

HAWAII PALMS HOMESTAY

What to Expect When Staying With a Host Family

Staying with a local host family is a great way for students to immerse themselves in the language and culture of Hawaii. Though a homestay can provide students with a rich and meaningful experience, it's very important to keep some things in mind before arriving in Hawaii:

FOOD: The food may be very different from what you are used to. Please understand that while host families try their best to accommodate student needs and preferences, they are not professional chefs and will serve you what they normally eat, which could be American, local Hawaiian food, Asian fusion, etc.



HOUSE RULES: Every host family has its own rules that students are expected to follow. You should always tidy up after yourself and may be asked to help with light cleaning; or to be home by a certain time. Please make sure you understand all the rules and ask your host family if you have any questions.

TRANSPORTATION: Most host families live outside of Waikiki, so students need to ride The Bus to school. Please understand that public transportation in Hawaii is sometimes slow and "unreliable", so students need to be patient with our public buses. You can always download The Bus app for updated times and schedules. When in Waikiki, you can get around using BIKI, which is a shared bike-riding program: <https://gobiki.org/>



A BEAUTIFUL MIX OF CULTURES: Honolulu is a small but multicultural city, which means your homestay might be made up of people from different backgrounds and cultures. However, the language spoken at home will always be English.

MAKE YOURSELF AT HOME... AND SPEAK ENGLISH: It takes time to get used to a new environment, and living with a local host family can be challenging and at times awkward. In order to get the most out of your homestay experience, you need to communicate directly with your host family so you can understand their living situation and they can also understand your needs. Our host families are very caring and will help students settle into their new home. Be sure to practice your English with your new family and try to close the culture and language gaps.



At any point, if you have any problems adjusting or communicating with your host family, please let us know so we can help address the issue and help you adjust as quickly as possible.

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