



# MAEBASHI FOCUS



Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Q

In Hawaii, how is hula connected to everyday life?



A

Hula is always a part of life in Hawaii. There was a hula halau at my high school, and I have seen hula performances by children and adults on stage at the Ala Moana Shopping Center many times.

Those who seriously learn the hula seem to be in the minority, but hula is a familiar presence to me, as I watched my older sister's performances and practice sessions from a young age. Aside from the world-famous Merrie Monarch Festival held on the Big Island, there is also the Queen Lili'uokalani Keiki Hula Competition for young dancers, and I remember my sister practicing hard for this performance.



Furthermore, at many U.S. mainland colleges popular among Hawaii high schoolers, there are Hawaii clubs that introduce Hawaii culture and enable students from the islands to connect. My sister belonged to the Hawaii club during college, and during an annual luau event, I was able to watch her hula performance with my family.



# MAEBASHI FOCUS



## Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) Newsletter

Q

Please share a Hawaii trip route you recommend for 3, 4, or 5 days!

A

When traveling to Hawaii, I recommend either thoroughly touring one island over the course of several days or going to two different islands. For those interested in visiting where I'm from, Oahu, the Kaneohe area has a strong local presence, and one can get a glimpse into the daily lives of locals. Also located in Kaneohe is the Byodo-In Temple, which was built in 1968. Closely resembling Byodoin Temple, a World Heritage Site in Uji, Kyoto, this temple commemorates the 100th anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants in Hawaii. The Koolau mountains stand beautifully in the background, and I highly recommend checking out this popular attraction.



Q

As a renowned resort location, Hawaii is visited by travelers all over the globe. Do locals welcome Japanese tourists?

A

I am thrilled to hear that Hawaii is loved around the world as a trip destination. Japan and Hawaii have a close relationship, and there are many around me who love Japan. However, Hawaii is not just a tourist location but also one of America's 50 states where normal people live. Many locals even avoid areas overcrowded with tourists. When traveling to Hawaii, please refrain from littering, follow all rules and instructions posted at tourist spots, and act with care and respect towards the natural environment, animals living in Hawaii's unique ecosystem, and places designated as sacred to native Hawaiians.

