

# The Hawaii Compendium

A Compilation of Guidebook References and Cruising Reports



**Rev B.1 – June 30, 2014**

We welcome updates to this guide!  
(especially for places we have no cruiser information on)

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The current home of the official copy of this document is <http://svsoggypaws.com/files/>

If you found it posted elsewhere, there might be an updated copy there.

## Revision Log

Many thanks to all who have contributed over the years!!

<b>Rev</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Notes</b>
A	October 2010	Initial 'compendium'—from inputs by Mita Kuuluu, Nakia, Our Country Home, Dazzler, Windy City, Soggy Paws, and Infini. More to follow!
A.1	October 30, 2010	Updates on Hilo and Honolulu Things to Do and Restaurants
A.2	January 6, 2011	Updates from Soggy Paws on finding boat project things in Honolulu. Updates from s/v Nakia on Molokai and Maui
A.3	March 17, 2011	Updates from Soggy Paws on finding boat project things in Honolulu. And some 'Things to do'
A.4	April 4, 2011	More minor updates
A.5	April 14, 2011	Updates from Reflections
A.6	April 19, 2011	Updates from Infini – Provisioning, Sea Flyer on Rigger in Hawaii
A.7	April 28, 2011	Soggy Paws & Reflections – Outbound Customs Clearance
B.1	June 30, 2014	Updates on Hilo and Honolulu from Active Transport, and Hilo from Footprint

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# 1 Introduction

This compendium of information originated with s/v Mita Kuuloo and s/v Nakia, who had cruised Hawaii ahead of us. We have since combined their inputs with some notes from other cruisers, and added our own experiences and opinions, plus added cross references to the available cruising guides.

We will probably continue to add to this document with future inputs from others.

## 1.1 *Hawaii Overview*

tbd

## 1.2 *Weather*

From a cruising perspective, Hawaii is a great place. In the middle of winter, a 'cold' day is just nippy enough for a light jacket—about 69 degrees F. However, most of the good cruising anchorages are untenable in the winter, due to occasional strong north winds and huge northerly (and sometimes NWly) swell. The dominant weather in the winter are the winter storms that stream across from west to east in the higher latitudes. These weather systems typically create the big swells that make Hawaii a surfer's paradise, and they also often trail a cold front that brings 'Kona' winds (SW winds). By mid-April, the weather gets warmer and the fronts get less frequent, but they can stall out in the islands, bringing wet weather.

Summertime is the time for cruising—pick a wind-less few days and you can go anywhere in the islands.

### 1.2.1 *Good Weather Links*

A couple of weather links for Hawaii:

<http://weather.hawaii.edu> – good color animated satellite pictures

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=PHZ115> – Marine text forecast

<http://www.weather.gov/forecasts/graphical/sectors/hawaiiMarineDay.php> - Graphic marine fcst

### 1.2.2 *NOAA Weather Briefing (Honolulu)*

We got a a weather briefing at the NOAA weather center before we left Hawaii. The guys there were very nice and helpful in showing us the latest information and educating us a little more about weather patterns in this part of the world.

Here's the number: 808-973-5286, call head and make an appointment first.

The NOAA National Weather Service Forecast Office is located at University Hawaii (UH) Manoa. Exit off H1 at the UH exit, proceed up the road and the first stoplight is Dole St. Turn right on Dole St East. Left at 3rd light on East-West Road at the UH sign. Go through the guard shack, and take your first left, down the hill, 3rd building on the left.

Address is 2525 Correa Road. Up the stairs and left at the top of the stairs, through the first door. There's a button at the door, and you'll need to be admitted. Take ID. Suite 250.

### **1.3 Sources of Info**

The three primary sources of info on Hawaii that we used are:

Cruising Guide to the Hawaii Islands, by the Mehaffey's

Charlie's Charts of Hawaii

Lonely Planet's Hawaii

Of course, now with the internet, there is lots of information on Hawaii. But we would not do without these three guides in our cockpit, for easy reference.

#### **1.3.1 Cruisers Who Contributed**

2014: Footprint - Maryanne & Kyle <http://sv-footprint.blogspot.com/>

Active Transport - John & <http://www.sailblogs.com/member/activetransport>

2010/2011:

Soggy Paws - Dave & Sherry <http://svsoggypaws.blogspot.com>

Infini - Sue & Mike <http://svinfini.blogspot.com>

Sea Flyer - Gary

Before 2010:

s/v Mita Kuuluu and s/v Nakia

### **1.4 Electronic Charts**

We primarily used the 2009 edition of CMAP charts with Maxsea and WGS-84 while in Hawaii and found them to be very accurate. We also used raster charts dated around 2000, using WGS-84 datum, and they were also accurate. You can download the latest copy of ENC charts of Hawaii from the U.S. Government site. (URL tbd)

### **1.5 Communications**

#### **1.5.1 Radio Nets**

**Pacific Seafarer's Net (Ham):** If you're a ham, before arriving in Hawaii, you should start checking in on the Pacific Seafarer's Net, which runs on 14.300 Mhz USB, starting about 0300Z (5pm Hawaii time). There are 3 or 4 regular participants and net controllers scattered around the Hawaiian islands. It's helpful to get to know these guys before you arrive in Hawaii.

**Hawaii Inter-Island Net (Ham):** 7088 LSB 0200z (4pm Local Time) Daily

**Hawaii Friendly Net (Ham):** 7088 LSB 1900z (9am Local Time) Daily

The 7.088 Mhz frequency is 'out of band' for the mainland U.S., but is OK when in Hawaiian waters.

#### **1.5.2 Internet**

**Active Transport - May 2014:** We got a T-mobile wifi device at Walmart for internet that supports up to 5 users. It came with a month of service.

**Soggy Paws - 2011:** On arrival in Radio Bay, Hilo after being in French Polynesia for 6 months, we were disappointed to find no easy internet on in Radio Bay. Though wifi is available in various places around town, another boat told us about Mobi wireless, which is 3G cellular data. Since our extended plans involved staying in Pearl Harbor at the Navy marina there, where there is also no wifi, the Mobi solution seemed like a good idea. After we bought our device and loaned it for a trial to two other cruising boats in Radio Bay, they also decided it was well worth the price.

We bought our Mobi USB-stick in the Prince Kuhio Mall for ~\$100, including the first month's service, and subsequent months are \$30/mo. There is no contract, and you can suspend usage on a month by month basis. They claim 'unlimited data', but their fine print says if you get too excessive with your usage, they may cut you off. So far, in all our catching up from having little internet for the last 6 months, including downloading some 100MB podcasts and Windows Updates, we have not had a problem. It certainly isn't as fast as cable internet, but it's WAY faster than French Poly internet.

If you also get a cell phone from them, the monthly cost can be even cheaper. See coverage and FAQs here: <http://mobipcs.com/hele/>

You might be able to find a Mobi 'data stick' from someone leaving the island, off Craigslist (there were 4 or 5 listed the last time I looked). Search on Mobi or Hele.

We got reasonable coverage in Radio Bay, and in the Kona area of the Big Island, good internet in the two harbor areas of Maui, and good internet in the population centers on Oahu. There was no coverage (as expected) in Molokai or Kauai. For an idea of the speed, when you have good coverage, a 100MB file downloads in about 20-25 minutes. We heard complaints from boaters in the Keehi lagoon area, but also heard they were planning to upgrade service there.

With this device, we haven't paid much attention to where wifi is available, but we'll try to note what we've experienced in each section.

Another local boater was using a similar service via Clearwire or Clearpoint and was happy with it (see Ala Moana mall in Honolulu).

Also check out online the [Virgin Mobile Broadband2Go](#) service. The benefit of this service is that you get coverage on the mainland too. In early 2011 it cost \$40/mo pay as you go.

### **1.5.3 Cell Phones**

**Active Transport - May 2014:** The best phone deal we found, for our needs, was a Verizon phone for \$12 and a \$45 unlimited talk plan for a month. We got this deal at Walmart but they did not have a lot to choose from.

**Soggy Paws - 2011:** If you don't already have an active cell phone account in the U.S., the absolute easiest and cheapest way to get a cell phone is to take the free bus to Walmart (Prince Kuhio Mall in Hilo) and pick up a pay-as-you-go (PAYG) phone off the rack. They have them for all major carriers. We got the ATT phone, which cost \$29 and came with \$15 worth of prepaid time. There are 2 plans, but the simplest is just a flat 10 cents a minute for anywhere in the

U.S. anytime. You can recharge this phone online with a credit card or with a prepaid phone card available in many locations. T-Mobile and Verizon have similar PAYG phone deals (but they cost more if you go to their store vs off the rack at Walmart, in my experience).

There are T-Mobile and Verizon stores in the Prince Kuhio Mall. The ATT store is in downtown Hilo, a few blocks from the bus terminal.

If you plan to get the Mobi Hele internet device, you will save if you get a plan and bundle phone and data together.

## **1.6 Getting Around Ashore in the Islands**

**Buy Bikes:** Whenever we get to Hilo we go to Wal-Mart or Kmart and buy a couple of inexpensive mountain bikes to use in the various ports. However, the last time we bought some from an ad that was on the bulletin board outside the restrooms. Bike theft can be a problem so don't spend a lot on a bike and always, always lock the bike even if it is front of your boat (front wheel and back wheel). Get some lights, an air pump, spare tube, cable locks and some basic tools for changing tires or tightening loose stuff. We put that green slime in our tubes to prevent flats. Great way to get around the island communities. However, you have to shop around for a bike shop where you can purchase a GOOD, STURDY luggage rack for the bikes.

**Buses:** On the Big Island, the public bus system is pretty good, and is free except they charge extra if you are carrying extra bags or big luggage/surfboards, etc. In Maui (Lanai), the bus was \$1 per segment, and seemed to only run in the tourist destinations. On Oahu, there is a pretty good bus system, but it costs \$2.50 per segment (with monthly passes available). See individual sections for details.

## **1.7 Fishing**

There is no marine recreational fishing license required in Hawaii for either residents or visitors, so you don't need to worry about that as long as you don't sell your catch.

There are a few locations where shoreline fishing is prohibited, and you can see all the [fishing regulations here](#).

Unfamiliar with Hawaii's species? Check out this nice website:

<http://www.hawaii-seafood.org/wild-hawaii-fish/>

## **1.8 Haulouts**

There are 2 primary yards in Hawaii—one is Gentry's Kona Marina on the Big Island and the other is Keehi Marine Center on Oahu. We had heard that Gentry's was much less expensive than Keehi. But in fact, for our boat our needs, the price was almost the same.

For a short haulout (a few days to fix an underwater problem and repaint the bottom), the prices were almost identical (44' boat, staying aboard). But if you plan to be out for more than a few days, the 'lay days' at Keehi cost about \$20 more per day than Gentry.

Detailed Rates for Gentry are here:

<http://www.gentryskonamarina.com/hauloutprice.html>

Contact: 808-329-7896 or [gkm@gentrykona.com](mailto:gkm@gentrykona.com)

Detailed Rates for Keehi are here:

[http://www.keehimarine.com/Keehi\\_Marine\\_Center\\_files/KMCYARDRATES0710.pdf](http://www.keehimarine.com/Keehi_Marine_Center_files/KMCYARDRATES0710.pdf)

Contact: 808-845-6465 or [kmc@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kmc@hawaii.rr.com)

**Nakia's comments from 2010:** Nakia hauled out for new bottom paint in March, 2010 with good results. From the research John did at the time, Gentry was definitely cheaper than Ke'ehi Lagoon, and the Phoenician boat yard near Barbers Point and Ko'olina Marina, both on Oahu.

The Gentry yard does not do boat work—you have to contract it yourself. Contract for basic labor (\$25/hour at the time) through Ron Clark (808.989.5500). He had bottom paint available @ \$200/gal, which is not too bad after what Nakia paid to have paint shipped parcel post from Seattle. Aluminum fabricator is called Hot Spot welding. \$100 key deposit (checks accepted) for bathroom/shower. Restaurant, marine supply store, and small market adjacent to yard.

**Soggy Paws comments from early 2011:** Soggy Paws hauled out using Keehi's 'weekend deal' in January 2011. We were hauled Friday morning and splashed Monday morning, and it cost \$534 (incl tax, etc). . Additional days would have cost \$90 per day. The purpose of our haulout was to drill a couple more holes in the bottom, do a little underwater maintenance, and touch up our still-good bottom paint. We bought one coat of bottom paint (Hempel Olympic) from Pops at \$140/gal.

We did NOT have the bottom pressure-washed, but made sure it was clean (by scrubbing it ourselves) before we hauled out, and just rinsed with fresh water ourselves after we were blocked. We have ablative paint that is still in reasonable condition, and just wanted to add one more coat while we were out for other reasons.

The Keehi yard is well run and maintained. They have a big 150 ton lift that can accommodate big catamarans as well as large monohulls and power boats. You can do your own work, but if you're doing any sanding, they require you to put tarps around to keep the dust down. The yard is shut down over the weekend, but you can come and go til 9pm every night. We did get them to move our stands once during the weekend so we could paint underneath them. You can stay aboard, but there are no showers in the yard (bathrooms, no showers). They can do the work for you as well, I'm sure. You can probably also contract semi-skilled and skilled labor on a day basis on your own. It is walking distance to several restaurants and West Marine.

**Long term storage:** (Oct 2010) Keehi does dry storage but only up to 30 ft. Gentry says they rarely have dry storage availability.

## 2 The Big Island of Hawaii

### 2.1 Hilo & Radio Bay

Hilo makes a great port of entry, with a tranquilo harbormaster and very convenient Customs clearance.



## **2.2 Approach, Clearance, and Dockage**

**Footprint - May 2014:** Very few people seem to be using the Radio Bay harbour - most tend to anchor in Reeds Bay. Only one boat was there in radio bay (a power boat making use of the power hookup), all sailing boats were in Reeds Bay (reeds bay is a shorter walk into town, etc, but you will have to dinghy ashore first).

To Anchor in Reeds Bay it is a DIFFERENT harbour master from the Radio bay one (and no TWIC/security issues). Phone: 808-933-0414, Address: 75 Alpuni St (2nd floor of state building) - their costs are minimal, but includes a \$1/person/day live aboard fee - for two weeks it cost us under \$60 with two living aboard. If you have a larger group living aboard this would be the biggest factor in the cost.

Neither of the harbour masters work weekends.

If you anchor in Reeds bay there are a couple of small beaches in Reeds Bay park that you can haul up on. You can secure your boat to a tree/tree root, or haul it up higher towards a street lamp - there are limited places to secure the boat. The beaches get really busy with locals and kids having fun on the weekend. You will need to wind your way around some shallow rocks to get to and from the beaches - easy in the day, take a flashlight for night time. Beware of shallow rocks - if you use an outboard or have an inflatable, be extra careful!

For large provisioning trips it may be possible to take your dingy (or boat) into Wailoa River basin tie up just to load it up - check with the Reeds bay harbour master if there is a free space for temporary use (you can also get water there).

Customs was indeed the nicest and friendliest we've experienced in the USA - Yay to them.

**Active Transport - May 2014:** Access through the secure area of the port is no longer allowed even with an escort. All visitors are required to walk around the east end of the secure area and back to the port entrance to visit customs and the harbor office. We don't know if those with a twic card can still pass through the port.

This requires leaving the dingy on the "beach" near the canoe club on the east side of Radio Bay. The "beach" is really volcanic rubble that is very hard on bare feet and also not something I would want an inflatable bouncing off of for several hours. We used our dingy wheels to pull our RIB up the slope to a grassy area near the canoe club. It's a steep incline for a heavy rib and engine and the added weight on bare feet is not pleasant. After the first time we started bringing flip flops to shore even if we planned to wear real shoes into town.

We posted a map showing the route to the Customs and Harbor offices and also a few mast head shots of radio bay on our blog [www.sailblogs.com/member/activetransport](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/activetransport). We posted them in early May 2014.

The official documents they give you say that electricity is 25 cents per 15 minutes but the box we used on the dock (one closer to the heads) gave us an hour for every quarter we deposited.

The socket on the dock electrical box would not accept our standard marincoplug, that is molded into the cord and I had to take a razor blade to the plug and cut some of the rubber off to be able to plug our cord into the dock.

At one low tide we saw depth of 6.5 feet at the front of the boat which was about 50 feet from the wall.

The harbor office will not accept cash, credit cards or out of state checks for mooring fees. This means that most people will have to go somewhere to get money orders to pay them. Walmart and Safeway both sell money orders.

We did not have to pay a key deposit. The heads were unlocked. It would be an incredibly PITA to return a key now that they make everyone walk around the port to get to their office. There was hot water for the showers.

Check in was very painless with no inspection but we did have to pay \$28 for the decal. We had no problems checking in even though my US passport had expired between our departure from Mexico and our arrival in Hilo.

### **From 2011 and before:**

The Hilo harbor entrance is well marked with lighted buoys, and Radio Bay itself is fairly well lit. The CMAP chart was spot-on everywhere, even in the confines of tiny Radio Bay.

The entry to Radio Bay is very narrow, just stay in the middle and take it slow. The chart shows an anchor in the middle of Radio Bay, so theoretically you could anchor, but the harbor is very small and it's best to just plan to med moor to the dock. Because of surge in the harbor, unless you have a high deck and a really long 'passarelle' (gang plank), you will need your dinghy to go between your boat and the sea wall.

If there's a cruise ship in port (generally every Tuesday and some Saturdays) call "Coast Guard Honolulu" on VHF 16 for permission to pass it on your way into Radio Bay. Port security will get very uptight if you don't do this (also don't take your dinghy out past a cruise ship without prior permission).

Call Security (808.935.5025) to go to Customs to check in. There is a pay phone at the end of the dock, where the Coast Guard boat, Kiska, docks. You must be escorted from your boat to the gate every time you leave the boat, unless you have a 'TWIC Card'. And you must be escorted back to the boat on your return. They are VERY strict on this rule.

A TWIC Card is a new Photo ID issued by Homeland Security for all 'transportation workers'. Starting in about 2009, everyone with a USCG Captains License was required to apply for one, in order to maintain their captain's license. It turned out to be very handy in Radio Bay, as we could come and go without an escort, with our TWIC cards.

If you have the means to contact Customs ahead of time, it will help smooth your clearance to let them know a day ahead of time that you're coming. The working hours phone number for Customs in Radio Bay is 808-933-6975, or you can email—the address we have is for one officer [george.a.valdez@dhs.gov](mailto:george.a.valdez@dhs.gov). They will sometimes come in on the weekend to clear you in, if you arrange ahead of time. Soggy Paws did this Oct 2010 and paid no overtime fee.

The Customs clearance here was the most pleasant U.S. Customs entry we've ever had. The Hilo Customs office handles all clearance (Customs, Immigration, Agriculture). The office is just outside of the main gate at Radio Bay.

If you arrive after hours and have NOT pre-arranged for clearance, you can try calling the number for Customs at the HNL airport who may be able to process you after hours or on weekends (808-327-3300). Security may tell you to remain on the boat until you clear Customs.

For some strange reason Nakia and several other boats were not asked to pay for a Customs decal (\$27.50, credit card only), however Romany Star, who arrived before us, did have to pay it. No boats that Nakia knows were boarded, but if you tell them that you have fresh produce left, you may have to hand it over.

Technically there is a one month limit to your stay in Radio Bay, but it may be extended, as long as you have a plan for leaving. Nakia (33') paid \$9.24/day plus \$2/pp liveaboard fee plus a once per year application fee (3/2010) . Soggy Paws, who is 44' paid the same amount in Oct 2010.

There is a \$50 (cash only) key deposit for the key to the bathrooms (with shower).

**Mail:** The Port office will accept your mail and UPS/Fed Ex for you if you need to have anything shipped there: c/o Harbors Division, 80 Kuhio St., Hilo, HI 96720 (808.990.7523).

**Water and Electricity:** There are 2 power pedestals on the dock, with coin-operated boxes on them. They have standard 110v 30amp plugs. As of Oct 2010, the power pedestal closest to the Coast Guard dock usually takes 1 or 2 quarters and then will stay on all the time until they collect the money and reset it. There are water faucets on the dock.

### **2.2.1 Getting Around in Hilo**

**Footprint - May 2014:** Town bus service is no longer free - \$2 per person per trip, and the bus does not run on Sundays, has limited (day time only hours) and seems to skip an hour at lunch time too. This makes it cheaper to use the taxi service.

Taxi tickets still available - I purchased a book of 15 for \$30 - Don't expect immediate pickup (so call at least 30 minutes ahead), and tips should be added.

Great (cheap) car rental in easy walking distance from <http://www.harpershawaii.com> ((808) 969-1478)

**Active Transport - May 2014:** The bus is no longer free. It's \$2.00. The harbor office gives you a schedule when you check in.

There has only been one day in the past 8 where there has not been a cruise ship in town so we have been able to get free rides back to the port. It does not appear to be possible to get on the free shuttles outside the secure port area so we have taken the city bus out to the mall.

The cruise ship schedule is available on the harbor office web site.

We found it impossible to get a taxi back from the Walmart area and ended up walking back to the port one day. When a cruise ship is in town there are lots of Taxis but when there is no ship, and you are more likely to need a taxi, most of them don't even answer the phone.

**From 2011 and before:** There is a free bus system in Hilo. One of the bus routes runs right past the Radio Bay gate.

To get to the pick-up spot, walk out of the gate, turn right, and walk down the street about a block to the Chinese take-out place (it's just past the Tesoro depot and right before a motorcycle shop. Pickup was at 7:10, 8:10, 9:10, 10:10, 11:10, 1:45, 2:45, 3:45 & 4:50). They have a picnic table there and you can wait in the shade.

The bus comes from the Mall, turns around a few miles down the road, and then comes back by port entrance and the Chinese take-out place on its way into town. On the way FROM the mall, the stop is at the market across the road from the Radio Bay gate.

After picking you up at the Chinese place, the bus terminates at the downtown terminal, which is loaded with tourist information, and route maps for getting around Hilo and the rest of the island. Note that the bus charges \$1 per 'carry on' luggage if your bag/backpack is oversized, or you have more than one piece.

The bus runs about once an hour, with a break at lunch. The last bus is about 4:30, and there are no buses on Sunday.

If you're going to hang around Hilo for awhile, inquire at the downtown tourist information center about buying 'taxi tickets'. This is a system where you buy a packet of taxi tickets and it makes going around town in a taxi much cheaper than the normal fare--\$2 for one person one-way to the mall vs. \$11-12 without a ticket (!!). They tend not to sell them when the cruise ship is in (this system is designed for locals, not tourists). The taxis are handy for off-bus-hours. Note that the coupons are for a specific taxi company, so you must use their taxis.

The front gate at Radio Bay has a list of taxis who are approved to go into the dock area, though the one we called that one of the guards recommended quoted us a higher price. Our Country Home and Nakia used Bobbie's Taxi, 808.937.6008; he is retired Army and very nice.

When a cruise ship is in, there are also shuttle buses that run frequently between the terminal and the Mall (take the buses marked Hilo Hatties or Walmart) There are also tourist maps and info in the Terminal building.

### **2.2.2 Restaurants**

After all that time at sea, everyone wants to eat out. Here are recommendations from cruisers:

- **Ken's House of Pancakes** – within walking distance of the port (turn right at the road coming out of the gate, walk about a mile to a large intersection). Ken's is on the opposite corner. A good home-style restaurant, large portions, friendly staff. Open 24 x 7.

### **2.2.3 Internet**

**Active Transport - May 2014:** We got a T-mobile wifi device for internet that supports up to 5 users. It came with a month of service. The best phone deal we found, for our needs, was a verizon phone for \$12 and a \$45 unlimited talk plan for a month. We got these deals at Walmart but they did not have a lot to choose from.

**From 2011 and Before:** We couldn't pick up any free wifi while on the boat in Radio Bay. We eventually bought a Mobi Hele internet device, because we planned to be in areas we knew to not have any wifi. See the Communications section in Section 1 for more details.

In the Prince Kuhio Mall area, we found free wifi at Starbucks and Office Max.

Downtown, McDonalds has free wifi.

The Hilo library has slow internet, limited to one hour per card if all terminals are busy.

The bar (Margarita Village) down a few doors from the corner market across the street from the Port also has Wi-Fi for the price of a beer or soda.

#### **2.2.4 Laundry**

**Laundry:** There is no laundromat at the port, but there is a GREAT clean/new laundromat in downtown Hilo, a couple of blocks up from the Bus Terminal. All the machines operate on a prepaid swipe card system, which you stock up with cash or a debit/credit card. It is an attended Laundromat, with drop-off service if you want, and all the machines work well (not cheap, though). Laundry Express is the name.

<http://www.downtownlaundryexpress.com/>

#### **2.2.5 Boaters Resources in Hawaii**

**Rigger:** s/v Sea Flyer (2011) says "If any of you sailors need a rigger on the Big Island contact Gary Hoover 808 960 7498 email [hoovsail@yahoo.com](mailto:hoovsail@yahoo.com)

#### **2.2.6 Things to do in Hilo**

**Downtown Hilo:** Go to the downtown open market, open everyday. The best time is Saturday when all the vendors are there. Buy some nice flowers and yummy veggies. There is lots of shopping, museums, and historical stuff in the downtown area. Make sure you visit the visitor's center at the bus terminal—we found one girl in there who was very knowledgeable and helpful. And make sure you pick up bus schedules for the main routes you might want to take. We heard there is free wifi in the Café across from the bus terminal, and in McDonalds.

**The Prince Kuhio Mall:** This is a typical mall with all the stuff, including a movie theater, Radio Shack, food courts, etc. In the mall outbuildings are also Walmart, Home Depot, a Safeway grocery store, Office Max, Starbucks, and a great health food store. You can find free wifi at Starbucks and in front of Office Max.

**Volcanoes:** There are 3 volcano-related tourist trips... one is to see the live lava flowing from Mauna Loa. The other is up at Volcanos National Park on Mauna Loa. And the 3<sup>rd</sup> is Mauna Kea summit and the observatories. You can book tours easily in Hilo, but each tour is \$100-\$150 per person. A normal-sized rental car (book ahead for lower rates) can be had for around \$50/day. The 4WD's cost more.

**Mauna Kea:** The tourist maps say you can only go up with a 4-wheel-drive but it ain't so (Soggy Paws sez: Another cruiser told us they had tried with their rented subcompact and couldn't get up the mountain). However, we wouldn't go if there was snow. Bring a lunch and some drinks.

**Advice from Soggy Paws:** Rent a smaller car from whoever's cheapest for a few days to 'do' the island. Even though the rental car companies prohibit going over the Saddle Road, it is in good enough shape that you can do it with a standard rental car (except watch for snow conditions). THEN rent a 4WD just for one day to go to Mauna Kea.

On the way to Mauna Kea you will pass a lava tube just outside of Hilo where you can park and walk through. Near the foot of the mountain you will go through some black lava flats. Take a road off towards the west and get out and take some pictures. The sign for the turn-off to the

mountain top is often missing because the astronomy students take them for souvenirs! However, the road is pretty much the first road to the right at around mile post 26.

Stop at the visitor center for a half hour or so to get used to the altitude then drive up to the top. We've been there for the afternoon and once for the sunset. We prefer the sunset one, with great colors. It's about an hour drive out of Hilo to the top so leave accordingly. At sunset the temperature drops below 30 degrees so bring a good coat and long pants. After sunset go back down to the visitor center where they let the astronomy students bring out their expensive telescopes and it's free to look at the heavens along with an explanation of what you're looking at. They do this most nights but, you can call the center to make sure plus, check the conditions at the mountain top.

**Live Lava Flow:** In Oct 2010, the live lava was a one-hour hike to see it (and then an hour back). Over pretty rough terrain. Ask at the downtown info center where it's flowing when you are there, and get advice on where to park. You can usually just follow a group from a tour bus and you'll be OK. The tour buses were picking people up from hotels in Hilo around 3:30pm for the 'night' trip.

**Other places to see:** If you rent the car for a week you can also drive around the island three different ways and there are lots of side trips like hiking the Waipio valley, visiting Kilauea (the last active volcano), and see the black sand beaches on the south side.

Soggy Paws did 3 days of car rentals to pretty much cover the whole island on an aggressive schedule, heading first to Volcanoes National Park, then Black Sand Beach, and stopping overnight at Leilani Bed & Breakfast, and then continuing on to the Kona area the next day, and back to Hilo over the Saddle Road. The 3<sup>rd</sup> day, we rented a 4WD, did the North Coast (Waipo Valley, Nishimura Bay, etc), and back over the Saddle Road to the Mauna Kea Observatory in time for sunset. More time would be needed to actually hike or do activities in the places we saw.

**Snorkeling:** For snorkeling head south on the road outside the harbor and you will find 3 or 4 different swim areas. Our favorite is Richardson Bay Park. Each location is unique. The water is cooler on this side of the island because of the rain. We usually wear a shortie wet suit because the water is cool.

**Hula Festival (April):** In mid-April Hilo hosts the International Hula Festival. For weeks before the event there are hula related events all over town. If you can stay for the Festival you won't be sorry. The main event is 4 days long and on the first evening the admission is free. If you go, go over an hour early as it is completely packed. Bring your binoculars and a boat cushion to sit on. You can purchase island-style food at the event. Get there early enough to sit facing the front of the stage. There are a lot of seats behind the stage but you only see the backs of the performers. Let us tell you, hula ain't just grass skirts and coconut bras. The remainder of the event is always sold out but, you can watch it on TV. Our favorite is day 2 when they have the ancient hula.

**Library:** If you're going to stay in Hilo for awhile, be sure to visit the Hilo library for a \$10, three month (renewable for another \$10), inter-island visitor's card. You can rent DVDs for \$1 and they can be reserved from any branch online. Most materials can be checked out from one branch and returned to another. Pick up a schedule because their hours are limited and they have lots of furlough days.

### **2.3 Heading West from Hilo**

There are two ways you can head west, and which route you take has somewhat to do with how much time you want to spend. Mita Kuulu recommends 'cruising' the southern route. If you have to the time to do it, it's a nice way to see more of the Big Island.

However, Soggy Paws was trying to make tracks for Honolulu, and opted to go north around the island. Both routes end up at Nishimura Bay, where you stage for the crossing of the channel to Maui (see the section on crossing the Alenuihaha Channel).

Also, the north side of the island tends to have more wind, so if you want to sail more, that's the way to go.

### **2.4 The Northern Route**

There are no ports on the north coast of Hawaii for cruising boats. So you have to make Hilo to Nishimura Bay in one hop—a distance of 70 nm. There are two strategies, depending on how fast your boat goes. If you can average over 6 knots, you can leave Radio Bay at dawn and get to Nishimura Bay just before sunset. If you are slower than this, or want to sail the whole way, or just don't want to push so hard, time your departure to leave so that you get to Upolu Point (on the NW tip of Hawaii) about 8pm, skip the stop at Nishimura Bay, and plan to cross the Alenuihaha Channel at night. See the section on crossing the channel below for more details.

**Soggy Paws 2010:** Leaving Radio Bay at dawn, you will find you have almost no wind for several hours, and you will have to motor to keep your speed up. But the wind starts to pick up around 11am, and you will usually have good winds in the afternoon. We had a flying sail the last 5 miles from Upolu Point to Nishimura Bay—with no seas and about 25 knots of wind behind us, we hit 8.5 knots before we started reefing down.

### **2.5 The Southern Route and the Kona Side of Hawaii**

**Active Transport - May 2014:** The volcanos National Park web site tells you if there is any lava flow to see if you sail around to the south. We went north since the weather was very settled while we were in Hilo and there was no flow at the time.

**From Mita Kuulu:** We've sailed north and south out of Hilo but, prefer the southern route for two reasons: you can sail past the active lava flow at night and you arrive at the up wind leeward side anchorages then work your way down wind to cross the channel to the next island. From Hilo you'll have about 25 miles of up wind before you turn the corner south. Plan your departure time so you will be at the lava flow just after sunset. If the trades are really honking I would wait until they calm down to the 20 knot range as the south side can be pretty boisterous. You should arrive at your first anchorage on the Kona side early the next morning.

For Kona side anchorages you will probably want a stern anchor for comfort because the wind usually dies at night. We use a 5 lb Danforth. Drag a fishing line between anchorages. If you stay in 60 feet of water (which is often a stones throw off the beach) you have a good chance of catching a Wahoo (Ono in Hawaiian). The BEST tasting fish ever! Since the water is clear we suggest that you always dive on your anchor to check the set and make sure that you are not damaging the coral.

After rounding South Point (the southern-most point in the U.S.) the wind will die. Head first for Honomalino Bay.

### **2.5.1 Honomalino Bay**

**Mita Kuulu anchor spot:** 19-10.207 / 155-54.582

Pick a sandy spot and anchor off the black sand beach. Facing the beach, on the left is a vacation home. If there are people there go ashore and make an introduction. They are very nice people and once we spent a party evening with them. Along the south running shore you will see a lava field that goes off into the water. Take the dinghy along the shore and locate a lava "bubble" (or dome) that has a hole in it. There is a narrow channel that leads to the other side of the dome, just keep looking. Once there, secure the dinghy and if you dive down only 3 feet you will see an underwater opening that leads inside the dome. Time the surge and it will pull you right up inside. It's only a few feet and easily done. Once inside you can look for Opihi, which are small volcano-shaped limpets. You can pop them off the rocks with your hand if you're quick otherwise use a knife. The Hawaiians say that if you bring Opihi to the luau you drink for free. Anyway, you gotta eat one or two so you can say you did. There are other nice spots along the shore to snorkel and admire the underwater structure.

### **2.5.2 Hookena**

**Mita Kuulu anchor spot:** 19-22.585 / 155-53.87.

Anchor below the large cliff in about 25-30 feet of water in a big sand patch. Put a retrieval line on the anchor because there is an old mooring cable lying across the bottom that we snagged twice (of course it assures that you won't drag!). You can go ashore at the black sand beach. You will quickly discover that black sand gets very HOT. So wear foot protection. A few homeless people occupy the beach living in cars or tents and they are, in our experience, very nice. Make friends with one of the older women.

The bay is home to a pod of dolphins and they are in the bay most days. When they are in the bay jump over with your swim noodles (you did buy some in Hilo, didn't you?) and enjoy their company. A lot of tourists swim out from the beach to see them also. We always invite some of them to come aboard for refreshments, or welcome them to hang along side to rest. We've met a lot of interesting people that way.

Taking a hike up to the lava tubes is interesting and a photo op. Take some water along with you and walk up the road until you get to a wide spot. Look for something that resembles a trail that parallels the water. When you get near the other side of the bay, look for a circle of trees and in the middle you will find 3 trees with dry pods growing out of a hole. This hole leads to the lava tube. We found it with the same directions we're giving you.

You can easily spend a week in this anchorage but, there are no services.

### **2.5.3 Kealakekua Bay (Cooks Monument).**

**Mita Kuulu anchor spot:** 19-28.5 / 155-55.640

The best snorkeling in all of Hawaii! The anchorage area is a subject of controversy, so make sure you get the latest on the anchoring rules from the harbormaster in Hilo. Best time to snorkel is early morning around 8am. Dinghy or kayak the mile or so over to the monument at the north portion of the bay and enjoy the best underwater views. The commercial catamaran, Fairwinds has a permanent mooring there and brings tourists over twice a day. Sometimes you



can bum ice off them. We offer to buy ice and they always just give us some (take a small cooler).

#### **2.5.4 Kailua/Kona Bay**

**Mita Kuulu anchor spot:** 19-38.420 / 155-59.900

This is right downtown. It is a pretty uncomfortable place but, if you want easy access to downtown Kona this is the place to anchor. Might be a good day anchorage to go into town but, we don't like it here. There are some open moorings that a local may tell you are OK to tie up but, two boats have already gone up on the beach because the moorings broke.

We don't recommend using a un-inspected/uninsured mooring. A better alternative is Honokohau Harbor.

#### **2.5.5 Honokohau Harbor**

**Entrance:** 19-40.260 / 156-01.950.

One of only 3 "marinas" on the whole island. It is kind of a crummy marina because it is crowded, the toilets & showers don't always work and on the north side of the marina the parking lot is sometimes occupied by more militant, drugged out homeless. That said, we often go in.

It is also home to our Yacht Club, the Kona Sailing Club located on the north side of the harbor. They have pot lucks on the weekend late afternoons and welcome cruisers. Walk over there as they are pretty nice folks.

There is a haul-out, good restaurant, and fuel dock with a small store/deli & ice inside the harbor. Everything is med-moored, even the fuel dock, except for a few fixed "T" fingers which are side tie. Call the marina on channel 16 to find a slip. They usually can usually find a spot and it's cheap. The haul-out also has a couple of docks but they are expensive. If you hang out at the restaurant bar, like we do, you will most likely make a friend who has a car that would be willing to take you up to Costco or a downtown Safeway for shopping. We usually get lucky by asking where the (your store name here) is and if it is close enough to walk (and it isn't close enough, trust us). Once, a guy loaned us his \$50,000 Mercedes for the day! If no luck, no problem because you can get on those bikes you bought in Hilo and bike to town. It's only a few miles. Safeway, Longs, Costco, Wal-Mart, etc.

Walk down past the fuel dock to the little beach for some good snorkeling. This area is where the commercial snorkel boats bring their guests for \$40. On the north side of the marina behind the sailing club you can walk to a turtle beach and get in the shallow water with them. Not good snorkeling but good for turtle talk!

Talk to the harbormaster about the next anchorage/marina, Kawaihae Harbor. Since 9-11 the rules have changed and we haven't been in there since then. I think the security is similar to Hilo.

From Nakia (late 2009)

Ralph and Glenda (S/V Our Country Home)

541.953.2600/808.557.5918

rcntryhm@juno.com

Ralph and Glenda are living in Kailua Kona and berth OCH in Ko'Olina Marina, Oahu. They are happy to play unofficial SSCA Cruising Station and welcome calls from fellow cruisers.

Honokohau Marina

808.329.4215

[Daniel.K.Mersburgh@hawaii.gov](mailto:Daniel.K.Mersburgh@hawaii.gov)

Call ahead for slip availability, but best to show up in person. Limited to 90 days per calendar year, no exceptions. Nakia (33') paid \$10.99/day plus \$2/pp liveaboard fee (3/2010). Not ideal without a car or bicycle because it's located a good four or so miles from town (between the airport and Kona), and there is no bus service until you reach the Kmart or Target stores. [NOTE: One of the bus lines looks like it might go past the marina entrance, but it does NOT.] No showers or laundry. Free Wi-Fi available from nearby restaurant. Small market at fish weighing dock.

Gentry's Kona Marina

808.329.7896 (Candy, Office Manager)

[gkm@gentrykona.com](mailto:gkm@gentrykona.com)

Nakia hauled out for new bottom paint in March, 2010 with good results. From the research John did at the time, Gentry was definitely cheaper than Ke'ehi Lagoon, and the Phoenician boat yard near Barbers Point and Ko'Olina Marina, both on Oahu. The Gentry yard does not do boat work. Contract for basic labor (\$25/hour at the time) through Ron Clark (808.989.5500). He had bottom paint available @ \$200/gal, which is not too bad after what Nakia paid to have paint shipped parcel post from Seattle. Aluminum fabricator is called Hot Spot welding. \$100 key deposit (checks accepted) for bathroom/shower. Restaurant, marine supply store, and small market adjacent to yard.

### **2.5.6 Kawaihae Harbor**

Entrance: 20-02.511 / 155-50.402.

This is the only other commercial harbor on the island. Have a small marina, smaller anchorage area and some mooring balls. The Honokohau Harbor master can tell you if a mooring is available. There are some nice restaurants here and one small grocery store. The Lats/Atts crowd used to hang out here.

### **2.5.7 Mahukona Harbor**

From Windy City: Mahukona Harbor at 20°11.110N 155°54.237W was a nice stop before crossing the Alenuihaha Channel to Maui.

## **2.6 Crossing the Alenuihaha Channel**

Mita Kuuluu: From Nishimura Bay, get up at 3:30 am and listen to the weather on VHF. If the forecast for Upolo is 20 or less then you can go the 36 miles across to Maui. If it's more, the channel is too dangerous due to the venturi effect and large (over 12') waves. Just wait it out.

We spent 3 days once waiting. The crossing is a beam or broad reach and only 6 hours long. Leave before dawn to get across before it kicks up.

Windy City: We left from Mahukona Harbor. Be very careful and WAIT for good weather before this crossing. We made 42 knots in 6 hours going to Oneloa Beach at 20°37.809N 156°26.897W. GREAT ANCHORAGE. We swam to shore and snorkeled around here for an afternoon.

### **2.6.1 Nishimura Bay**

Anchorage: 20-11.354 / 155-54.203.

This is the last anchorage to wait before crossing the Alenuihaha channel, the roughest channel in Hawaii. It's only 31 miles from Honokohau so you could easily bypass Kawaihae if you wanted.

If coming from the south, be prepared for the wind to go from zero to 25 in just a few seconds as you approach Nish. Bay. So take your sails down well before arriving. There is a big sand patch to anchor and you will be fairly close to the beach. On the left is a large rock wall on the face of the cliff that is part of the old railroad bed. You'll be able to easily recognize it. We stayed here once for 3 days in 35 knots. No fetch – no waves – comfortable.

## **3 MAUI**

So, you made the early morning passage across the channel with your destination of La Perouse Bay.

### **3.1 La Perouse Bay**

Anchorage: 20-35.550 / 156-25.069.

The anchorage at La Perouse is wind swept but, pretty comfortable. However, it is in the middle of nowhere so we usually head up towards Lahaina.

Just a short distance out of La Perouse the wind shifts to right on the nose and is often 15-20 knots. Why? Because the trades are funneling between the two mountains ahead of you.

There are a few anchorages between La Perouse and Lahaina but, they're not that comfortable so we prefer to just get up to Lahaina, which you can easily reach by mid-afternoon.

### **3.2 Lunch Stop: Molokini**

**Mooring Location:** 20-37.955N / 156-28.855

Soggy Paws got underway from Nishimura Bay at about 0430, and made good time across the channel, skipped La Perouse Bay, and was passing Molokini just about lunch time. So we decided to stop for lunch and a swim. If you time it right, all the tourist boats leave Molokini starting about 11:30. By 11:45, the place was completely deserted.

There are submerged moorings in Molokini, along both the East and West arms of the tiny harbor. They are easily visible from the surface in good light. We picked one on the W side of the bay. The mooring ball is about 8' under the water, and the tagline is hanging down. So you

have to put someone in the water to grab the line and hand it up to someone on the bow, who ties a mooring penant from your boat to the loop in the end. We had no wind and no seas, so this was pretty easy. I don't know the legalities of these moorings—we only stayed for lunch and were gone before the afternoon tourist boats came back. You might be able to stay the night here, if you got there late in the day and left before the boats arrive in the morning.

After French Polynesia, the snorkeling was so-so, but it was nice to take a short swim in clear water, about 79 degrees F.

We saw a dive boat on a mooring just off the western arm, at approximately 20-38.029N / 156-29.857W. Snorkeling in that area, we could see that there is a nice looking drop-off on the west face of the west arm of the reef there. And a few minutes later, a local boat came and picked up the mooring and went for a dive. But there was a fairly strong west-setting current on the top of the reef, so use a little caution going there and trying to dive that wall for the first time (perhaps get advice from a local dive or dive boat first).

### **3.3 Oneloa Beach**

Windy City: We stopped at Oneloa Beach at 20\*37.809N 156\*26.897W. GREAT ANCHORAGE. We swam to shore and snorkeled around here for an afternoon.

### **3.4 Lahaina**

**Marina Entrance:** 20-52.050 / 156-41.000

**LYC Moorings:** Approx 20-52.45N / 156-41.11W

**Mita Kuulu:** You can just forget the marina. It is always super packed and all but impossible to get a "slip". Just go past the marina and harbor entrance and find an open mooring buoy with LYC painted on it. In 2010, these buoys were white and there were 7 of them. Most of them are located at the NW end of the Lahaina mooring field. Buoy #4 was at 20-52.470N / 156-41.162W.

These are the free Lahaina Yacht Club moorings. They are inspected every year and we trust them. (In 2010, Soggy Paws inspected their LYC mooring and found it sturdy and in good repair.) It's not a good idea to anchor because the bottom is mostly coral. Be aware that a strong current runs along this side of the island caused by the tides and trade winds.

Once moored you can dinghy into the harbor to the dinghy dock located on the left side of the marina  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way inside. Have a long painter because the dinghy dock is usually packed. Walk into town to the left and find the Yacht Club on the ocean side of the street. It is about 3 blocks down, and a little hard to find—the doorway is just an alleyway.

Check-in with them letting them know which number mooring you are on. You don't have to be a member of a yacht club to use the moorings.

Near the dinghy dock are located a few bike racks. We bring our bikes in and leave them locked up for the duration of our stay. If you have a quick release seat, take it with you and always lock the front wheel and back wheel to the rack. We've never had a problem but why take a chance?

Lahaina is the definitive tourist town crowded with tourists, gift shops, and people hustling tours of all kinds. There is often some event happening at the park in front of the marina and the tourist stores are fun to walk through.

A large Safeway and Longs Drug Store is located on the north end of town in the \_\_\_ Mall. A little closer, about 2 blocks inland from the shore from the end of town near LYC, we found a shopping area with an Ace Hardware, Barnes and Noble, and Foodway (large/new) grocery store.

Get on your bikes and head towards the mountain side and just find a road that goes up into the old cane fields and imagine what Lahaina was like in the old days. There is an old cane train that you can ride for a reasonable fee. Pick up a couple of those free tourist booklets as there might be a discount coupon. In fact, Jean always has a collection of tourist coupons.

There is a public bus that goes across the island to the windward side also. Near the marina is a movie theater where you can spend a nice afternoon in air conditioned comfort.

Good snorkeling can be found a short dinghy ride north to Mala Wharf. Here the old wharf has collapsed making a nice home for fish and turtles (honu).

### **Nakia Report on Maui Jan 2011:**

**Finding a Mooring:** So the deal is that you take a Lahaina Yacht Club mooring buoy (first come, first served; labeled LYC 1-7 on the north edge of the mooring field outside the marina entrance). Follow the marina entrance channel (the surf breaks outside it) in your dinghy, take a right inside the harbor, and park on the NE end of the dinghy dock. All the commercial boats out on buoys park their dinghies here too so it's important not to ask if you can park there, and be sure to stay out of their way by parking up against the rock wall next to the launch ramp and tie off to the palm tree on shore (you should see dinghies already parked like this). It's very crowded and all the locals raise their outboards which makes it dicey (that's how we got punctured once), but I watched a local plow into the dinghies parked farther out and you don't want to be there!

**Finding LYC from the dinghy dock:** Walk north on Front Street all the way down to the LYC which is on the waterfront side of the street (it's farther than I expected). You'll notice the gift shop selling their logo wear before you'll see the swinging western style bar doors to the restaurant. Someone will open the office upstairs (808-661-0191) at around 0800 and Mary Lou loans out their fuel card from 0800-1200 (I think she closes the office by around 1500). When we checked in we also met their Commodore, Brian. They prefer that you belong to another yacht club, but they took our SSCA membership and issued us visitor's cards to give us access to the bar/restaurant and the showers upstairs (no book exchange).

**Fueling up in Maui:** The fuel dock in the Lahaina marina is a commercial pump, which means you have to have a special card to use it. The charter boats are mostly corporate accounts which is why no one wanted to let John use theirs (and be reimbursed in cash). But LYC will loan you their fuel card between 8am and noon. So if you want to fuel by jerry jug, someone has to go get the fuel card, go back to the fuel dock to fuel up, and then return the card to the YC and pay them in cash. We thought this was kind of a pain for only a few jerry cans (which Brian said are frowned upon; but if there's no attendant, then who cares?). Plus the diesel at the fuel dock was about eight cents more a gallon than at the gas station.

So we walked our jugs into town. If you walk with your jerry cans straight up from the marina, you may see a Shell station first. That one is closest to the harbor but it doesn't have diesel. You need to walk north using the smoke stack as your reference to find two more gas stations.

We used the one on the west/water side of the highway and they didn't take any notice of our unofficial blue fuel jugs. He even let us pump both gas and then diesel on the same transaction. Oh, and they have this weird thing about entering your zip code at the pump. If it's out of state, then you have to pay inside, you can't pay at the pump.

If you want more than a few jugs worth (ie come in with your boat), you need to take note of the various ferry schedules before you come in with your big boat to tie up. It's a tiny little harbor with lots of commercial traffic going in and out all day.

**Groceries:** Walk north down Front street and turn right about a block before the LYC to find a large Foodland in a shopping center. There's another shopping center across the street from that with an Ace hardware. We never went all the way down to the Mala Wharf to find the Safeway there. I asked about eggs at one of the visitor's booths and was told that you have to get out of Lahaina to find any kind of a true farmer's market.

**Wifi:** We're getting a good Netgear Wi-Fi signal out here on LYC #5.

### **3.5 *Mala Wharf Anchorage***

If you have to vacate the moorings at Lahaina, or there are none free, anchor at Mala Wharf, just around the corner from Lahaina. You have to tie up the dinghy between the rock breakwater and the boat ramp but there is usually enough room.

### **3.6 *Honolua Bay***

The next anchorage is **Honolua Bay** located on the south side of the Pailolo Channel separating Maui from Molokai.

Windy City: Honolua Bay at 21°00.857N 156°38.364W. This is another wonderful anchorage. Great snorkeling. Get there early before the tour catamarans arrive and be careful not to anchor on the coral; big fines if you damage.

Note: Mita Kuuluu recommends going to Lanai first instead of straight up to Honolua Bay. See section on Lanai.

Mita Kuuluu: Anchorage: 21.00.905 / 156.38.417.

The bay has two bights. You can only anchor in the eastern. This is a great snorkeling spot ( by mid-morning you will be surrounded by dive boats) and a nice jumping off place for Molokai.

### **3.7 *Maui Alternate Routes***

Our Country Home on alternate routes other than crossing channels leaving at 3am...

If you sail to Maui on the East side from Hilo and then through the Auau Channel, it can be navigated at almost any time.

From Oneloa Beach if you sail out to Molokini and then go parallel to Ma'alaea Bay turning toward Lahaina close to Lanai you will be out of the worst or maybe all of the wind flowing through the saddle. OR leave early early in the morning.

If you sail around the south side of Lanai you will miss the effects of Pailolo Channel.

## 4 LANAI

The island of Lanai is 15 or so miles across the channel to the west. If the trades are up it is a nice sail over, if no trades – no sail but, we go either way, leaving Lahaina early in the morning heading for Manele Bay.

### 4.1.1 *Manele Bay*

Anchorage: 20-44.533 / 156-53.079 (anchorage)

This is really the best anchorage on the island. The others farther west are exotic looking and remote but, the snorkeling is disappointing. Here, at Manele, is the best snorkeling in shallow water. This is where the snorkel boats bring their guests.

Locate the large sand patch on the east side of the channel going in between the red outer buoy and the red entrance buoy. Drop your anchor in 25-30'. Don't get into the coral and don't anchor near the breakwater or on the west side of the channel. Set a stern anchor or it will be a sleepless night when the wind dies.

Good snorkeling can be had around the whole area. In the harbor you can tie your dinghy to the end of any of the docks except at the ferry dock or snorkel boat dock. Free cold showers are located in the marina and potable water but nothing else.

Walk west along the road and beach to visit the ultra expensive resort. Walk around and see how the other half lives but, if you want to have a meal or drink, make sure to bring your checkbook!

At the resort you can get shuttle bus that will take you to Lanai City and back for \$10 each, good for multiple trips during one day. We once met a young couple on the beach that took us to the city, let us spend the day there and brought us back in the evening. Lanai City is at 1200' so if you're there after sunset it gets pretty cool. The city is worth the trip. Many Cook Island Pines line the quaint streets and the layout is reminiscent of old Lake Tahoe. A couple of nice grocery stores are located there also. There are some nice anchorages along this side of the island also as described in Mehaffy's guide.

## 5 MOLOKAI

Lanai was pretty nice. Hope you explored farther east of Manele in your dinghy. Now, is decision time. Which side of Molokai do you want to visit?

### 5.1 *The South Side of Molokai*

To visit the south side of Molokai (from Maui), leave Manele, Lanai early and make your course towards Maui the turn to fetch Kaunakakai Harbor.

#### 5.1.1 *Kaunakakai*

Entrance Buoy: 21-04.640 / 157-02.120

Mita Kuulu: This is a commercial and small boat harbor managed by the State. The harbor was dynamited out of the solid coral. Anchor past the commercial barge dock across from the dinghy dock/launch ramp being careful not to swing past the green "C5" buoy. The bottom is sticky mud and you will be in the winds that whip down the channel but the harbor is calm.

Go ashore and check in with the harbor master and pay the small daily anchoring fee. Take the walk along the road on the Mole into "downtown". A true one-stoplight-town! What to do in town? Not much. Molokai is the most laid back of all the islands. Only 6000 people and I think, one gas station. No bars and just a few restaurants.

One great experience in the town is to go to the bakery in the late evening and buy a loaf of still warm bread. They will cut the loaf in half and spread one half with butter and the other with jelly. Ask around town for times and directions.

There is a car rental agency run out of a private home just east of town. Ask for directions. You can drive every road on the island in one day so just rent the car for two days so you can go back to your favorite spot. You will be awestruck at the magnificent scenery. The most picturesque view in all of Hawaii can be had by driving to the east side of the island at the top of the eastern 2000' cliffs overlooking the Kalaupapa peninsula (the leper colony). You have to walk down a short trail to the lookout. You will never forget that view, ever.

From Kaunakakai you *have to sail west* unless the trade winds have all but completely stopped.

**s/v Nakia January 2011:** Anchor spot: 21 degrees 05.025' N / 157 degrees 01.715' W

Harbor master is Bernie, 808-553-1742.

Anchoring fee is ten cents per foot for the boat and \$2 per person for each day of your stay. There are envelopes outside the office. Payment by check before you depart (by check because they don't write a receipt).

Public rest rooms have a cold shower in each (men's and women's) with doors which lock from the inside.

Water faucets are located at various points along the dock.

Garbage is a red plastic bin; no dumpster.

Short walk to town.

### **City of Kaunakakai**

Many businesses are closed on Sundays.

**Library:** Closed Sat/Sun. Opens at 0930 during the week, except Wed at 1230. \$10 for state-wide three month Visitor's card. No internet use allowed without a card.

**Wi-Fi:** We found a useable signal from Fely's Video and Gifts in the Molokai Center across the street from the library (tables and chairs outside for snack shop next to bank, but no electrical outlets). We also used a free signal out at the boat. Hele/Mobi didn't seem to work well from down inside the boat.

Two main grocery stores on the main street of town (Ala Malama Ave). The second, The Friendly Market, has a better selection of foods; the first one has more in the way of housewares.

**Repairs:** Napa Auto Parts and small hardware store in town.



**Fuel:** Two gas stations with diesel fuel; Chevron is at the first intersection after you come off the causeway from the Port; Hayaku gas station is a block farther at the main street (so not a bad walk with jerry jugs and a cart); one or the other is open daily.

**Post Office:** Take a right at the main street and go past The Friendly Market.

**Laundromat:** Two open daily 0700-2100; Friendly Isle Laundromat is next door to the Molokai Pizza Cafe and is new and air-conditioned with two big front loaders; the second one is just west of Hayaku Gas Station with more front loaders but the machines are older and the building is open air (flies and mosquitos). No change machines so bring your own quarters.

**Banks:** American Savings Bank (ATM outside) and Bank of Hawaii flank both ends of the Molokai Center.

**Market:** Saturday outdoor market (closed holidays) is in full swing by 0900. Located at the Molokai Center. (Unconfirmed) A few people sell small amounts of local produce from sidewalk stands.

### **Restaurants**

\$1 soft serve ice cream cones are to be found at Molokai Burger (after 2 PM), Molokai Pizza Cafe, and the Hayaku gas station - IF the machines are working! We had to go to all three before we found a working machine.

Molokai Pizza Cafe: Extensive menu with burgers on "pizza" buns.

Molokai Burger: Cheaper burgers and fries.

Kamoi Snack-n-Go: Dave's Hawaiian Ice Cream with some unique flavahs. Monday special is two scoops for the price of one!

Kualapu'u Cookhouse (808-567-9655): Take Hwy 460 West; turn right (North) on Hwy 470 (Kalae Hwy); turn left on Hwy 480 (Farrington Rd.). Serving breakfast daily until 1100 except Sundays 0900-1400. Huge portions of plate lunches like chicken katsu and roast pork (\$10-15).

Molokai Princess (866-307-6524): Daily ferry service from Kaunakakai to Lahaina, Maui. Approx. \$114 for round trip but fuel surcharges fluctuate so check their web site ([www.molokaiferry.com](http://www.molokaiferry.com)); for comparison, lowest airfare for same trip was \$144.)

[www.gohawaii.com/molokai](http://www.gohawaii.com/molokai) - some info, but not very detailed

[www.dkosopedia.com/wiki/La'au\\_Point](http://www.dkosopedia.com/wiki/La'au_Point) - for an explanation of all the "Save La'au" and "No to La'au" signs that you will see around the island.

#### **5.1.2 Haleolono (Lono) Harbor**

21-05.070 / 157-15.060 (entrance).

**Mita Kuulu:** The next stop on the island from Kaunakakai can be west to Lono Harbor however, it is truly in the middle of nowhere, with nothing to offer but dust and solitude, and, if the trades are up, the entrance can be scary. We've only been there by land but we know quite a few boaters that have anchored there in fair weather.

**Soggy Paws (October 2010):** We had a nice overnight anchorage here. We left from Lahaina, Maui early and got to Lono about 2pm. The weather was pretty settled so the entrance was not scary. It is perfectly charted on the CM93 charts and our Garmin chart. The harbor is pretty confined, but we got 2 cruising boats single-anchored in there with no problems. With more boats you'd want to med moor or stern anchor to limit the swinging room.

No wifi and no phone coverage in the harbor.

**Nakia (January 2011):** Anchor spot: 21 degrees 05.210' N / 157 degrees 14.852' W

No services; five mile dirt road to Maunaloa town with small (very limited) grocery store two gift shops (Kite Factory comes highly recommended (open daily, 1000-1400) and Post Office (limited hours). At the time of our visit, Chuck and his friendly yellow dog, Kula, were living on the power catamaran, Morning Wood, with his Spencer sailboat rafted alongside. He monitors VHF 17. He has a truck and may offer you a ride to town, if you get to know him. Cell service (T-Mobile) was available out on the beach/breakwater. 18' depth for anchoring in good mud holding on flat protected water. Bees are a problem in dry weather and mosquitos are bad after a rain. Nice beach walks in both directions.

## **5.2 The Windward Side of Molokai**

OK, lets say that the trades are 20 knots or less and you want to visit the windward side of Molokai. From Lanai, sail back to Lahaina City and grab that mooring. Then, early the next morning (yeah, it's always early because the trade winds are less) motor around the north end of Maui to Honolua Bay.

### **5.2.1 Crossing from Honolua Bay Maui**

Leave Honolua Bay, Maui around 2:30 – 3 am hard on the wind and make for the eastern edge of Molokai, Cape Halawa. You should arrive off the Cape by sunrise . You can stand off the eastern shore less than a mile. The 2000 foot cliffs, shrouded in rain-squall clouds run half the length of Molokai. It's a beautiful sail along the cliffs to your first, ultra-exotic anchorage Okala Island Anchorage just 6 or so miles from the Cape.

Windy City: Again we left Honolua at daybreak and crossed the Pailolo Channel along the North side of Molokai. With the sun coming up on the green mountains in the AM you will have spectacular views.

### **5.2.2 Okala Island**

Anchorage: 21.10.475 / 156.55.940 (anchorage)

They filmed the opening scene to Jurassic Park here. There are two islands, really just giant rocks, eastern-most Mokapu and next to the black sand beach Okala. Leave the islands on the port side and anchor in 25 feet, black sand bottom. You will be at the bottom of a long valley with great cliffs on both sides. You will see the Kalaupapa peninsula to the east.

### **5.2.3 Kalaupapa (Leper Colony)**

**Approx Anchorage:** 21.11.306 / 156.59.178

The leper colony is still in operation and it is forbidden to go ashore anywhere on the peninsula without prior arrangement. It is run by the Parks Department and the residents are shy about visitors.

While we were on Maui we got the phone number to the tour guide at the colony and arranged to come ashore for the tour. Make extra sure that the guide has your names, the boat name, date when you'll be there for the tour (not when your anchoring) and get his name. The last time we did this he forgot about us and we had to do some fast talking with the park ranger to come ashore. While on the tour you can't take photos of the town or residents but, you can take pictures of the cemetery and some other things. The guide will let you know. Bring drinks and something to eat with you. We don't remember what it cost but it was reasonable and a once-in-a-lifetime deal so do it if you can. Oh, you can mail a letter from there with the Kalaupapa post mark.

Mehaffy's guide is incorrect as to where to anchor here--no sand. He shows anchoring in front of the barge landing but, it is all rock. Clear the point and steer straight into the cliffs. On the left you will pass the town proper and the barge/dinghy landing. At the foot of the cliffs you will find a large dark sand area in about 25'. We took range bearings as such:

Behind and to the left the barge landing was 30 degrees. Ahead there are some wispy pine trees on the beach 140 degrees. Yeah, set a stern anchor. Great snorkeling but, don't go ashore.

**Windy City:** We made it around the Kalaupapa peninsula from Maui and anchored at 21°11.351N 156°59.198W just SW of the old pier of the leper colony. You cannot go ashore here unless you have prior permission. Where you get this I don't know. From there it was an easy sail to Honolulu but here again watch the weather going through the Kaiwi Channel.

Next stop Oahu and downtown Honolulu. Another cultural experience. Plan to spend a month there.

### **5.3 Land Touring on Molokai**

**s/v Nakia Jan 2011:** We did it without a map or guidebook, which is why I took all these notes! We did these two trips over two days, but with a good car you could easily do it all in a day. After we did both drives I checked out the Moon Handbook for Maui from the library and wish I'd had it with us so we could have more easily found the high points (although even the 2007/8 editions were very out of date; so many things have closed since then)

#### **Hwy 450 East (the tropical end of the island)**

Molokai Shores (condos)

Hotel Molokai (cool looking barn-like units)

Mile 2-3 - One Alii Park II, followed by One Alii Park I (very large)

Mile 4 - Kawela Plantation - housing development (?) on hill, Kakahaia Park

Mile 6 - Jamie (KH6KW) and Kim's distinctive A-frame house with HAM antenna

Mile 10 - Kamalo Harbor (drove in to check out this little anchorage behind the reef), Wavecrest Resort

Mile 13 - Kilohana elementary school. Public Beach Access road (We took this one which led to parking at Puko'o Harbor; walk down to the beach and skirt the fence for a peek at the private lagoon.) Convenience store, Public Beach Access road

Mile 16 - Fish pond just at/before road goes to single lane

Mile 20 - Honouliwai bridge, Smaller fish pond, Good views of Maui

We turned around before the road continued to narrow even more and turned to the left around the point. Because we hadn't looked at a guidebook we didn't realize that about six miles beyond was the Halawa Valley, and I'm sorry to have missed seeing that.

### **Hwy 460 West (the drier, cowboy country, end of the island)**

Mile 1 - Kiowea Park

Coconut Grove (You will have seen far nicer versions of this; we didn't stop; we also missed seeing "Church Row" in the same vicinity)

Mile 7 - Airport Rd.

Miles 12-15 (and probably more - Molokai Ranch land; not sure who owns it now)

Mile 15 - Sign for Kaluakoi Resort, Paniolo Hale, and Ke Nani Kai. This is the turn off for Papohaku Beach Park where there are bathrooms with showers for the campers. Three mile white sand beach and a good view of Oahu. There are other access roads to the beach to explore; one was down the hill past the Papapa Plantation resort. We didn't take the road all the way out to the point.

Mile 17 - The highway ends at Maunaloa town. You can drive around the residential area, get a snack at the General Store, and, if you have a decent vehicle, drive down the dirt road to Haleolono Harbor. Kim highly recommended taking a look in the Kite Factory gift shop but we missed it (open daily 1000-1400). She said the owner is quite a character.

One] the way back we took Hwy 480 North towards Hoolehua (Puupeelua Rd.) which then became 481 North going straight, or 480 East to the right. We drove through this residential area past the Macadamia Nut Farm on Farrington Rd. and Coffees of Hawaii. We stumbled upon the Kualapu'u Cookhouse getting back to the highway to town - just in time for lunch!

## **6 OAHU**

### **6.1 General Info**

#### **6.1.1 Oahu Bus System**

The Oahu Bus system has a good website. It is very easy to get all over Honolulu by bus. And there are buses that go to other parts of the island. See <http://www.thebus.org>

### **6.1.2 Getting Around by Bike**

Hawaii is committed to biking and there are a lot of places you can go by bike alone. Some buses have a bike platform on the front, so you can extend your biking horizons by taking a bus somewhere (see the bus website above for details and schedules).

On this page, you can download section maps for bike routes and facilities, and also an 'all Oahu map as a PDF file'

<http://hawaii.gov/dot/highways/Bike/oahu/index.htm>

### **6.2 Marinas and Yacht Clubs**

**Active Transport May/June 2014:** We stayed in **Kewalo Basin Harbor** which is now managed by Almar Marinas out of California. They had a slip for us for a month.

The harbor master is John Eveleth. He is a helpful man who will fit cruising boats in if he has space. We were in the slip that normally belongs to a tourist catamaran that was out of the water for maintenance.

Kewalo Basin Harbor  
1125-B1 Ala Moana Blvd.  
Honolulu, HI 96814  
Office: 808.594.0849  
Fax: 808.594.0848  
<http://www.kewalobasinharbor.com>

They signed for a lot of stuff we had shipped in (new main, new radar, misc Amazon stuff)

There is free internet.

Kewalo has no shore-side heads except the ones in the public park with an outside cold shower for the surfers. There is an enclosed head on the land side of the harbor for use by charter boat customers. The harbor master gave us a key.

Electrical hook-up was a hassle that was supposed to take several days but the harbor master turned it on for us the day we arrived. He gave us a flat rate for the month instead of dealing with the meter. Price of the slip was about the same as Waikiki Boat Harbor.

Lots of homeless people in the park next to the marina but they were friendly and did not cause us any problems.

Surge in the harbor can be very strong and varies with the state of the tide. Need a lot of chafe gear on mooring lines.

One of the reasons we settled on Kewalo is that we needed to have a lot of stuff shipped in for repairs and **Ali Wai** refuses to receive packages for anyone who rents slips from them unless the package will fit through their mail slot. The management at that place is very unpleasant and incompetent.

The only private heads are in a building near Ala Moana Blvd. Closer to our boat was the public restrooms in the park and outside cold shower provided for the surfers. No pump out service

The Ala Wai marina is run down and full of derelict boats but for transients they require a coast guard inspection to make sure you have flares and that your lights work. You also must have a copy of the colregs on your boat. The price was about \$350 per 2 weeks plus electricity. Not all slips have power.

The price at Kewalo was about the same and they gave us a flat rate on power of \$50 for the month.

**Waikiki Yacht Club** was about twice as expensive. They have a pool, 24 security and restaurants but the price differential was over \$600 for us.

The primary reason we used Kewalo was that the harbor master (John) was willing to let us have packages shipped in prior to our arrival.

**Keehi Lagoon** has a terrible reputation these days. Lots of theft and its location is so remote

**From 2011 and before:** From Kaunakakai, Kalaupapa or Manele it's about 50 miles to the Ala Wai boat harbor in Honolulu. Time your departure to arrive in Honolulu around 1300 so you will have plenty of time to get the "lay of the land". Oahu, realistically, only has three State run marinas:

**Ala Wai: (Honolulu)** Pros.. Right in the heart of the city with easy access to everything by bicycle; Fireworks every Friday night; convenience store within walking distance Cons.. Falling apart; med tie on 800 row pain-in-the-ass.

**Heeia Kea (Kaneohe Bay)** Pros.. Beautiful views. Cons... Difficultly in obtaining a slip; long way to services.

**Keehi Lagoon (outskirts of Honolulu)** Pros... Two blocks from West Marine. Cons.. Death trap docks, militant and drugged out homeless; dirty; thefts; industrial area.

There are a few private marinas but they are very expensive, especially for transit boaters.

### **6.2.1 Ala Wai Harbor (City Marina & 2 Yacht Clubs)**

21.16.600 / 157.50.720 (entrance buoy).

Diamond Head Crater is the obvious landmark that signals your approach to Honolulu. Stay to the outside of the red buoy that marks the shallows near Diamond Head. The channel into the Ala Wai is bordered on both sides by shallow reefs.

The harbor is home to 3 yacht clubs and a city marina, called the Ala Wai . Temporary dockage may be obtained from the yacht clubs (call ahead to inquire). Here is contact information:

- City Marina - <http://hawaii.gov/dlnr/dbor/oahuharbors/alawaihrbr.htm>
- Hawaii Yacht Club - <http://www.hawaiiyachtclub.org/>
- Waikiki Yacht Club - <http://waikikiyc.com/>
- The fuel dock also sometimes has slips available. They can be reached at [magicislandpetroleum@hawaiiantel.biz](mailto:magicislandpetroleum@hawaiiantel.biz) or 808-955-8160

If you have not called ahead, once inside past the breakwater, bear right and temporarily tie up at the fuel dock.

Ask at the fuel dock how to obtain a temporary slip. They may allow you to tie up and walk over to the harbor masters to get a slip if the fuel dock is not too busy. Otherwise, they can direct you to the State dock.

**(From Mita Kuuluu ~2006)** The Harbor employees here are just the opposite of the ones you encountered in Hilo. Kinda uptight and anal. We recommend that you don't give them any more information than what they ask for. It is EASY to get dockage for 2 weeks, but if you tell them you plan to stay 3 months, that's a problem. So tell them 2 weeks and then keep extending.

By the way, directions are given with reference to the mountains or the ocean. "Turn Mauka" means towards the mountains "Turn Makai" means towards the ocean. And Hawaiians use "ya" like Canadians use "A." (you been here before, ya?)

You can get all sorts of information by going to the nearby hotels and asking.

### **6.2.2 Keehi Lagoon (Marinas & Moorings)**

There are 3 'marinas' and a mooring field in Keehi lagoon. The marinas are:

- City Marina
- Keehi Marine Center Marina (KMC)
- La Mariana Marina

In the tsunami of Mar 2011, a section of the KMC docks, with about 80 boats attached, came loose and surged back and forth, bashing docks at adjacent City Marina and La Mariana. Rebuilding will take time.

The mooring field at Keehi seems (for some reason) not being maintained by the City. It is uncertain what the status is (we haven't spent any time trying to figure it out).

### **6.2.3 Pearl Harbor – Rainbow Bay Marina (Military Only)**

If you are active or retired military you may be able to find dockage at Rainbow Bay Marina in Pearl Harbor. There is a transient dock where you will be allowed to stay for up to 3 months. Transient dockage is \$15 per day.

You are now required to get a security permit before entering into Pearl Harbor. You can either do this in person--stay for a day or two at one of the yacht clubs in the Ala Wai basin, and come down in person, or by fax. We were able to do this by faxing the following documents to the Base Security office:

- Boat Documentation
- Proof of Insurance
- Copy of a current USCG Voluntary Safety Inspection (we arranged for in Hilo)
- Military IDs of crew

They faxed back our security document (after a second phone call prompting). The ID number of this document is required when you radio in to Pearl Harbor Harbor Control before entering this harbor. And the original of this document (not the fax) must be onboard at all times. I do not know if there is any problem if you have non-military crew aboard.

Rainbow Bay Marina is right next to the Pearl Harbor Visitor's Center. It is convenient to the Pearl/Hickam base area, but far from our fellow cruisers at the Ala Wai. There is a city bus stop within easy walking distance. The marina facilities are outside the base, so visitors (and contractors) can get to the marina. But all the marina facilities (docks, parking area, restrooms, laundry, etc) are secured with a marina-guest-only key.

#### **6.2.4 Ko'olina Marina**

A nice but expensive resort marina about 15 miles west of Honolulu.

<http://www.koolinamarina.com/>

### **6.3 Boater's Resources in and around Honolulu**

Here are places we found useful that other boaters may find useful too.

#### **6.3.1 Fuel & Propane**

**Active Transport - June 2014:** The fuel dock at Ali Wai was torn down to make way for yet another Japanese wedding venue. The only fuel dock in town is in Keehi lagoon. We got fuel from the truck that services the commercial operators in Kewalo. They have a 300 gallon minimum but were willing to sell us less if we were willing to time our fueling when they were at the marina for bigger boats. It was only two days until they showed up. They call first. Nice people.

Fuel was \$4 per gallon which was better than I was expecting. Diesel at gas stations was over \$4.50.

City Mill would not fill my Australian propane tank (no anti overfill device) but Alii Stor-Mor (2679 Kilihaue street) filled it without batting an eye. Only \$25 for a 9 kg tank.

#### **6.3.2 Customs and Immigration**

**Soggy Paws - 2011:** Sorry, we didn't clear in in Honolulu, so I can't say what the clearance process is (try Noonsite.com, or I'm sure any marina/yacht club will know the procedure.

However, we did get clearance OUT of Honolulu (required for entry in some foreign ports).

First, find the form online and fill out it out ahead of time. The forms are located at [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov) Select forms and scroll down to form 1300 Vessel Entrance or Clearance Statement, click and fill out the PDF and print.

The form needs to be taken to US Customs Vessel Entrance and Clearance Office located at Pier 1 in Honolulu. You are also supposed to have a Customs sticker and that will cost \$19.00. The yacht clearance place is all the way at the seaward end of Forest Drive, off of Ala Moana (the Homeland Security building on Ala Moana is at the corner of Forest Drive), turn there and head for the water, through the guard gate, and follow their directions from there. It took 10 minutes and cost \$19.00 and we got an official clearance out of the U.S. that's good for 48 hours.



The number we found online for this office is 808-522-8001 ext 221. Their hours are 7am-4pm weekdays. If you are trying to clear in or out after hours, contact the office at the Honolulu Airport at 808-237-4601 Ext 301.

### **6.3.3 Boating Hardware Stores**

**Active Transport - June 2014:** West is outrageously over priced

We ordered quite a bit from Defender and if the order is less than \$1000 they will ship usps if you request. We never had a shipment from anywhere on the mainland take more than 4 days. Most of the time it was 2 days for priority mail.

Pop Marine is as expensive as West and has no sales staff.

Hawaii bolt and nut is a good place for ss fasteners.

905 Ahua St, Honolulu, HI 96819  
(808) 834-1919

Prices are high but sales people are knowledgeable and find what you need.

Amazon honored their free shipping deal for things that can come priority mail. Prices are so much lower that even if you had to pay shipping it is worth it to have stuff shipped if you have the time.

Both sailmakers were booked way in advance. Repairs need a lot of lead time. North Sails were not pleasant to deal with.

**2011 and Before:** Here are the places we shopped most frequently:

**West Marine** – On Sand Island Road within walking distance of Keehi Lagoon. \$\$

**POP** – What you wish West Marine to be... pop-hawaii.com - On Pier 38, near western downtown Honolulu - (808) 537-2905

**City Mill** – On Nimitz a little west of town. This is the local version of Ace Hardware. Better prices sometimes than Home Depot and certainly better than West.

**Home Depot** – There is a Home Depot downtown on Alakawa street new Costco and Best Buy. There is also a Home Depot out in Pearl City.

**Lowes** – A new Lowes is being built on Nimitz between downtown and Sand Island Road. There is also a big Lowes out near the intersection of H1 and H2.

**Kilgoes** – Kilgoes has gone out of business (probably when Home Depot was built)

### **6.3.4 Solar, Electrical & Electronics**

**Alternators & Starters** (Central Pacific Rebuilders, Inc) - Corner of Nimitz & Mokauea (near where West Marine is) (808) 847-2351 or 808-841-9911

**Industrial Electronics** – 1353 Mookaula St. – 808-847-4300. Had connectors and crimpers & computer fans and lots of stuff for electronic and antennas. Nice guy.

**Inter Island Solar** - Louis at Inter Island Solar is very knowledgeable and has good prices on solar panels, Outback regulators, and all the wiring, junction boxes, etc. for hooking up solar panels. Located in Ahua street in the Mapunapuna district (between the Airport and Keehi Lagoon) in Honolulu. <http://www.solarsupply.com/>

### **6.3.5 Refrigeration & Watermakers**

Dan – **Electro Marine Services** - <http://holoholo.com/ems/> . Dan rubbed us the wrong way, but if you're in need of assistance with your marine refrigeration, he's the most recommended guy around the marinas and yacht clubs.

### **Hydraulics (Watermaker Fittings, etc)**

Hydra Air Pacific – [www.hydraairpacific.com](http://www.hydraairpacific.com) 808-834-7656

### **6.3.6 Welding, Fabrication, Metals, Plastics**

**Diamond Welding** – next to La Mariana Restaurant on Kehei Lagoon. 808-845-4104 or [ratyphoon@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:ratyphoon@hawaii.rr.com)

**Moo's Machine Works (Welding & Fab)** - 685 Mapunapuna Street (808) 839-5633

**Royal Metals** – Mokoaua St. (near where West Marine is) – Stainless & aluminum stock

**Universal Manufacturers (Welding & Fab)** - 1711 Kalani Street (off Kalihi St. north of Nimitz) (808)845-5971 Fax (808)842-4566 Email [info@umhawaii.com](mailto:info@umhawaii.com) Gene on Reflections says "I've had many projects done there. They can make anything in aluminum, stainless or any other metal. They also polish stainless. They do lots of work for boaters. I've always worked with Dave. They are professional, reliable and quick. I highly recommend them!"

### **Fiberglass & Plastics**

Fiberglass Hawaii (downtown near Waiakamillo St & Dillingham). All kinds of fibreglassing supplies. <http://www.fiberglasshawaii.com/>

### **Stainless Fasteners – See list under Boating Hardware**

### **6.3.7 Haulouts**

Keehi Marine Center – 808-845-6465 [kmcjohn@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:kmcjohn@hawaii.rr.com)

### **6.3.8 Canvas, Sails, Sail Repair and Flags**

**North Sails** – 808-591-9192 742 Queen Street, #300, Honolulu. Cell 808-741-9197 or 808-286-3669 (Jim Maselli) [nshawaii@northsails.com](mailto:nshawaii@northsails.com) or [jimm@service.northsails.com](mailto:jimm@service.northsails.com)

There is also an Ullman Sails loft within a few blocks of North Sails downtown.

**U.S. Sewing & Vacuums** – A sewing store with a good repairman. 670 Auahi St. A-7 (a block or two off Nimitz/Ala Moana near the Office Max) 808-536-6044

**Canvas Repair - Colleen** – 808-542-8382 - A cruiser type now living ashore who does great canvas work (interior and exterior). Will come to any of the marinas in Oahu to pick up, measure, deliver, etc. Also a source of canvas type stuff, if you can't find it anywhere else.

Very nice lady, and recommended by several other people, but busy. There is also an advertisement for a guy posted on the West Marine bulletin board, but I haven't written down his number.

**Flags** – we bought our flags online at eagleblemsinc.com. They sell 12 x18 flags on a stick for about \$3-\$4 each. The only flag we couldn't find was the Cook Islands. These flags are cheaply made, but at that price, buy 2 or 3 if you plan to be in a place for awhile. You can get them to remove the sticks before shipping, and it reduces the shipping cost to Hawaii.

Reflections bought their flags at Flags n Things at the Ward Center downtown.

### **6.3.9 Surveyors**

Donald "Bud" Scelsa, CMS – HawaiiMarineSurveyors.com - 808-371-3465 - [marinesurvey@lava.net](mailto:marinesurvey@lava.net) (\$14/ft)

Trans-Pacific Marine Surveyors – Pete Allison – 808-271-0905 - [compositepete@gmail.com](mailto:compositepete@gmail.com) (\$15/ft)

Mark Knutson, AMS - Offshore Marine Surveyors - (808) 239-9471

Ward Graessle, CMS - Offshore Marine Surveyors - (808) 479-4501

Robert (Bob) J. Dupuis – BoatSurveysHawaii.com – [bob@boatsurveyshawaii.com](mailto:bob@boatsurveyshawaii.com)

### **6.3.10 Lubricants and Engine Products**

**Gold Wings Supply Service** – Biobor, lubricants, sealants, epoxies, aerospace stuff, 3M products. Biobor in commercial containers for a very good price. South on Lagoon Drive at 110 Kapalulu Place (near the airport). 808-833-6020 [www.goldwings-supply.com](http://www.goldwings-supply.com)

**Chuck's Corvette Clinic** – We found Amsoil (synthetic engine oil) there at the best price.

### **6.3.11 Office Services**

**Notary Public:** We saw this guy advertised in one of the consulates as being available 24x7 'come to you' Michael Irvine 808-294-2538 [mairvine355@yahoo.com](mailto:mairvine355@yahoo.com)

### **6.3.12 Pacific Island Consulates in Honolulu**

This is not necessarily a complete list. These are the ones we've looked for.

Note that there is NOT a French Consulate in Hawaii. All French visa business is handled by the San Francisco office. See <http://www.consulfrance-sanfrancisco.org>

**Republic of Marshall Islands** - (808) 545-7767

1888 Lusitana St # 301

Honolulu, HI 96813

**Republic of Kiribati** - (808) 834-6775

95 Nakolo PI # 264

Honolulu, HI 96819

**Federated State of Micronesia** - (808) 836-4775  
3049 Ualena St. #910  
Honolulu, HI 96819

**Republic of Palau** - 808-524-5414  
1154 Fort Street, Suite 300  
Honolulu, HI 96813

### **6.3.13 Public Libraries**

You can get a library card 'while you wait' at any of Hawaii's public libraries for \$10. You can search for books, CD's and video's online and reserve them online. The libraries all have computers with internet access as well.

General website: <http://librarieshawaii.org/>

Downloadable location map here:

<http://www.librarieshawaii.org/locations/HSPLSmapofislands.pdf>

### **6.3.14 Provisioning**

**Active Transport - June 2014:** Costco is head and shoulders above the rest for both price and quality. Foodland in the Ala Moana Mall is just OK. Meat is far better at Costco.

Japanese tourists drive prices up so this is not a good city to shop in. Hilo was much cheaper.

Ala Moana mall was packed all day. The food court was mobbed every time we tried to go there.

**2011 and Before:** The Ala Wai is within a block or two of the big Ala Moana Shopping Center, and a block or two further is a Walmart. Within a short car distance there is also a Costco and a Sams. There are several fresh veggie markets in the Honolulu area. For just-before-you-leave type provisioning, usually there is someone locally that will give you a ride and maybe supply you with their Costco/Sams card.

There are two health food stores in the Honolulu area—one downtown on King Street (I think) and another in a mall east of town. These are good places to find things like yogurt starter and fresh seeds for sprouting.

**Eggs:** s/v Infini (2011) says: We got our eggs--sold in crates (2.5doz.)—at Associated Producers Corp. 439 Kalihi St. 841-7695

## **6.4 Enjoying Honolulu and Oahu**

### **6.4.1 Sightseeing Honolulu**

**Active Transport - June 2014:** The Arizona visitor center puts aside a certain number of tickets for purchase on line. When we first checked they were sold out two months in the future but at the last minute the day before we wanted to go tickets became available. There is a \$3 convenience fee for on line reservations. It s more if you want the audio tour with Jamie Lee Curtis. The museums are free and don't require reservations. They are very well done, IMHO. I wrote it up on our blog [www.sailblogs.com/member/activetransport](http://www.sailblogs.com/member/activetransport) .

Polynesian Cultural center is an incredible rip off.

Kaneohe side has really changed in the past 30 years. Bumper to bumper traffic in the middle of the day.

We were very pleased with Lucky Owl rental car. \$100 for a week for a nice clean car with AT and AC. They deliver to the marina and pick the car up. \$30 per week for a permit to park at Kewalo.

**2011 and Before:** Waikiki, Diamond Head, Chinatown, Museums, parades, cultural events, surfing, swimming, beaches, you got it all here. When you finally decide to leave Honolulu you can sell or give your bikes away just before you leave. Here are just some of the things to do:

**Waikiki..** Bike down the tranquil city streets to the beach at Waikiki. Down Ala Mona turn right on Kalakaua. People watching at its best. Take a swim to say that you did it. Plenty of beach showers. In addition, from the harbor, you can walk along the beach sidewalk to Waikiki. You must stop at a food stand and buy a shave ice (not shaved ice) and try a Musubi (moo-sue-bee) a pure Hawaiian snack. If you have kayaks, paddle over to the beach from the harbor for more people watching. We always meet and talk to the tourists on the beach and in the water.

**Chinatown..** This one rivals the Chinatown in San Francisco. Bike west down Ala Moana Blvd about 3 miles. You will pass Aloha Tower on the left (maritime museum, Hooters, restaurants). Go three blocks past Nu'uuanu, turn right and go one block to King St. This is the beginning of Chinatown. For some unforgettable photo ops arrive by 7am when the stalls and shops are just opening. Fresh local fish, roast duck, char-sui pork, authentic Chinese restaurants, a world of vegetables and a rich cultural experience.

**Diamond Head Crater..** A sweaty bike ride up to the dormant volcano. Bike past Waikiki Beach out Kalakaua Ave, through the park and turn right on, yes, Diamond Head Rd. You'll pass Diamond Head Lighthouse then come to a vista spot. Stop and watch the surfers and wind surfers while you rest. Continue on DH Road and take the first left. Watch for the sign to turn left up to the crater. The last part is pretty steep. The park entrance I seem to remember, is \$1 and once there you can walk through the tunnels up to the crest of the crater. Here is a panoramic view stretching from Molokai to the west side of Oahu. It's a breeze coming back!

**Pearl Harbor Memorial Sites:** There are actually 4 separate things to see that are lumped under the Pearl Harbor Visitors Center (and more commonly known on the tourist maps as the Arizona Memorial)...the Arizona Memorial, the USS Bowfin Submarine Museum, the USS Missouri, and the Pacific Aviation Museum. The museum parts of these are mostly free, but there are additional parts that require admission in the \$5-\$10 range.

The Aviation Museum costs \$15 Adult general adm, with discounts for children, military, and Hawaii residents. There are some additional charges for optional items... flight simulator and a hangar tour.

**Take a guided tour..** Our good friends, Robert & Connie used to run a tour van out of Koolina. Their email is [rpsheetz@yahoo.com](mailto:rpsheetz@yahoo.com) or 808-382-5948. Call or email them and tell them you know us and that you want information on how to go on the Alii (ah-lee-E) tour. On the tour you will meet a real Samoan Chief who will take you on a short bus and raft trip. The raft trip is on an ancient fish pond. The Chief is very funny. He and his other Samoan friends put on a great show and demonstration. The can also recommend a good tour company to you.

**Take the city bus around the island.** For \$2.00 you can get on a city bus and go around the island. Takes most of the day. Ask the bus driver for any details.

**Rent a car and go around the island.** (or make a friend with a car). Pick up a free map at the Hilton (right there in the Ala Wai). The best way is to go counter-clockwise. Go around Diamond Head to the H1, turn east to Hawaii Kai. Just past Hanauma Bay is a vista spot with a blow hole. Around the area of the Polynesian Cultural Center you will find shrimp wagons on the side of the road. The real, original wagon is the white truck on the right hand side of the road named Giovanni's. Formerly run by a couple of Uruguayan women. \$15 for a plate of 12 shrimp and rice. We share a plate and like the scampi with plenty of garlic. North you will find Sunset Beach, the Banzai Pipeline ('Ehukai Beach), Haleiwa, etc. It's all day so, depart early enough to be able to make lots of stops.

**Go to the Flea Market at Aloha Stadium.** It's a 12 mile, fairly easy bike ride out there but, you can also go to the Hilton, (or any nearby hotel) and ask them about the shuttle bus that takes you out and back. This is the place to buy souvenirs for everyone. Cheap and plentiful. Weekends are the best but, it is open everyday.

**From s/v Dazzler:** I don't recommend Hanauma Bay for snorkeling. It's fished out and extremely touristy. There aren't many places left to snorkel. Lots of folks anchor at "Electric Beach" just north of Ko'Olina and snorkel out there. The tourist boats from Ko'Olina go there also but there are lots of fish. There are always lots of free music/dance/cultural events going on here you just have to check the news paper.

**Pearl Harbor – Admiral's Boat Tour:** If you're military or retired military, COMPACFLT runs a boat tour of Pearl Harbor Tue-Wed-Thu at 0845 and 1300. This is free for military personnel and up to 4 guests. Reservations required-contact the COMPACFLT Boat House at 808-471-9988

**Hiking** – See the [Hiking section](#)

#### **6.4.2 Eating Out in Honolulu**

**Active Transport - June 2014:** John Dominis is closed. Its now a Japanese wedding venue  
If you enter the parking lot at Hooters after 4 pm you get charged for parking even if the restaurant validates your ticket. Its at the building next to the Aloha Tower.

if you show up for happy hour at hooters you get cheap drinks and half price appetizers and a free hula show from the performers who are performing for the arriving dinner cruise passengers on the Star which docks 100 feet from Hooters.

Hale Koa used to be a pretty good deal for drinks and pupus in the Warriour lounge. Not such a good deal any more.

KimChee in Kaneohe is a place I went to 30 years ago. Its a little more upscale now with windows and air conditioning but the food is still excellent and a good value. The \$9 lunch special was all we needed that day.

Buca de Beppo has a lot of on line coupons. Their location is not ideal (Ward center right across from Kewalo) so they seem to be struggling.

**2011 and Before:** Recommendations from s/v Dazzler:

- In the port of Honolulu there is **Nico's** which is a small local style place serving breakfast and lunch. It's an eat outside in the shade kind of place and reasonably priced (for Hawaii). My favorite breakfast is the fried rice with fish! The fish auction takes place just across the way at about 5 am every day. Anyone can wander around and watch the goings on but you must wear shoes (no slippers cause it's slippery). Then pop over to Nico's for some breakfast. It's also great for lunch and you can get beer and wine if you like.
- Across the road from Nico's is "**Uncle's**" which is a real restaurant and a little more pricey but I understand it's quite good.
- For a spectacular view take the outside elevator up to the top of the Ilikai Hotel to **Sargento's Restaurant**. The food is very good (expensive) but they also have a happy hour at the bar and you can enjoy the spectacular view for a lot less.
- **John Dominis Restaurant** is also excellent in a beautiful setting with a fabulous view of Diamond Head at sunset (ask for a booth). Expensive.
- There are the shrimp trucks in Kahuku and all along the north shore. We've never eaten at them but they get good reviews. There are lots of fun places to eat in Chinatown, dim sum and restaurant style. It's fun to do some fish and veggie shopping there and we always buy our shrimp, clams, etc at the Chinatown fish market.

### **6.4.3 Hiking on Oahu**

There are great hikes in Oahu, but many are not reachable by bus routes. If you like to hike, get the Hiker's Guide to Oahu. It has many hikes listed, with specific directions on how to get to the starting point, the difficulty level, etc.

Online resources:

<http://oahuhiking.com/>

<http://www.hawaiistateparks.org/hiking/oahu/>

<http://www.htmclub.org/faq/htmguide.html>

<http://www.htmclub.org/> - The Hawaiian Trail and Mountain Club

### **6.5 Cruising The West Coast of Oahu**

Once you're all fixed up and reprovisioned, and have your bicycles, sold, get the final laundry out of the way, wash the boat and get outa Dodge! Next stop, Electric Beach! It's long day sail to the West side of the island. Give Barbers Point a wide berth due to shallow water.

If you need ice, beer, fuel, snacks or a marina (hey, you may have forgotten something in Honolulu) You can duck into **Ko'olina Marina** 21.19.300 / 157.07.810 (entrance) and temporarily tie up at the fuel dock and grab a few items at the little convenience store before heading to Electric Beach.

### **6.5.1 Electric Beach (Kahe Point)**

21.21.280/ 158.08.140 (anchorage)

This anchorage is just a couple of miles from Ko'olina so, you could anchor here and dinghy back if you wanted (we did that once to visit our friends without having to get a slip there).

You will see the smoke stack from the electric plant. Anchor a little south of the outflow which you will recognize as an area of turbulent water. The water from the plant is nice and warm and the fish love it. The snorkel boats bring their guests here. Good holding in sand and you won't need a stern anchor. This is a good stop if you are taking your time but if you are restless you should go to the next anchorage, Makua

### **6.5.2 Makua**

21.32.000 / 158.14.090 (anchorage)

This is a huge anchorage directly in front of a wide valley. The valley was use for bombing practice during WWII. You can still see the observation towers used by the military. Now, however, a fight has erupted between the government and the Hawaiians over the protection of the native Hawaiian plant species located there. You can pretty much anchor anywhere you like in good sand.

We stop here to pack all our stuff and decompress before heading to Kauai. We've sailed up to Kauai twice before leaving the islands and twice we departed directly from Makua. If you plan to leave from Makua, don't forget to throw your lei's overboard when passing Kaena Point. (don't tell us that you didn't buy at least two fresh lei's to mark the event). But, if you're going to Kauai you get a reprieve.

## **7 KAUAI**

Hanalei Bay, located on the northern end of Kauai, is the most popular place for cruisers to stop before heading back to the mainland. Hanalei screams "HAWAII" as soon as your anchor is set. Not much in the way of provisioning but plenty of ambiance and Hawaiian culture. Be prepared for plenty of rain as Hanalei rivals Hilo in rainfall.

### **7.1.1 Hanalei Bay**

22.13.950 / 159.30.650 (entrada).

It's an over-night sail to Hanalei. We leave Makua in the late afternoon and arrive in Hanalei by morning. There is a reef on the left side of the bay when entering. Best anchoring is on the left side near the Hanalei River and the old swim pier. Anchor pretty much anywhere as it is all sand.

You can land the dinghy near the swim pier and take an easy walk into town. If you are going to leave your dinghy until dark then it is a good idea to chain the motor and dinghy to a tree or fence post. You can also land your dinghy on the beach but, the law is that you have to take the dinghy all the way up the beach. Additionally, you have to deal with a pretty good surf so we opt for the swimming pier area.



The town has a couple of small markets so you can fill-up on fresh produce. Ask around about the farmers market. They offer some of the more unusual and exotic fruits.

If you want an unforgettable trip, dinghy up the slow moving Hanalei river. Bring along a camera, bottle of wine and a little lunch and motor as far as you want. Red, orange and yellow flowers fall from the trees into the river giving it a bridal-path look. I think there is also a river-front restaurant where you can tie your dinghy and have a meal. You can probably leave your dinghy tied there while you go into town as well.

The town is kind of touristy but the locals give it an old Hawaii flavor. If you haven't been to a Luau yet this is the place for one that is pretty much un-commercialized. Tahiti Neu (new-ee) is a family run bar that features a family-style Luau. Family members provide the entertainment. The family matriarch, Aunte Louise, was the headliner for the show for many years but, she passed a way a few years ago so we would be interested about who took her place. Last time we were there it cost \$25, food, entertainment and all the Mai-Tai you could drink.

There is some hiking to be had on the other side of the by along the cliffs. Other than the beach/ocean related activities there is not much to do right in Hanalei. You have to take a taxi to the airport to rent a car. If you rent a car you will be able to see most of what Kauai has to offer in one day. They have the grand sand beach on the south end of the island and the interior offers the Grand Canyon of Kauai.

Now you got the aloha. Go spread it, bra.