



MAEBASHI FOCUS



Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Q

Is it legally possible for children to take an airplane to Hawaii by themselves?



A

According to the Hawaiian Airlines website, minors 5-11 years of age are not allowed by themselves on international flights, so they must be accompanied by another individual who is over 18 years old. Those over 12 years old can take a trip by themselves, but regulations may vary by airline company.

Japan is recognized to be relatively safer than other countries. Outside of Japan, if one saves a seat by leaving a wallet or backpack out unattended, the probability of these items being stolen is high. Parents may also feel resistant towards letting small children commute to school by themselves. In Hawaii, safety levels decrease depending on the location and time of day. For example, many Chinese restaurants can be found during the day in downtown's Chinatown, but I have been warned by my mother on multiple occasions to avoid going there at night. In addition, in recent years, there have been many theft and robbery incidents even in my own neighborhood. These cases increase around Christmastime, and more and more families install security cameras and deterrent signs. When traveling to Hawaii, please enjoy yourself while remembering to stay safe and alert.

Q

Japanese junior high school students study, participate in club activities, and stay on their phones during summer break. What do middle school students in Hawaii do during summer break?

A

Middle school students in Hawaii spend their roughly two months of summer break going to summer school, playing video games at home, and participating in sports clubs and activities outside of school. Homework is not typically assigned, and even when attending summer school, the amount of homework given can depend on the course. When I was a middle school student, I attended summer school. During 7th grade, I took a class called "Speak Easy," a course meant to improve one's speaking abilities. The class was taught at a different private school, so I was able to practice my presentation skills in a new environment with new classmates.

Q

During summer break in Hawaii, is sports practice conducted every day like in Japan?

A

Even when looking up my alma mater's sports schedule, only fall, winter, and spring categories are listed. I don't recall participating in my school's tennis club during the summer, but I joined practices and played matches with a community club instead.