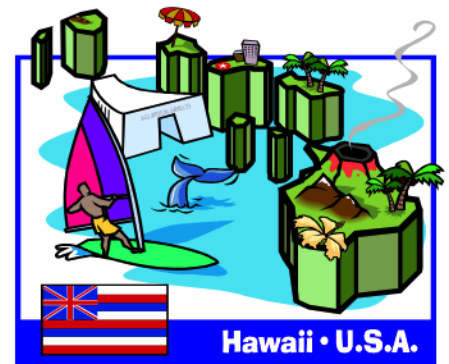


# Welcome To Hawaii

Aloha! I live in Hawaii. It is not one of the Lower 48 states. It is a bunch of islands in the Pacific Ocean. Hawaii is famous for hula dancing, swimming, surfing, beaches, islands, the weather, volcanoes, and tourism! It is the 43<sup>rd</sup> largest state (or the 8<sup>th</sup> smallest) and the 40<sup>th</sup> most populous, making it toward the bottom in both categories. The state capital is Honolulu. Now that you know some of the basic facts about Hawaii, let me tell you a little more about my state.



Hawaii is interesting because it's one of the only two states that are not connected to the other states, the other one being Alaska. It is not one of the Lower 48 States at all. In fact, it's not even on the same land mass! Hawaii is a chain of about 100 islands and rocks, mostly formed by volcanoes. In many ways, it is more like a territory than a state, because of how it is not connected to the other states. It shares much in common with Midway Island, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and the other island territories of America. Yet, it is a state. It is actually the 50<sup>th</sup> and most recent state. Before Hawaii, which was up until 1959, there were only 49 states.

Hawaii, like Texas, actually used to be its own country. Unlike Texas, the Hawaiian people were ruled by kings. The Hawaiian people had a difficult time after the European explorers arrived, bringing strange new diseases and sicknesses with them. Wars among the tribes and the diseases killed many of the natives, and eventually the foreign settlers came to outnumber the native Hawaiian people. Hawaii had an important location in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, which was one of the reasons why America annexed Hawaii. After some political strife and some changes that many of the natives opposed, it eventually became a state.

Today, people still love to visit Hawaii to see its sunsets, its beaches, its volcanoes, and its tropical beauty. It is a prime spot to vacation, to surf, or to live! It has a very mixed culture, with a strong Asian population, especially Japanese and Filipino. There are also many European cultures present on the island, and let's not forget the Hawaiian people themselves! As you can imagine, this blending of peoples and cultures really gives Hawaii an interesting cultural flavor, with unique foods, customs, and celebrations. Many people have even heard a few words of the native language, like 'Aloha,' which means hello, or 'Hula,' which is a traditional dance. Come try some of the local foods and catch some waves in The Aloha State.

Now that you know a little more about Hawaii, are you thinking about visiting? There are some great waves to catch and many great things to see and do. Hope to see you soon!

## Welcome To Hawaii

Use the information in the story to answer the questions below.

1. What is Hawaii's nickname?
  - A. The Ocean State
  - B. The Aloha State
  - C. The Surf State
  - D. The Wavy State
2. True or False: Hawaii is the only state not connected to the Lower 48 States.
  - A. True
  - B. False
3. True or False: Hawaii is the only state not connected to the same land mass as the others.
  - A. True
  - B. False
4. Which of these things is Hawaii NOT famous for?
  - A. Hot Dogs
  - B. Volcanoes
  - C. Surfing
  - D. Hula Dancing
5. SHORT ANSWER: Would you like to visit Hawaii? Why or Why Not?

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\_\_\_\_\_ answers vary \_\_\_\_\_

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