



GlobalVillage

HAWAII



WELCOME TO GV HAWAII!

PRE-ARRIVAL PACKAGE

WELCOME TO OUR BEAUTIFUL CITY!

A LITTLE HISTORY...

The history of Hawaii goes back centuries. More than 1500 years ago, Polynesians first set foot on Hawaii's Big Island. In 1778, Captain James Cook landed on Kauai at Waimea Bay. Naming the archipelago the "Sandwich Islands" in honor of the Earl of Sandwich, Cook opened the doors to the west. Western influence continued to grow and in 1893, American Colonists overthrew the Hawaiian Kingdom in a peaceful, yet still controversial coup. In 1898, Hawaii became a territory of the United States. In the 20th century, sugar and pineapple plantations fueled Hawaii's economy bringing an influx of Japanese, Chinese, Filipino, and Portuguese immigrants. One of the most multicultural cities in the world, Honolulu is a melting pot of diverse cultures that have blended and transformed its traditions, festivals and foods. In 1959, Hawaii became the 50th State of the United States.

GENERAL INFO

FACTS ABOUT HAWAII

State Nickname:	The Aloha State (State of Hawaii consists of 8 main islands)
Capital City:	Honolulu (located on the island of Oahu)
Population:	About 1,400,000
Time Zone:	Hawaii Standard Time (GMT [Greenwich Mean Time]-10 hours), 5 hours behind the US East Coast, 6 hours behind during Daylight Saving Time. (Hawaii does not observe Daylight Saving Time).
Currency:	US dollar. Credit cards are widely accepted. Traveler's checks are accepted.
Average Temperature:	April - November: 75° -88° F (24° - 30° C) December - March: 68° -80° F (20° - 27° C) Average water temperature: 74° F (23° C)
Area Code/Cell phones:	The area code for all of Hawaii is (808). Cell phone coverage on most Islands is readily available. Check your carrier and calling plan for details.
Transportation:	Transportation options include car rentals, tour buses, shuttles, taxis, mopeds, bicycles, ride sharing, or city buses. Most students use the city bus to get around town.
Clothing:	Dress casually. Bring a light jacket for nights. Suits and ties are rarely worn.
Tipping:	U.S. standards apply: 15-20% on meals, at least \$1 per bag for porters, and at least \$1 per night for housekeeping. For taxis, usually \$2 or \$3 is fine or you can just tell the taxi driver to "Keep the change." The tip amount depends on the quality of service you receive.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [HTTP://WWW.GOHAWAII.COM](http://www.gohawaii.com)

GENERAL INFO *(Continued)*

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

English is spoken throughout the islands, but Hawaiian is also an official language of the state of Hawaii. Pidgin English is a Creole Language (mixture of various languages) and is spoken in daily casual conversation by some Hawaii residents.

SEASONS IN HAWAII

Throughout the year, Hawaii has a tropical and warm climate.

To see what the weather is like, visit <http://www.wunderground.com/US/HI/Honolulu.html>

NEIGHBORHOODS

Each neighborhood on the island of Oahu offers something unique, whether it is striking contrasts from a tropical playground to an urban island fantasy. In Waikiki, enjoy the vibrant atmosphere featuring global and local crafts; delicious cuisine and plate lunches; white sand beaches and hula lessons. Waikiki is home to countless bars and nightclubs ranging from country to disco; and all very close to the Island Colony, a popular residence for Global Village Hawaii students. Other accommodation options close to Waikiki are the Kaimuki and Kapiolani student residences. By bus, it will take about 5-15 minutes. Downtown Honolulu offers an alternative to Waikiki nightclubs with a more local atmosphere and a unique blend of museums, art galleries, eclectic dining options, the financial district and Chinatown. Less than an hour away, the Windward coast of Oahu is home to some of America's best beaches such as Lanikai beach. Feel exhilarated and relaxed all at once on Oahu's legendary North Shore by watching the gigantic waves or catching the beautiful sunset. Honolulu is marked by the diversity of distinct neighborhoods, cultures and communities.

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Hawaii is a great destination for activities year-round ranging from surf/hula/ukulele lessons, sunset catamaran cruises, horseback rides or cultural events such as hula performances or historical hikes. Global Village Hawaii offers an array of activities every month on its activity calendar. Students have an opportunity to experience the best of Hawaii's fun and exciting activities while interacting with students from other countries as well as locals. And best of all, every month the school organizes an excursion to a neighbor island to experience the diversity of the Hawaiian Islands. Whale watching (in-season), volcano viewing, and scenic hikes make each trip unique and memorable. Since all arrangements are done for the students, all they have to do is just sit back, relax and enjoy the ride. And if it's night life you are interested in, there is no end to the variety of clubs and concert venues to choose from in and around Honolulu. Students who enjoy nightlife should consider securing other accommodation options close to Waikiki instead of homestay. Honolulu's bus system is rather comprehensive but many of the routes which serve the outer areas near homestay families, stop after rush hour and may require a taxi ride or ride share home at night.

So whether you are with the school for a long or short time, there will be plenty of opportunity to make the best of your time with a variety of great activities. To view past Activity Calendars, please visit our website at:

<http://www.gvenglish.com/schools/usa/hawaii.html#activities>

GENERAL INFO *(Continued)*

VOLTAGE - ELECTRICITY

In Hawaii, the voltage is 120V and a 2 or 3-prong outlet can be found. You may require an adapter to use any electrical equipment you bring with you. Visit <http://www.voltagevalet.com/> for help.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

Single adult fare is \$2.75 one way and it is recommended you have exact change as the driver does not provide any change. Monthly bus passes can be purchased at 7-11 stores, the Satellite City Hall in the Ala Moana Shopping Center and other locations close to school. Currently the price for a monthly pass is \$70.00 and is valid for one calendar month (e.g. July 1st to July 31st). Youth monthly bus passes are available for students who are under 18 years old and cost \$35.00 and a one-way youth fare is \$1.25. Day passes are \$5.50 for adults or \$2.50 for youth. For students studying long term, U-Pass are discounted bus passes and may be available for sale. Please inquire with the front desk for more details. The average travel time by bus is approximately 60 minutes from your host family's house to school. Most bus routes run until about 9:00 pm while a few operate until 11:30 pm. The end times vary depending on the bus route.

For more information about bus passes and bus schedules or other bus information, go to <http://www.thebus.org>

TAXIS

Taxis are great for getting to relatively close destinations and you'll be amazed how close many of the places are. Taxis are convenient and especially good when traveling in a group where the cost can be shared. You will find taxi stands at most major shopping centers, in the business district and at the airport. Official rate and fee schedules (including baggage) should be displayed in the cab, along with a taxi driver's license bearing a photo of the driver.

TIP #1: *Although yelling for a taxi may work in New York and big cities, finding taxi stands at major shopping centers and places of business and calling for pick-ups via hotel concierge or phone is more the standard in Hawaii. You may find trying to yell for a taxi is a lengthy process.*

Meters start at \$3.10, and increase in \$0.45 after each additional 1/8 of a mile. There is also a fee of \$0.45 for every 45 seconds of waiting time. A typical trip will approximately cost (without tip, 5%-10%):

- Airport to Waikiki: approximately \$45.00
- Airport to most Homestay families: up to approximately \$65.00

**Above rates are based from "The Cab" (<http://www.thecabhawaii.com/rates/>), but are subject to change anytime.*

RIDE SHARE COMPANIES

Uber (www.uber.com/ride) or **Lyft** (www.lyft.com) are companies that you may use as an alternate method of transportation. You can view or download their mobile apps to your electronic device by visiting their websites. These rides are usually cheaper than a taxi ride.

GENERAL INFO *(Continued)*

TELEPHONE

The area code for Hawaii is (808). Local calls on the same island require 7-digit dialing and if dialing to another island or U.S. mainland, an 11-digit dialing is required (1 + (808) followed by the seven digit phone number).

- The emergency number for all health, safety and crime emergencies is **911**.
- Dial **411** for an operator to aid with locating a number. Dialing "0" will also get you an operator for general assistance.

Pre-paid cell phones can be purchased and used on all the Hawaiian Islands. Public pay phones can also be used and can be found in some places around the island. These phones do not give change, but will return coin(s) if the call is not completed and phone cards can be used. There is a phone located in the school's student lounge and students may make local calls free of charge. Students will need to press "9" before dialing the 7-digit number.

SAFETY

Although Honolulu is remarkably safe compared to other large cities in America, certain precautions should still be taken.

- > Always use the buddy system especially late at night.
- > Never talk to strangers and give any information about yourself.
- > Inform the bus driver if there is ever a problem on the bus.
- > Dial 911 to contact the police, ambulance, or fire department. You do not need to use coins if you are calling from a public pay phone.

NO SMOKING

The State of Hawaii has enacted "The Smoke Free Hawaii" law, designed to protect the health and wellbeing of the people who do not want to be subjected to second-hand smoke. It is not a ban. Smokers may still purchase and use smoke-producing tobacco products in areas other than those designated as smoke-free under the law. **You must be 18 years or older to possess and purchase tobacco.** Smoking is not allowed within 20 feet (about 7 meters) of restaurants, public buildings, or bars in Hawaii. At Global Village Hawaii, please do not smoke directly in the front of the school building, but off to the side by the bench. You may also smoke in the back of the school building. E-cigarettes cannot be used at Global Village Hawaii and must be used in the above smoking areas. As of January 1, 2014, no smoking is allowed at any city beach, park or bus stop. There will be signs posted to educate residents and visitors about the new bans, which will carry a fine of \$100 for the first offense and up to \$500 for each additional offense.

For more information please visit: <http://hawaii.gov/health/healthy-lifestyles/tobacco/Smoke-Free-Law.html>

ALCOHOL

The drinking age in the United States is 21. You will need to show your passport or other official valid ID to purchase alcohol at stores, restaurants, and bars. Even if you look over 21 you may have show your ID. It is illegal to drink alcohol in public places such as streets, beaches, etc. It is also illegal for any passenger or driver to have an open container of alcohol in the car.

GENERAL INFO *(Continued)*

HEALTH INSURANCE

Health care in the U.S. can be very expensive. Therefore, a student should have adequate medical insurance to cover any unexpected or sudden hospitalization, surgery or complex medical treatment resulting from a serious illness or accident. It is very important to have sufficient health insurance coverage because costly medical care expenses can jeopardize a student's financial status, which in turn will affect the student's ability to maintain full-time student status in good standing defined by the Department of Homeland Security regulations.

Global Village Hawaii strongly encourages all international students 18 years or older to have a health insurance policy at the time of enrollment. Proof of a health insurance policy for students under 18 years old is required prior to enrollment. A student may also buy insurance for any family members (husband, wife, or a child) who are in the United States. Global Village Hawaii has an array of medical insurance providers for international students to choose from.

For more information about health insurance and how to obtain health insurance, you may contact the Student Services Manager or visit the NAFSA: Association of International Advisers' website to view a list of approved health insurance providers at

<http://www.nafsa.org/resourcelibrary/default.aspx?id=8823&terms=health+AND+insurance+AND+companies>

CURRENCY

Currency used in Hawaii is the U.S. Dollar. The U.S. dollar has fluctuated in recent years in value.

To see current currency exchange rates, please visit www.xe.com/ucc

- > Paper bills come in \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50, \$100 denominations. There is also a limited \$2 paper bill.
- > Commonly used small coins are the 1-cent ("penny"), 5-cent ("nickel"), 10-cent ("dime") and 25-cent ("quarter") pieces. There is even the 50-cent and dollar coin in distribution, but you will hardly see them as these coins are very limited.

TAXES

On most purchases, there is a General Excise Tax (GET) rate of approximately 4.5%. If you are renting any accommodations for under 180 days, a Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) rate of approximately 7.25% may apply. The GET is included in all Global Village Hawaii fees.



PACKING & TRAVELING

PASSPORTS AND IDENTIFICATION

BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR OAHU

- > Ensure that your passport is valid for six months beyond your intended period of stay.
- > Citizens of countries participating in the Visa Waiver Program should be aware of the new passport requirements by the United States. Effective January 12, 2009, you will be required to obtain an electronic travel authorization through ESTA prior to traveling to the U.S. You should apply through ESTA at least 72 hours prior to travel.
For more information, visit: http://www.cbp.gov/xp/cgov/travel/id_visa/esta/
- > Citizens of countries not participating in the Visa Waiver Program must have a valid visa to enter the United States. Please contact the nearest U.S. embassy for details or visit: <http://www.usembassy.gov/>

If you are entering the U.S. with a student visa, please make sure you bring and show your original I-20 form to the Customs & Border Patrol Officer at the airport.

WHAT TO PACK?

You will find that Hawaiians dress a lot more casually than you may be used to. For the most part anything goes in Hawaii - from shorts & sandals to jeans or sundresses - but take note: shirts & shoes are usually mandatory at most dining and retail establishments. It is recommended to pack a light jacket or sweater because most buildings have air conditioning and it may be very cold at times.

BEFORE LEAVING HOME, MAKE SURE:

- > Your flight is confirmed and the school has your latest flight information.
- > You have your Homestay/Accommodation address and phone number with you.
- > You have your airline ticket, passport and I-20 form [students with student visas] with you.
- > You have your wallet / purse and at least 6 U.S. quarters (\$1.50) to make an emergency phone call if need be (your cell phone may not work in Hawaii)

PACKING TIPS

- > Do NOT pack or take prohibited items to the airport.
Please visit <http://www.tsa.gov/travelers/airtravel/prohibited/permitted-prohibited-items.shtm> to obtain a listing of prohibited items. If you bring a prohibited item to the checkpoint you may be criminally and/or civilly prosecuted or, at the least, asked to rid yourself of the item. A screener and/or law enforcement officer will make this determination depending on what the item is and the circumstances. Bringing a prohibited item to a security checkpoint, even accidentally, is illegal.
- > Liquids of 3 ounces or less (by volume) need to be packed in a quart-sized, clear, zip-top plastic bag.
For more information, please visit: <http://www.tsa.gov/311/311-brochures.shtm>

PACKING & TRAVELING *(Continued)*

PACKING TIPS *(Continued)*

- > Refrain from packing or carrying on wrapped presents. Wrapped packages should be mailed ahead of time. Only carry unwrapped presents and wrap them once you arrive at your destination. If the wrapped package sets off an alarm, TSA will need to unwrap it to investigate the source of the alarm.
- > Put all undeveloped film and cameras with film in your carry-on baggage. Checked baggage screening equipment will damage undeveloped film.
- > Carry-on baggage is limited to one (1) carry-on bag plus one (1) personal item. Personal items include laptops, purses, small backpacks, briefcases, or camera cases. Remember, 1+1. Checked baggage is limited to two (2) per passenger. Please check directly with the airline if you have any questions about baggage and the fees that apply.
- > Place identification tags in and on all of your baggage. Don't forget to label your laptop computer. Computers are one of the most forgotten items at screening checkpoints.

RECOMMENDED PACKING LIST

CLOTHES

SHORTS
JEANS/LONG PANTS (Thin, not too heavy)
T-SHIRTS
SLEEVELESS TOPS
SKIRTS, SUNDRESSES
LONG SLEEP TOPS (Thin, not too heavy)
SWIMSUIT
SOCKS AND UNDERWEAR
SUN HAT
RUNNING SHOES / FLIP-FLOPS / SANDALS

CARRY-ON ITEMS FOR THE PLANE

I-20 FORM (Students with student visas)
PASSPORT
MONEY
PEN
GLOBAL VILLAGE CONTACT INFO
JACKET
FLIGHT / ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION
LAPTOP COMPUTER
BOOKS / ITEMS TO PASS THE TIME
SMALL PILLOW FOR COMFORT

TOILETRIES

SHOWER SOAP
TOOTH BRUSH
SHAMPOO
CONDITIONER
LOTION/MOISTURIZER
MAKE-UP
DEODORANT
RAZOR AND SHAVING CREAM

OTHER

CAMERA
DICTIONARY
SUNSCREEN
SUNGLASSES
STUDY MATERIALS (Pen, Notebook, Bag, Etc...)
PHONE / DEVICE CHARGERS
HEADPHONES
ANYTHING ELSE YOU THINK YOU MAY NEED!

PACKING & TRAVELING (Continued)

JET LAG

The feelings of disorientation encountered as a result of crossing time zones are known as jet lag. Although jet lag occasionally lasts for a week or more, travelers usually return to their normal sleep-wake pattern after a day or two.

JET LAG CURE

Jet lag can be mainly avoided by sleeping in the plane and by adjusting to your new time zone.

SUGGESTIONS FOR JET LAG SELF CARE INCLUDE:

- > If you are flying westward, try to go to sleep as late as possible for two to three days before you leave. This will make it easier to adapt to the new location.
- > When you sleep on the plane, try to plan sleep as if the time is that of the destination.
- > Wear an eye mask.
- > Bring earplugs and blindfolds to reduce noise and light while sleeping.

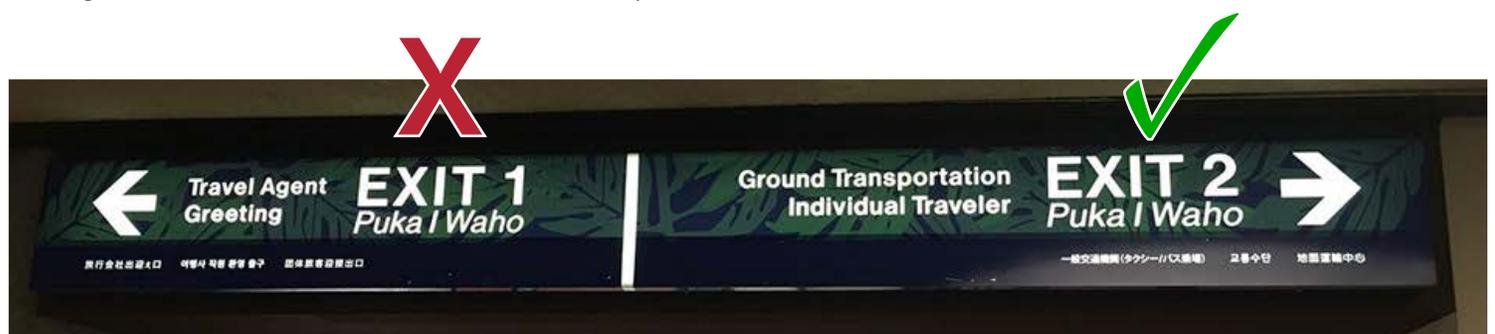
SUGGESTIONS FOR ADJUSTING TO YOUR NEW TIME ZONE INCLUDE:

- > Expose your body to daylight to help 'reset' your body clock.
- > Drink caffeinated drinks in moderation during the day.
- > Avoid alcohol or caffeinated drinks for a few hours prior to sleep at night.
- > Try to mimic your usual bedtime routine.
- > Use relaxation techniques.
- > Avoid heavy exercise close to bedtime.

ARRIVING IN HONOLULU

IF YOU HAVE ARRANGED AN AIRPORT PICK-UP:

When you arrive in Honolulu, after getting your luggage at the Baggage Claim Area, please proceed to the curbside to meet your driver/host family. For International Arrival, after getting your luggage, please exit to the right, through the **Individual Traveler** or **EXIT 2** as shown in the photo found below. This area can be very crowded so look for an orange sign with your name on it. The person holding the sign is your driver/host family. This driver will take you to your Homestay/Accommodations. For students staying at apartments/student residence, please contact the reservation line or resident manager. The contact information can be found on your accommodation confirmation letter.



PACKING & TRAVELING *(Continued)*

ARRIVING IN HONOLULU *(continued)*

Please call the School Emergency Number: 1-808-341-0664 (or if calling from a local phone, only dial 341-0664), if:

- > You missed your connecting flight OR
- > You have been delayed by immigration OR
- > You cannot find your driver/host family at the airport after waiting more than 20 minutes

When you call the emergency number, please:

- > Say or spell your name. ("My name is..." or "It's spelt...")
- > Tell us why you are calling. Examples:
 - "I have missed my connecting flight. I will be late. My new flight number and time is..."
 - "I have been delayed by airport customs officials."
 - "I cannot find my driver."

If you cannot call the emergency number by yourself, please ask someone to help you. For example:

- > Ask the airline staff or an airport official (information booth)
- > Phone your agent to pass on the information

IF YOU HAVE NOT ARRANGED AIRPORT PICK-UP AND NEED A TAXI:

When you arrive, proceed to the limo /taxi area. One of the taxi attendants will help you find a driver to take you into the city or be able to show you where to take public transit. You can also inquire with the taxi attendant for more information about shuttle services. Please note that public buses do not allow suitcases.

For more information about baggage rules on the bus, visit: <http://www.thebus.org/howtoride/howtoride.asp>

NOTE:

It is against U.S. law for airlines to give passenger information to third parties. As a result, please notify us in advance by contacting the emergency phone if your flight plans change. If you do not notify us in advance about your flight changes, you will be responsible to take a taxi at your own expense to your homestay/accommodation. Furthermore, the GV Hawaii airport transfer fee will not be refunded.



SCHOOL INFORMATION

SCHOOL LOCATION

Address: 1440 Kapiolani Blvd #1100, Honolulu, HI 96814, USA (Inside Pacific Guardian Tower)

Global Village Hawaii is located on the **11th floor** of a beautiful office building across the street from Ala Moana Shopping Center and minutes away from the beach. The school offers spectacular views of the mountains and the ocean and a main bus terminal can be found across the street at Ala Moana Shopping Center.

A detailed map can be found below and on our website at: <http://www.gvenglish.com/english-schools/usa/hawaii.html>



GLOBAL VILLAGE HAWAII

1440 Kapiolani Blvd #1100
Honolulu, HI 96814, USA
+1-808-943-6800



NOTE:

Once you are settled into your accommodation, this map also provides a few local favourites and tourist spots in **red** for you to enjoy during your free time!

ORIENTATION DAY* SCHEDULE

1. **Arrive by 8:00 am** and check in at the reception area. Make sure you bring your passport, I-20 form [students with student visas], I-94 form if applicable, a pen and notebook with you.
2. You will be given a name tag. Put your name tag on and wait in the student lounge until called to take the oral placement exam.
3. The speaking exam will be followed by a written placement exam to evaluate your level of English.
4. You will go on a tour of the school with a Global Village Hawaii staff or faculty member to familiarize yourself with the school and possibly surrounding areas of interest.
5. Orientation with some members of the staff and faculty. They will give you all the information you will need about the school and adjusting to the unique culture of Hawaii. At this time, you will also sign important school and homestay contracts.
6. When contracts are finished, you will be given your class schedule. You are then free to go home usually between 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.

****The first day of school will consist of events to help students adjust to the Hawaiian and American culture as well as familiarize them with the school campus, policies and school faculty and staff. English language classes will begin on the second day. Students will not be able to make up for classes missed due to holidays, graduation, orientation, and/or situations beyond the school's control.***

ADMISSIONS POLICY

Global Village Hawaii provides first-class English instruction to students who wish to enter American universities or study English for personal or professional reasons. Our mission is to provide a positive, supportive, and inspiring learning environment for English language students through our commitment to the highest standard of quality in the areas of academics, extra-curricular activities, accommodations and student services.

Global Village Hawaii offers a variety of adult (16 years and older) English language courses such as General English (8 levels) and Cambridge Preparation. Other specialized courses include English + programs [e.g. English + Surfing, Hula]; Options Program [5 lessons per week, e.g. IELTS, TOEIC, TOEFL Preparation, Pronunciation and Conversation]; private and semi-private lessons.

ADMISSIONS POLICY CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

ADMISSIONS POLICY *(Continued)*

Global Village Hawaii also offers youth and junior English language programs such as the Cambridge Young Learners of English Program (YLE) and the Cambridge Teen Learners of English (TLE) Program. Recommended ages for YLE students are from 7 to 12 years old while the TLE is recommended to students of the ages 12 to 17 years old. Private and semi-private lessons are also available for youth and junior students.

Students must comply with the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Department of State regulations and meet the required skill level necessary for entry into a particular course or level. Students are evaluated with placement tests or academic counseling (for special needs students) on the student's first day of school to determine the appropriate course and level. Please see the below admission requirements for each course.

COURSE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- > The General English Program (GEP) offers 8 levels from Beginner to Advanced. Student class level is based on a placement test and/or academic counseling.
- > The Cambridge Program requires a minimum score of 45% on the Entrance Test or successfully passing the next lowest Cambridge exam within two years to be considered an automatic placement.
- > The Cambridge Young Learners of English & Cambridge Teen Learners of English Programs do not require a minimum level of English.

Global Village Hawaii enrollment is open year round for all courses except for the Cambridge (offered three times per year), Cambridge Young Learners of English, and Cambridge Teen Learners of English. Global Village Hawaii students are allowed a maximum of 36 months of instruction. International students studying 18 or more hours per week (e.g. 25 lessons per week course) are required to obtain a student visa (F-1). Student visas are not required for students studying less than 18 hours per week (e.g. 16 or 20 lessons per week courses). Visa regulation information is available at the following websites.

- > U.S. Department of State website: travel.state.gov/content/visas/en.html
- > U.S. Department of Homeland and Security website: studyinthestates.dhs.gov
- > U.S. Embassy website: www.usembassy.gov

Global Village Hawaii does not discriminate with regard to race, color, national origin, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, marital status, age, political view, immigration status, or disability.

STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

YOUR BEDROOM

- > Your bedroom will be completely private. It will have a bed and a desk with lighting. There will also be a place for you to hang your clothes and store your belongings. If there is no desk in the student's room, a private and appropriate work/study area will be available in the home.
- > Your homestay host will respect your privacy and will not go into your bedroom without permission, unless it is absolutely necessary.
- > Students should clean their room and empty the garbage at least once a week.
- > Your homestay family will give you items like pillow/s, bed sheet/s, etc. Students will have to change their own sheets.
- > Students should not leave a lot of money in their room. Credit cards and traveler's checks are widely accepted in America.
- > Please do not eat or store food in your bedroom as this may attract insects and cause a bad smell.
- > **Speaking of insects/bugs, it is common to come across cockroaches, ants, geckos during your stay in Hawaii because of the tropical climate.** If you see insects such as roaches or ants, do not be alarmed; just let your host family know and they can help you get rid of them. You can also purchase roach traps or insect sprays at most stores.
- > It is customary to take your shoes off when you enter a home. Hawaii is famous for its red dirt that is difficult to clean. **Be sure to leave your shoes at the door.**

MEALTIME

- > Please advise your Host Family of any food allergies.
- > It is important to tell your hosts the foods that you like and the foods that you don't like. Do not worry; they will not be upset to hear that there is something that you do not like. But you must keep in mind that hosts will cook their own ethnic style food.
- > Students usually prepare their own breakfast and lunch. Your Host Family will provide you with food to prepare your breakfast and lunch; you can take your lunch to school on weekdays. A typical American lunch is usually sandwiches, a snack (e.g. chips, cookies) and a drink.
- > Eating "leftovers" (food left over from the previous meal) is very common with America families.
- > Students may also wish to purchase specialty foods/brand name items at their own expense.
- > In North America, the biggest meal of the day is the evening meal (also known as dinner or supper). Breakfast is the smallest meal. Possible breakfast choices are: cereal, toast, eggs, fruit, etc. In Hawaii, rice is served with most meals.
- > You should phone your host (by a set agreed upon time, for example, 5:00) to tell them if you are not going to be home for dinner. Inform your host family if you will be missing dinner and to have them leave food in the fridge for you.

STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

LAUNDRY

- Usage of the laundry machines is included in the price for homestay.
- Students are responsible for washing their own clothes. You discuss with your homestay family to make sure that you **fully understand** how to use the machine.
- Some hosts may feel that their machine may be difficult to use and will therefore want to do it themselves.
- It is normal for students to do their laundry once a week.
- You should only do the laundry if you can do a full basket. This is because it takes a lot of electricity to run the washing machine. Hosts will not want you to use it if you only have a few pieces of clothes to wash.
- If your host lives in an apartment building and there is only coin laundry available, your host will pay for your laundry. You should not be charged for using laundry facilities.

WASHROOM

- Students are responsible for their own toiletries such as: bath soap, toothpaste, shampoo, make-up, lotions, deodorant, etc.
- Hawaii is an island and therefore water is considered a scarce resource that must be conserved. Therefore, some hosts may ask you to take showers for no longer than 10 - 15 minutes. This is because you might run out of hot water and will have to wait for the water to reheat.
- Water pressure or temperature may decrease if the dishwasher or the washing machine is running. For this reason, it may be necessary to schedule when you will take your baths or showers.
- Please make sure you close the shower door or curtain to prevent water getting on the floor. American bathrooms do not have drains in the floor.
- For safety reasons, please dry the floor and sink area after every use so that others will not slip as the floor can get very slippery.



STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

ENERGY CONSERVATION

- > It is common for most houses in America to take part in an energy conservation program.
- > Here are some common ways to save energy:
 - Turn lights out when you are not in a room
 - Turn off the TV, radio, computer and any other electrical appliance when not in use.
- > Hosts keep the temperature of their home at a reasonable level during the winter time.
- > Most families in Hawaii recycle - hosts may have separate places to put paper, tin cans, and plastic items. Your host will explain this to you after you arrive.

HOUSE KEYS

You will get a key to your Homestay house. It is important that you take special care of the house key as it is a means of getting into the house and your host trusts you with it. Please make sure you lock the door when you leave the home.

This is very important for safety reasons.

HOUSE GUESTS

If you wish to invite a guest to visit your Homestay, you must have your hosts give permission in advance. Guests are not permitted to sleep overnight in Homestay without permission from the host. If you plan to stay away from the house overnight then please inform your host at a reasonable hour so that they will not expect you.

SMOKING

For health, hygiene and fire safety reasons, smoking is not permitted in Homestays unless your homestay family gives you permission. Normally, you must smoke outside only. Some host families do not allow smoking at all. Please notify us in advance if you are a smoker.

DRINKING

Drinking alcohol is not permitted in Homestays unless your homestay family gives you permission.

CANCELING YOUR HOMESTAY - AFTER ARRIVAL

Please contact us as soon as possible if you think you will want to cancel your Homestay. You must inform the school at least 3 weeks in advance of your homestay contracted end date. Cancellations made less than 3 weeks in advance may be subject to penalty fees comprising part or the entire unused accommodations amount.

STUDENT HOMESTAY INFORMATION *(Continued)*

EXTENDING YOUR HOMESTAY

Please contact us if you think you will want to stay in Homestay for a longer time than you have pre-booked. If you want to extend your time in Homestay you must inform and pay the school at least 4 weeks in advance. We do not guarantee space in the same family for late extensions.

**WE HOPE YOUR TIME IN HOMESTAY
IS A GREAT ONE!**

**PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO TALK TO US AT ANYTIME
REGARDING ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS YOU MAY HAVE.
WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU.**

Please come to see us - you may make an appointment with the front desk.
You may also contact us at: 808-943-6800 and we will do our best to assist you.

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