental, European, and American art and offers art courses and art shows. The Polynesian Cultural Center in Laie on the windward side of Oahu recreates villages of Samoa, Fiji, Tahiti, Hawaii, Tonga, Maori, and Marquesas and gives performances of the indigenous music and lively arts.

The Hawaii State Library near our office has an excellent Hawaiian and Pacific reading room, a mainland newspaper collection, and an outdoor reading room. While at the library, you may want to research the Hawaiian language. (See app. I for frequently spoken Hawaiian words.) The library maintains a telephone reference service for the public. Sixteen branch libraries are located throughout Oahu, and bookmobile service is available.

Like any U.S. city, Honolulu has its share of movie theaters and night clubs. The social activities in Honolulu reflect the city's size and diverse population.

There are fees for many attractions, but if you can prove residency, the fees are often discounted up to 50 percent. A state identification card costing \$6 or a Hawaii driver's license may be used to get the resident rates (known as Kama'aina rates).

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## Places of Worship

Honolulu, as a cultural melting pot, has places of worship for many religions, including Buddhist, Greek Orthodox, Hindu, Mormon, Terinkyo (Japanese), Jewish, Muslim, Protestant, Roman Catholic, and many others.

# General Employment Information

## Employment Agreement

When you accept an assignment to FEO, you will be required to sign an employment agreement to serve for 2 years. You may then request to extend your tour by 2 years. Once the agreement is signed, transportation at government expense from your place of residence to Honolulu, your new post of duty, is provided for you and your immediate dependents<sup>1</sup> and your household effects not to exceed 18,000 pounds net weight. (Again, we refer you to the federal regulations in GSA Bulletin FPMR 101-7.)

So that you will be able to properly prepare your travel reimbursement voucher covering your change in post of duty, a detailed itinerary and a diary should be kept of

- dates and hours of departure and arrivals for each stopover locality;
- connecting carriers, flight numbers, and junction points;
- class of service from point to point;
- weight and cost of excess baggage carried from point to point;
- mileage covered each day; and
- cost of meals and lodging each day.

Retain copies of all transportation requests, tickets, and receipts to submit with your travel voucher for reimbursement. Air fares should be paid with your Diners Club card.

Other standard travel allowances apply. Travel may be by other than the shortest direct route, if authorized. But you must assume any additional cost and pay it when you purchase tickets.

## Type of Work

Most of the recent assignments carried out by FEO are the result of congressional requests, and the vast majority of our work is for the National Security and International Affairs Division (NSIAD). Because CINCPAC, the military command center for all U.S. Armed Forces in the Pacific, is located in Hawaii, much of our work is related to the military. Other frequent FEO assignments concern development assistance, international trade, and security and international relations issues, which bring us into frequent contact with State Department officials.

<sup>1</sup>Children must be under 21 years of age or incapable of self-support. Dependent parents of employee or spouse are considered immediate family.

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## Travel Policy

It should be clearly understood that much of FEO's work will be in areas outside Hawaii. Staff members can expect to travel up to 40 percent of the time. Usually field trips are for 4 to 6 weeks. On occasions, spouses and children have accompanied staff members overseas at the members' expense. Taking annual leave for sightseeing while traveling is not a common practice. During fiscal year 1991, FEO staff traveled to at least 15 foreign countries and completed 25 assignments. See appendix II for the assignments and countries visited.

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## Inmunizations

The types of immunizations needed in the Far East vary from time to time and in the countries visited. The U.S. Public Health Service advises which shots are needed or recommended on the basis of information obtained from the World Health Organization. Since requirements change and certain immunizations provide protection for 6 months or less, you should get most of your immunizations after arriving in Hawaii. The Veterans Administration Health Clinic, which provides the immunizations, is located in our office building.

Medical reasons or age may exempt the traveler from the requirement to obtain certain immunizations. A physician should make a statement on the immunizations record or his/her letterhead giving the reason for the exemption. There are no immunization requirements for children other than the normal preschool requirements; before registration, however, each child is required to have a current tuberculosis test (one done within the past year), a current physical examination, and all the shots prescribed for the child's age group. Tuberculosis tests are provided free in state public health clinics.

A Public Health Service booklet, Department of Health and Human Services publication (CDC) 82-8280, specifies the vaccination requirements and recommendations as of August 1982. It states that each traveler should have an International Certification of Vaccination that has been fully completed, signed, and validated with an official stamp. Failure to secure validation may cause a traveler to be revaccinated or quarantined. The quarantinable diseases are cholera, yellow fever, and plague. A Weekly Summary of Health Information for International Travel shows the countries reporting these diseases.

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## Passports and Visas

Each FEO staff member is required to have an official U.S. passport. It is obtained while on the mainland, and an application form will be sent to you to facilitate the processing. When you travel to certain foreign countries, visas are required; therefore, it is a good idea to have a dozen extra passport photographs made. Visas for the countries we visit are obtained in Hawaii.

While applying for your official passport, you might consider getting tourist passports for you and your family. Your official passport is used for official business only.

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## Leave

FEO staff members stationed in Hawaii may carry forward 240 hours of annual leave into succeeding leave years. The overseas leave ceiling of 360 hours does not apply to Hawaii.

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## Additional Information

Should you or members of your family have other questions about living in Hawaii, do not hesitate to call or write the office. Again our mailing address is

U.S. General Accounting Office  
P.O. Box 50187  
Honolulu, HI 96850

Telephone: (808) 541-1250  
FAX: (808) 541-1253

Calling from the mainland is easier than from Honolulu; so go ahead, dial, and ask for your sponsor or any member of the Newcomers Committee. Just remember the time difference—6 hours behind eastern standard time while on daylight saving time and 5 hours all other times of the year

# Commonly Used Hawaiian Words

Hawaiian, so the linguists say, is one of the most fluid and melodious languages in the world. There are only 12 letters in the Hawaiian alphabet: the 5 vowels ("a," "e," "i," "o," and "u") and 7 consonants ("h," "k," "l," "m," "n," "p," and "w").

Sound each letter in Hawaiian words. Vowels have the same sounds as vowels in Latin. Pronounce "a" as in "father," "e" as in "they," "i" as in "machine," "o" as in "no," and "u" as in "suit." Consonants have the same sounds as in English with one exception. When "w" is next to the final letter in a word, it is sounded as a "v," e.g., "Hawi" is pronounced "Ha-vee," but "Waikiki" is pronounced "Wai-kee-kee."

Glottal stop marks are sometimes used in proper nouns. Each indicates a consonant left out in a word, perhaps from joining of words, and thus a distinct break in sound between letters it separates.

Here are most of the Hawaiian words you will hear.

ae.....	yes	lei.....	flowers, garland
aikane.....	friend	lu'au.....	feast, taro leaf
'aina.....	land, earth	maholo.....	thank you
akamai.....	wise, smart	maika'i.....	good, fine
ala.....	road	makai.....	toward the sea.
aloha.....	love, welcome, farewell	make.....	dead
'a'ole.....	no	malihini.....	newcomer, stranger
auwe.....	alas, ouch	malo.....	loin cloth
Ewa.....	an Oahu town; used in Honolulu to mean in a westerly direction	manu.....	bird
hale.....	house	manuahi.....	free
hana.....	work	mauka.....	inland
haole.....	Caucasian	mauna.....	mountain
hapa.....	half, part	mele.....	song
Heiau.....	temple, place of worship	Menehune.....	legendary dwarf
hele mai.....	come	moana.....	ocean
hoolaule'a.....	celebration	moemoe.....	sleep
huhu.....	angry	mu'umu'u.....	loose-fitting dress
hui.....	club, association	nani.....	beautiful
hukilau.....	to fish with a seine	okole.....	bottom
iki.....	small, little	okole malune.....	bottoms up
imu.....	underground oven	'ono.....	delicious
ipo.....	sweetheart, lover	pali.....	cliff
kahuna.....	priest, expert	paniolo.....	cowboy
kai.....	sea	pau.....	finished, the end
kala.....	money	pehea'oe.....	How are you?
kalua.....	baked underground	piliikia.....	trouble
kama'aina.....	native born	poi.....	food prepared from taro root
kane.....	man	popoki.....	cat
kapu.....	forbidden, keep out	pua.....	flower, blossom
kokua.....	help	pua'a.....	pig, pork
'kolehau.....	ti root liquor	puka.....	hole
kona.....	leeward side, leeward wind	pupu.....	hors d'oeuvre, shell
lanai.....	veranda, porch	pupule.....	crazy, insane
		wahine.....	woman
		wai.....	fresh water
		waikiki.....	sparkling water
		wikiwiki.....	fast, hurry

# Assignments and Places Visited During Fiscal Year 1991

<b>Division</b>	<b>Assignment</b>	<b>Place visited</b>
GGD	Global Securities Capital Standards	Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan
GGD	Broker/Dealer Affiliates	Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan
NSIAD	Carrier Battle Groups/Options	Australia, Malaysia, Thailand
NSIAD	Combining Military Air Missions	Guam
NSIAD	Controls for Security Assistance	Thailand, Philippines
NSIAD	Philippines Base Closure	Philippines
NSIAD	Peace Corps Health Issues	Nepal, Solomon Islands
NSIAD	AID Services Contracting Overseas	Pakistan, Indonesia
NSIAD	Aid to Cambodia	Thailand
NSIAD	Refugee Assistance	Malaysia, Pakistan
NSIAD	Aid to Cambodia	Thailand, Cambodia
NSIAD	Foreign Monitoring of Pesticides	Australia, Thailand
NSIAD	U.S. Forces, Korea	Korea
NSIAD	Agricultural Trade Offices	Singapore, Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong
NSIAD	Canadian and Australian Wheat	Australia
NSIAD	Salmon Pricing	Japan
IMTEC	International Linkages	Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore
IMTEC	Automating Securities Transfers	Australia, Japan, Singapore, Taiwan
PEMD	Technology Monitoring	Japan

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# Helpful Telephone Numbers

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Hawaii area code	808
Emergency services	911
Animal Quarantine Station	488-8461
Board of Education	586-3334
Board of Water Supply	527-6184
Bus passes and handicapped bus services	848-4444
Bus route and schedule information	848-5555
GTE Hawaiian Tel	643-3456
Hawaiian Electric Co., Inc.	548-7311
Hawaiian Housing Authority (rent information)	848-3254
Island Guide	296-1818
(then enter 1630 for newcomer information)	
Motor vehicle office	973-2700
State income tax information	586-6515
The Gas Company	526-0066

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# Hawaii Tax Rates for 1991

**Table IV.1: Single Taxpayers and Married Taxpayers Filing Separately**

<b>Taxable Income (TI)</b>	<b>Tax</b>
0 to \$1,500	2.00% (TI)
\$1,501 to 2,500	\$30.00 + 4.00% (TI-\$1,500)
2,501 to 3,500	70.00 + 6.00% (TI- 2,500)
3,501 to 5,500	130.00 + 7.25% (TI- 3,500)
5,501 to 10,500	275.00 + 8.00% (TI- 5,500)
10,501 to 15,500	675.00 + 8.75% (TI-10,500)
15,501 to 20,500	1,112.50 + 9.50% (TI-15,500)
20,501 to -	1,587.50 + 10.00% (TI-20,500)

Source: State of Hawaii, Department of Taxation.

**Table IV.2: Married Taxpayers Filing Joint Returns and Qualified Widow(er)s**

<b>Taxable Income (TI)</b>	<b>Tax</b>
0 to \$3,000	2.00% (TI)
\$3,001 to 5,000	\$60.00 + 4.00% (TI-\$3,000)
5,001 to 7,000	140.00 + 6.00% (TI-5,000)
7,001 to 11,000	260.00 + 7.25% (TI-7,000)
11,001 to 21,000	550.00 + 8.00% (TI-11,000)
21,001 to 31,000	1,350 + 8.75% (TI-21,000)
31,001 to 41,000	2,225.00 + 9.50% (TI-31,000)
41,000 to -	3,175.00 + 10.00% (TI-41,000)

Source: State of Hawaii, Department of Taxation.

**Table IV.3: Unmarried Heads of Households**

<b>Taxable Income (TI)</b>	<b>Tax</b>
0 to \$1,500	2.00% (TI)
\$1,501 to 2,500	\$30.00 + 3.00% (TI-\$1,500)
2,501 to 3,500	60.00 + 4.50% (TI-2,500)
3,501 to 5,500	105.00 + 5.90% (TI-3,500)
5,501 to 11,000	223.00 + 7.25% (TI-5,500)
11,001 to 21,000	621.75 + 8.60% (TI-11,000)
21,001 to 41,000	1,481.75 + 9.60% (TI-21,000)
Over 41,001	\$3,401.75 + 10.00% (TI-41,000)

Source: State of Hawaii, Department of Taxation.