



MAEBASHI FOCUS

Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Despite being just a 30-minute plane ride from Oahu, the island of Molokai, with a population of about 7,300 people, is so rural that one would be shocked by the difference in landscape. Without skyscrapers, shopping malls, or even traffic lights, this island's appeal lies in its ability to turn one's focus towards the surrounding natural scenery. Take Papohaku Beach during sunset with no one else in sight, or Kalaupapa National Historical Park, which holds deep historical significance and boasts breathtaking views. Perhaps few visitors to Hawaii have set foot on these sightseeing spots. Compared to Oahu, time also moves slower, and the relaxed atmosphere soothes the mind and body.



Many Molokai residents hunt and fish, and living off the land is normal. Different from modern Oahu, Molokai is an island where one can witness the lifestyle from old Hawaii still in practice. Lay-net fishing and deer hunting have been passed down for generations in my family. The process of making lengthy preparations for a hunt, bringing down a deer, and enjoying the meat months later has taught me the weight of the word "Itadakimasu" and the value of food and life. Also, damage to crops and greenery due to deer overpopulation is a growing problem; hunting encourages us to think about environmental protection measures, the role of humans in our ecosystem, and how to coexist with nature. Please consider visiting Molokai during your next visit to Hawaii!

