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# **‘Paradise Islands’ and Geopolitics: The Current Situation in Hawaii**

by Anastasia Nikulina

*MGIMO Student of MA Program International Security*

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# Modern face of Hawaii

*"The loveliest fleet of islands that lies anchored in any ocean"*

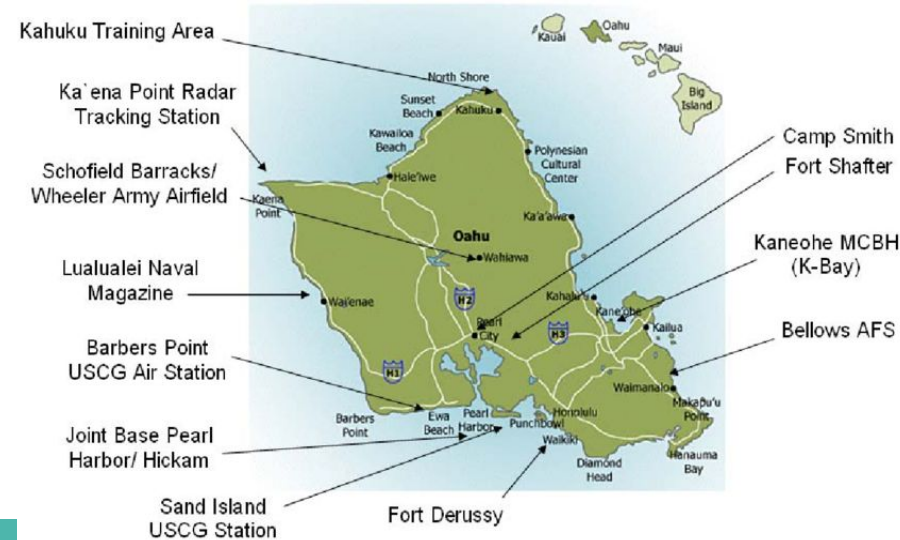
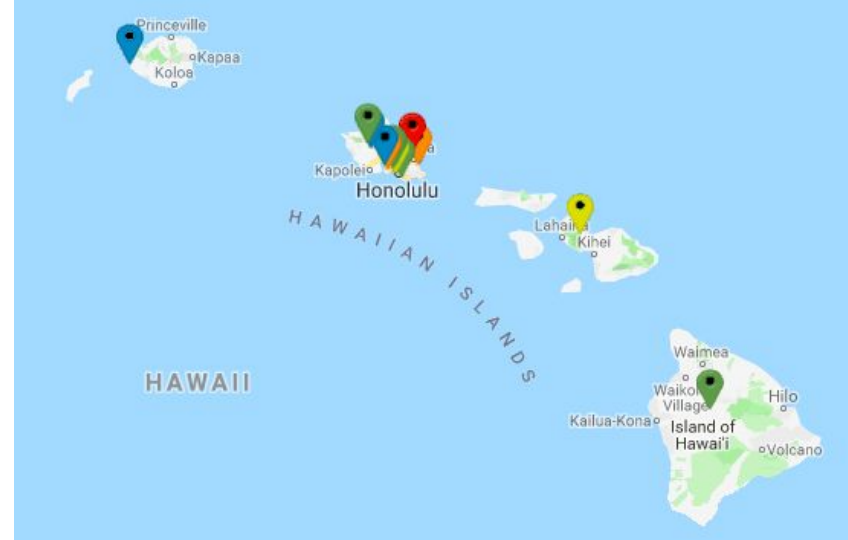
- Mark Twain

Tourism is Hawaii's largest industry.  
Hawaii tourism economy as of 2025 stands at USD 31.3 Billion



# Militarized paradise

- total of 13 bases
- responsible for defending an area of the Pacific Ocean, including Hawaii, Guam, and the Philippines
- majority of military facilities are situated on Oahu island
- employ over 30,000 military personnel and civilians
- the total economic impact of the military bases is over \$10 billion per year







# Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam (JBPHH)

- located on the island of Oahu
  - one of the largest military bases in Hawaii
  - U.S. Pacific Command, Headquarters of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, and the U.S. Air Force's 14th and 15th Wing
  - major logistics and supply hub for the Pacific region
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## Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Pacific (NCTAMS PAC)

- definitive station for all Naval information and communications in the Pacific
  - supports defense communications
  - provides telecommunications for the US Navy throughout the Pacific
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# Pacific Missile Range Facility

## Barking Sands

- the world's biggest instrumented multi-environmental range
  - 42,000 square miles of controlled airspace and over 1,100 square miles of underwater range
  - used to test ballistic missiles, rockets, drones and hypersonic weapons
  - supports training operations
-

# Controversy of military bases: protection or threat



- ensure protection of the strategic point for national defense
- provide jobs
- partner with local businesses to encourage science, technology, reading and math education



- put a big target over Hawaii
- provoke countries that have tense relations with the U.S.
- create the preconditions for an arms race
- pollute environment

# False missile alert

Earlier Today



EMERGENCY ALERTS

1m ago

## Emergency Alert

BALLISTIC MISSILE THREAT INBOUND TO HAWAII. SEEK IMMEDIATE SHELTER. THIS IS NOT A DRILL.

13 January 2018 an alert about an incoming ballistic missile sent Hawaii into panic for about 30 minutes on Saturday, until emergency officials announced that the message had been sent in error.

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# Mark Zuckerberg's bunker in Hawaii



*"That's just like a little shelter.  
Whatever you want to call it,  
hurricane shelter whatever. I think it  
got like, blown out of proportion as  
if like the whole ranch was some  
kind of like doomsday bunker,  
which is just not true"*

- Mark Zuckerberg

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# Sources

- [The Hawaii navy base fueling Trump's quest for 'super duper' missiles, Jon Letman in Kauai](#)
- [Rim of the Pacific, U.S. Department of Defence](#)
- [Inside Mark Zuckerberg's Top-Secret Hawaii Compound, Wired](#)
- [Economy of Hawaii, Britannica](#)
- [Military Bases in Hawaii](#)
- [Pacific Missile Range Facility – Kauai, Hawaii Defence Economy](#)
- [Kauai Test Facility, Sandia National Laboratories](#)
- [Hawaii ballistic missile false alarm results in panic, The Guardian](#)
- [Navy Region Hawaii, America's Navy](#)
- [Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Military Bases](#)

Thank you for your  
attention!

