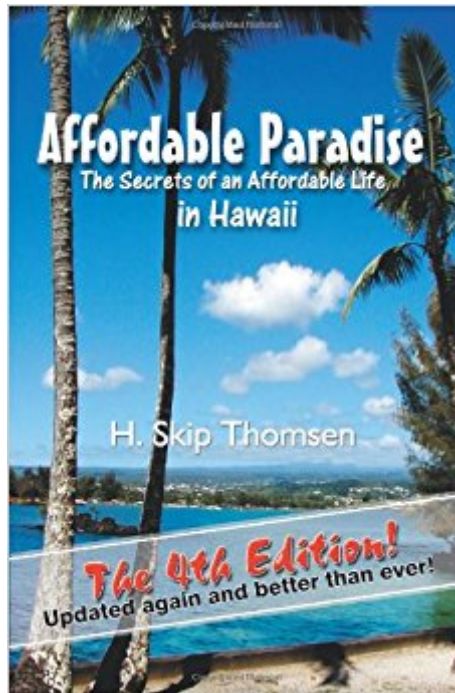




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Affordable Paradise: The Secrets Of An Affordable Life In Hawaii



Synopsis

The Fourth Edition! Updated, and expanded with lots of new info and 2009 Real Estate pricing. Please note that some of the reviews below are for the first three editions. Since this is dated material, yes, they are out of date! You will learn how to find bargain homes, how to save money in your everyday life in Hawaii, where the income opportunities are, what to expect in the schools, and maybe the most important part of all, you'll discover what it means to live aloha! There's also a whole chapter on just reasons why you might NOT want to move to Hawaii. Just a few of them: The effects of leaving behind family and friends. What happens when one partner feels the essence of Hawaii and to the other, Hawaii is just another place. Some people's kids simply do not want to be here. What if your kids can't handle the peer-testing they'll be subjected to at school. It's different in this multi-cultural climate. What about "That local attitude." Dogs, dogs, everywhere, and nothing can be done about the constant barking. "Things just don't happen here like they did at home." Working with Government in building or business issues. The so-called lack of available jobs. Rural Hawaii's "different" driving habits. Having to wait for what you want or need right now.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fantastic book and a great help!, April 30, 2009I just finished reading this book through a second time. My wife and I are in the process of making our move. We purchased the book two years ago and it has been a tremendous help in all phases of contemplation, planning and preparation. The book includes a very helpful section dedicated to acquainting you with island culture and helping

you feel whether or not you will fit in and ultimately find what you are looking for. We are grateful to the author for sharing his rich experience and enriching our lives in a very meaningful way.

--Traveler (Collegedale, TN)Great book, be sure to check which edition you're buying though., July 22, 2005I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and I wish there were a version of it for every city or area I wanted to move to, Hawaii or not, very informative and entertaining for what it sets out to do. It's not an all-inclusive everything-for-everyone book, it's like having someone show you their life on the big island and having them share everything they like or don't like, more of a "what it's like to really live here" approach that includes the cost of groceries and how people drive. One real view is more valuable to me than some blanket approach even if it's less comprehensive, I can get a tourist map anywhere. Be sure to check which version of the book you're buying if you purchase used, though, the real estate scene has changed a great deal since the first edition and if you don't at least check his website for updates, you'll be sorely disappointed when you check real estate prices. --That One Guy (Santa Fe, NM)This book was very helpful, August 3, 2007This book has a lot of practical information and advice for people who think that Island living is as simple as just moving there. The author suggests many ways to make the move easier, cheaper and less stressful. He stresses the importance of assimilating to the island culture, rather than bringing mainland sensibilities with you. The author has a blog which is a great forum to share ideas and ask specific questions. Read this book and learn what it means to "Live Aloha" --S. Hansen "a fan of a book and greater scotch" (Canmore, Alberta Canada)

The first two editions of this book focused on affordable living in Hawaii. This new expanded Third Edition does it again, with new info on surviving the recent housing price increases. In addition, now revealed is an aspect of living in Hawaii that is so important that it may seriously effect the lives of all who call the Aloha State their home.

This book is well written and has a lot of good information to consider prior to making a move to the big island of Hawaii from a person who has already made the move. What he shares is important, basic information that I find interesting and would not have considered. It doesn't matter that it wasn't written this year - the information about the culture is timeless.

Of all the books I have read about Hawaii, this was my favorite. As a retiree contemplating a move to the Big Island, I found this book to be spot on. Only someone who has lived on the island for many years could have written this. I especially found the descriptions of the neighborhoods helpful

and for me, a time saver. Thomsen spends a lot of time on the emotional and social aspects of the lifestyle change that is part of a move to Hawaii and that I believe to be very important. Just a side note: according to the author's web site, the couple has returned to the mainland "to be closer to their grandchildren".

Nearing retirement, we have been considering different places that we might like to live. After visiting different Hawaiian islands over the years, there is much that appeals to us. Assuming that it would be expensive to live in Hawaii, the title, *Affordable Paradise* caught my attention. This book does a great job of summarizing the important things to be aware of before considering a move to the Big Island of Hawaii from the various districts, to what to move, to health care. Chapter 10, *Final Thoughts*, starts "...whether you're more sure than ever that Hawai'i will be your new home, or if we've helped you discover that you now would like to check out Mexico, it doesn't matter. What is important is that we've helped you become clear on your intentions." And I think that goal was reached.

The book is confined to the Big Island and the material is dated, but it is helpful in determining whether or not you will fit into the Aloha spirit--by this I mean your psychological ability to live in the Islands. The authors truly understand the laid-back lifestyle. If you are too impatient to "talk story" with a neighbor or get irked when the contractor shows up late--even a day or so later--because of "really gnarly surf" that called for a board on the water but not a board on your house; well, don't even consider Hawaii. You have to adapt and love a new lifestyle. Not everyone can or does and those people end up going back to the mainland. The Big Island is well-surveyed as far as the different areas in which to retire--some expensive, some less so, and others not really suited as there are perpetually barking dogs--many of the old time families do not consider them a nuisance--along with free range chickens, crowing roosters, and agreements with the local officials to ignore minor crimes in some locales. If you want a survey of resorts, nightlife, or the excitement of Honolulu, this book will not be helpful. Although I did see myself possibly at a Starbucks on the Kona coast, that is not the norm. If you like a smaller town and more rural atmosphere that is surprising affordable--take a look.

Love the info from an insider's point of view - very helpful.

Not only is his book jam packed with loads of useful information but the author is enjoyable, witty

and unbiased for the most part regarding his view of living on The Big Island. I say "unbiased for the most part" because Skip and his wife clearly love the island but are respectively candid in giving the real thoughts and opinions about some of the challenges you might face moving to this paradise. My husband and I have highlighted and bookmarked the book throughout as we want to move sometime in the future. We will certainly be using this book as our bible to move. Skip covers everything from food to the school system to even an in depth look and review of each district/county on the island! Thank you and bravo on an amazing book!

Skip Thomsen does a great job of explaining what it's like to move to Hawaii and live Aloha. To really appreciate not only the beauty of the Hawaiian Islands and its' people you have to embrace the Hawaiian culture also. Mr. Thomsen explains that when you move to Hawaii, you must look at it like you're moving to a foreign country. The book is as much about the mindset of living in Hawaii as it is about the logistics of planning your move. Well worth it for someone who is contemplating taking the plunge.

Affordable Paradise is a great book of ideas of how someone can make Hawaii a possible home even if you're not rich. It is full of helpful, thoughtful tips of how to set up a comfortable lifestyle that will save money. It also has information on the things about Hawaii living that one must be aware of before making a decision to make the move. If you aren't wealthy, this is a must-read for those of you who dream of living in paradise.

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