

This article was first published in the April 2018 issue of the Sylvia Woods Harp Center e-Newsletter. It is part of Sylvia's ongoing series about living on Kauai, Hawaii.

Where in the world is Sylvia?

As most of you know, I moved to the Hawaiian island of Kauai in 2013. I **love** living here!

In the past few months about a dozen harp players have come to see me when they were on vacation in Kauai. They stopped by for a lesson, or to rent a harp while they were here, or to buy some books, or just to say "aloha." I love being able to meet my customers from all over the world. So . . . if you ever come to Kauai, be sure to let me know!

Here's some trivia about Hawaii.

* Hawaii is the most isolated population center on Earth. It is 2,390 miles (3,846 km) from California, 3,850 miles (6,196 km) from Japan, 4,900 miles (7,886 km) from China, and 4,657 miles (7,495 km) from Brisbane, Australia. So, we're basically in the middle of nowhere!

* In 1778, Captain James Cook was the first European to reach the Hawaiian islands. He named them after his patron George Mantagu, the 6th Earl of Sandwich. The islands were called the Sandwich Islands until the 1840s.

* Hawaii became the 50th state in 1959. It comprises hundreds of islands spread over 1,500 miles. The eight main islands are Ni'ihau, Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, the Island of Hawai'i (also called the Big Island), and the uninhabited island of Kaho'olawe.

* The Hawaiian islands were formed by volcanic activity which is continuing to build islands. The Mauna Loa and Kilauea volcanoes on the Big Island of Hawaii are still active.

* Believe it or not, it actually snows on the the summits of the 13,800-foot Mauna Kea and the 13,600-foot Mauna Loa on the Big Island about once or twice a year!

* All of the islands are on Hawaii Standard Time. We don't observe Daylight Savings. And so, depending on the time of year, we are either 2 or 3 hours behind the west coast of the US mainland, and 5 or 6 hours behind the east coast.



Here's some trivia about Kauai.

I live in Princeville, shown as a red heart on the map.

* Kauai, also called the Garden Isle, is geologically the oldest of the main Hawaiian Islands. It has an area of 562.3 square miles with a population of about 67,000.

* Kauai is in the tropics at 22° N, 159° W. It is on the same general latitude of Hong Kong, Cuba, Mecca, and Puerto Vallarta.

* Mount Wai'ale'ale, in the center of the island, is a shield volcano with an elevation of 5,148 feet. It is the second wettest spot on earth, averaging about 450" of rain per year, with a record of 683" in 1982.





* The high cliffs along the 16-mile Na Pali Coast rise as high as 4,000 feet above the ocean. This area is only accessible by hiking or by boat, as there are no roads. The roads around the island stop at the arrows in the map above. (Photo by MEBurkhart)

* More than 70 movies have been filmed on Kauai including:

South Pacific (1958)

Elvis' films *Blue Hawaii* (1962) and *Paradise, Hawaiian Style* (1966)

Donovan's Reef (1963)

King Kong (1976)

Jurassic Park (1993) and *Jurassic World* (1995)

Six Days, Seven Nights (1998)

The Descendants (2011)

The opening scenes of *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, and scenes from *George of the Jungle*, *Dragonfly*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides* were also filmed here.

And . . . a few weeks ago Disney held an open casting call for "extras" for their upcoming movie based on the Disneyland Jungle Cruise ride, which will be filmed here soon!

Useful Hawaiian words.

You probably already know several Hawaiian words, such as aloha, luau, hula, lei, and muumuu (mu'umu'u). Here are a few more words you should know if you come to visit.

Keiki = kids. ("Would you like a keiki menu?")

Kama'āina = Hawaiian resident. (If you have a Hawaii driver's license, you may get a Kama'āina discount.)

‘Ohana = family. You might have learned this word from *Lilo and Stitch*.

‘Ono = delicious or good to eat. It is also a type of fish, sometimes known as wahoo.

Mahalo = thank you

Kōkua = help or assistance. ("Mahalo for your Kōkua.")

Pau = done or finished. (A waitress might ask you "Are you pau?" before they take away your plate.)

Pau hana = after work, or happy hour.

Pupu = appetizer.

Mauka = direction towards the mountain.

Makai = direction towards the ocean. ("Drive to mile marker 23 and turn makai. Go around the bend and turn mauka at the next street.")

Wahine & Kane = women & men. These words are useful if you're looking for the bathroom!

Auntie & Uncle = elders. Children are taught to call elders Auntie or Uncle, regardless of whether they are family. So, don't be surprised if you're called "Auntie" by complete strangers.

How to NOT sound like a tourist in Hawaii.

Here's a quiz for you. What's wrong with this sentence that a tourist might say?

"I'm flying back to the states tomorrow."

ANSWER: Hawaii IS a state. So, we are part of "the states." Here, we call the continental 48 states "the mainland" . . . NOT "the states."

So, if you ever come to Hawaii, be sure you don't make this common tourist mistake, calling "the mainland" the states." It is a hard habit to break, particularly if you often travel to foreign countries. So, practice saying "the mainland" before you come, and you'll sound like a local, not a tourist!

ALOHA!