

Hawaii



The Hawaiian Islands, known as the "Paradise of the Pacific," has always been synonymous with tropical beauty, romance and adventure. This feeling was most eloquently expressed by Mark Twain when he wrote of Hawaii, "The loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean."

A state since March, 1959, Hawaii had been a U.S. territory since the turn of the century, a short-lived republic before that, and a monarchy from the time of its first Polynesian settlement more than a thousand years ago. Of the present-day population of 600,000 who live on the seven Hawaiian Islands, about 500,000 live on the Island of Oahu.

There are five major islands, all mountainous by volcanic origin. The most densely populated is Oahu where the capital city, Honolulu is located. Largest in size is Hawaii, site of several active volcanoes. Hawaii is at the southeast end of the Island chain, and about an hour by air from Honolulu.

It is generally accepted that the Hawaiian Islands were originally settled by Polynesians who voyaged more than two thousand miles from Tahiti. These voyages are estimated to have started more than a thousand years ago and continued until 600 or 800 years ago. Following a series of spectacular battles in 1790, King Kamehameha consolidated the Island chain. In 1820 the missionaries started arriving in the Island and found fertile fields for their efforts. In the 1880's dissatisfied American residents were against the personal system of government. However, it was not until 1893 when the government of Queen Liliuokalani was overthrown and a republic was established by Sanford B. Dole in 1894.

The state economy is depended upon such major industries as sugar, pineapple, and the rapidly expanding tourist industry. Military forces however remain the major contributors to the 50th State's economy.

Many recreational activities have been concentrated by nature and by design for the convenience and enjoyment of individuals and families on Oahu. The list reads like a vacationers dream. Off - base Waikiki is the focal point for beach sports. The scenery is a photographer's delight. Boating is a popular past time and the city has a fine yacht harbor, deep sea game fishing and charter boats are based along Ala Moana Blvd. Golf courses are plenty and mountain climbing, hiking and horseback riding is also available.

Native sights range from pineapple and sugar plantations to the exquisite architecture of the Mormon Temple at Laie, and from many colorfully thronged beaches to the panoramic grandeur of Nuuanu Pali. In the heart of Honolulu is Iolani Palace, with the only throne room in the U.S. a reminder of the days when Hawaii was ruled by kings.

Hawaii like many other areas in the world have their own traditional get-togethers accompanied by entertainment and a feast of native delicacies. Hawaii's is one of the most exotic and unusual, the LUAU or "Feast of the Islands." At both Duke Kahanamoku's and Queen's Surf, the luau is not merely a means of satisfying hunger, but is an unhurried affair, a meeting of friends, a time of laughter, of music and of entertainment. For other interesting happenings, sights and entertainment consult your handy Hawaiian brief booklet.