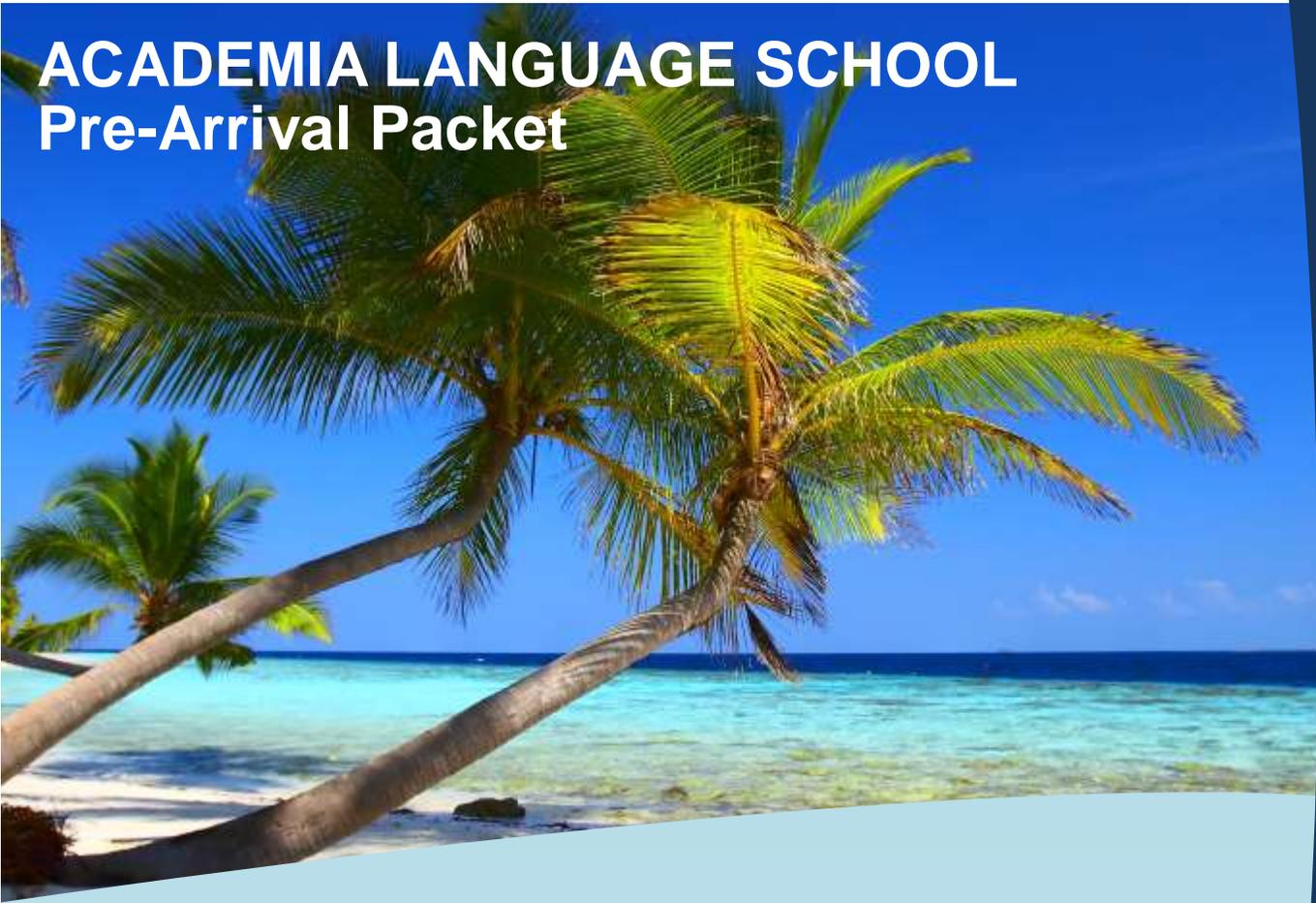




ACADEMIA LANGUAGE SCHOOL

Pre-Arrival Packet



ALOHA
Welcome to Hawaii!

*Inside you will find information about
our school and living in Hawaii.*



About Hawaii

DISCOVER HAWAII



Hawaii is like no other place on earth. It is Home to one of the world's most active [volcanoes](#) and the world's tallest sea mountain, and it's the birthplace of modern [surfing](#), the [hula](#) and [Hawaii Regional Cuisine](#), former seat of a royal kingdom, and home to the only [royal palace](#) on US soil. Hawaii is one of the youngest geological formations in the world, and the youngest state of the union. Hawaii's most unique feature is its aloha spirit; the warmth of Hawaii's people wonderfully complements the Islands' perfect weather.

There are six major islands to visit in Hawaii: [Kauai](#), [Oahu](#), [Molokai](#), [Lanai](#), [Maui](#), and [Hawaii's Big Island](#). You'll find each island has a distinct personality and offers its own adventures, activities and sights. Mark Twain called Hawaii, "That peaceful land, that beautiful land... the climate, one long delicious summer day, and the good that die experience no change, for they but fall asleep in one heaven and wake up in another." We invite you to explore the Islands of Aloha to find your own heavenly Hawaii experiences.

FACTS ABOUT HAWAII

- ▶ The state of Hawaii is made up of hundreds of islands.
- ▶ The Eight "Main Islands" of Hawaii are Ni`ihau, Kaua`i, O`ahu, Moloka`i, Lana`i, Kaho`olawe, Maui, and Hawai`i (Big Island)
- ▶ Population: 1,360,301
- ▶ Highest Point: Mauna Kea (located on the Big Island)
- ▶ Capital City: Honolulu
- ▶ Languages spoken: English, Hawaiian, Hawaii Creole English (Pidgin)

CLIMATE

January – March: 66°F~82°F (18.9°C~27.8°C)

April – June: 68°F ~87°F (20°C~30.6°C)

July – September: 74°F~89°F (23.3°C~31.7°C)

October – December: 73°F~82°F (22.8°C~27.8°C)



BEAUTIFUL LOCATIONS



Notable Places to Visit:

- ✿ Hanauma Bay
- ✿ North Shore
- ✿ Iolani Palace
- ✿ Arizona Memorial & Pearl Harbor
- ✿ Diamond Head
- ✿ Polynesian Cultural Center
- ✿ Byodo-In Temple



TRANSPORTATION

Hawaii has several types of transportation available for locals and tourists that make experiencing the island much easier.



TheBus is Hawaii's public bus transit company.

Fares are:

- Adults (Ages 18+): (One-Way): **\$2.50**
- Youth (Ages 6-17): (One-Way): **\$1.25**
- Children (under 5 year old): **Free**
- TheBus Senior Card: **\$10.00**
- Senior Citizens (Ages 65+): (One-Way): **\$1.00**
(with *TheBus Senior Card*)
- Adult Monthly Pass: **\$60.00**
(valid for one calendar month)
- Adult Annual Pass: **\$660.00**
(valid for one calendar year)

Monthly Pass Sales Locations:

- TheBus Pass Office- 811 Middle Street
- Foodland Stores
- 7-Eleven Stores
- Satellite City Hall
- UH Manoa- Campus Center
- Hawaii Pacific University Book Store
- Times Supermarket

Please visit TheBus website for more information:

<http://www.thebus.org>

The Cab is Hawaii's largest fleet of taxis that provides uninterrupted, island-wide service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The number for "The Cab" is (808) 422-2222.

Meters start at \$3.10, and increase \$0.40 after each additional 1/8 of a mile. There is also a fee of \$0.40 for every 45 seconds of waiting time.

Without a 5%-10% tip, a typical trip will roughly cost:

Airport to Waikiki: Approx. \$45
Ala Moana to Waikiki: Approx. \$15

Other local taxi companies are:

- Charley's Taxi
(808) 233-3333
- Honolulu Taxi Service-
(808) 699-9999



Any time of year is a good time to visit Hawaii. Summer, between April and November, is warmer and drier (average temperature is 75°F-88°F) while winter, between December and March, is cooler (average temperature is 68°F-80°F). Please visit <http://www.prh.noaa.gov/hnl> to see the weekly weather forecast on Oahu.

CELLPHONES

The U.S. has four primary cell phone provider services:

- AT&T
- Verizon
- T-Mobile
- Sprint

If you do not want to enter into a 2 year contract with a cell phone service, you could purchase a pre-paid phone through AT&T, Verizon, or T-mobile.



<http://www.att.com/shop/wireless.html>



<http://www.verizonwireless.com/plans/global/prepaid.shtml>



<http://prepaid-phones.t-mobile.com/>

HEALTH INSURANCE



WHAT TO PACK



DEPARTURE



We **strongly** recommend that you purchase travel Insurance (or health insurance) in your home country **prior to studying at Academia.**

If you do not have insurance in the U.S., it could be **extremely** costly should something happen to you. You may be able to purchase insurance after you arrive in the U.S., but there are many restrictions, and coverage is very limited. It is best if you arrange for health insurance coverage in your home country prior to your travel.

If you wish to consider health insurance options in the U.S., one agency for you to consider is ISO Student Health Insurance. Academia has researched different rates and coverage options, and found them to be the most competitive. To learn more, visit isoa.org or call 1-(800)-244-1180

When deciding what to bring to wear in Hawaii, plan on packing clothes that suite your lifestyle and travel plans. Start with clothes that are light, loose and comfortable.

The local attire is very casual, with most people wearing shorts, sandals, dresses, skirts, etc. We recommend that you bring a light jacket or sweater, as most buildings are air conditioned and could get cold at times.

Bring some dress clothes or resort wear if you plan on experiencing Hawaii's nightlife. Don't forget to bring a hat, sunglasses, and swimwear for the beach!

YOU MUST ENTER THE U.S. 30 DAYS OR LESS BEFORE THE "PROGRAM START DATE" SHOWN ON YOUR I-20 FORM!

You will be asked to show your I-20 with your passport at the port of entry. Please keep your I-20 in your purse/carry-on luggage so you can show it to the immigration officer.

SCHOOL LOCATION

Academia is located at **1600 Kapiolani Blvd. Honolulu, HI 96814**. We are on the 12th floor in the Pan American Building. A map to our school is shown below.

If you are taking the bus from Waikiki:

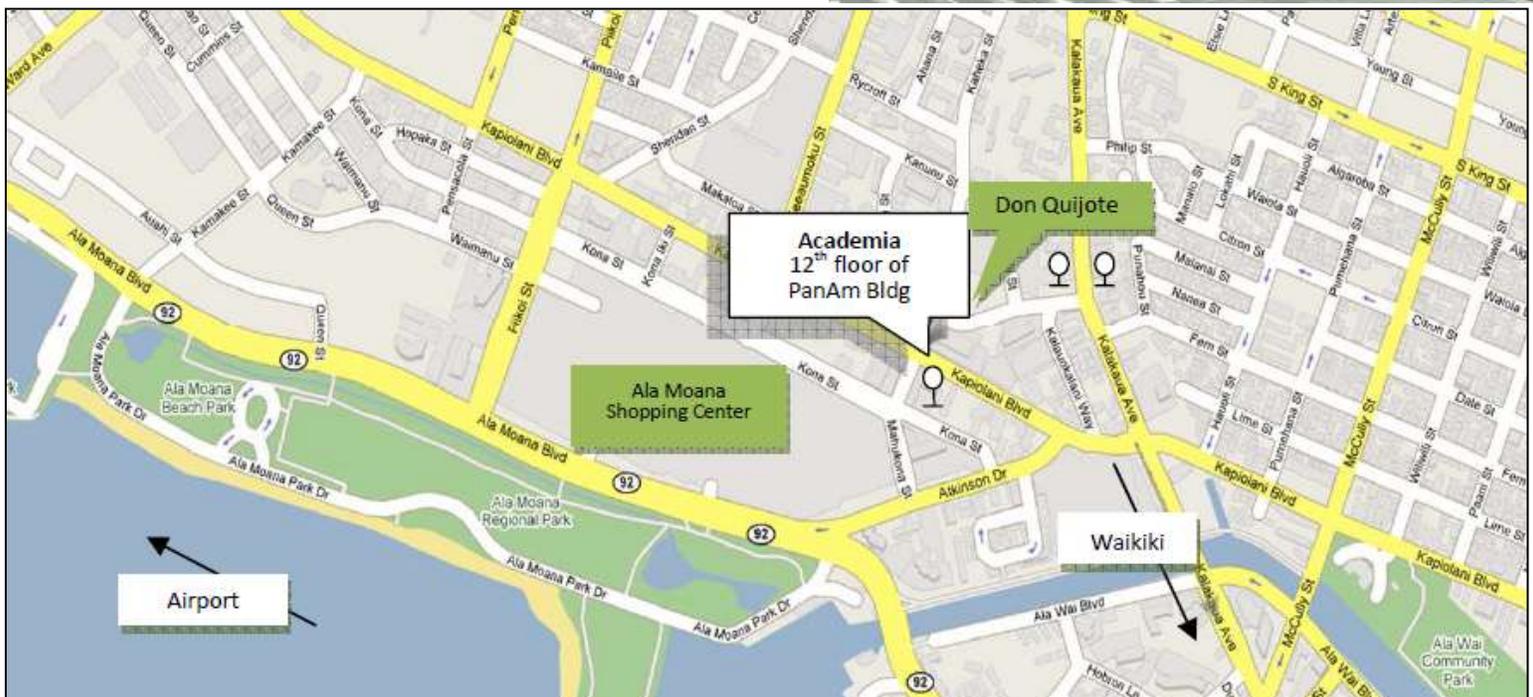
Take bus #2, 13, or Express B on Kuhio Ave. west bound. The bus stop will be announced as “Don Quijote”.

If you are taking the bus from Downtown, east bound:

Take bus #3, 9 or Express A*. If you take the Express A, get off at Ala Moana and walk toward Waikiki on Kapiolani Blvd. (you will see our school on your left)

If you are taking a bus from other directions, please call TheBus at (808) 848-5555 between 5:30 AM~10:00 PM or visit: <http://www.thebus.org>.

*Academia has bus schedules available in the office.



ORIENTATION

1. Check in at the office at 8:00 AM on your first day. Please remember to bring a pen, your Passport and I-20 form.
2. Around 8:20 AM, a 20 minute orientation will be given.
3. After the orientation, a grammar test will be given to students who are studying for 8 weeks or longer.
4. Following the grammar test, an Academia staff member will show you around the school.
5. Following the tour, you will get to meet the Director of Language Programs and have an interview with either the Director or his assistant.
6. After the interview, you will have the option of starting classes right away, or starting classes the following day.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you are in Hawaii and have a question or concern, please call the office between 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM to speak to one of our staff members.

If you have an emergency, call **911** immediately!

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