

When my husband told me that we were screening for an OUTCAN posting to Hawaii, I had thoughts of happiness, pure excitement, fear and sadness. The State of Hawaii is the most isolated population center in the world with a minimum 5.5 hour flight away to the mainland, with our families being even farther away. We were ready for this new adventure and we arrived in fall 2015. After settling in and experiencing the unique challenges of living in Hawaii, I have learned to love this wonderful and unique island and all it has to offer.

My 5 favorite things about Hawaii, after the friendships that have been created during the past 3 years are:

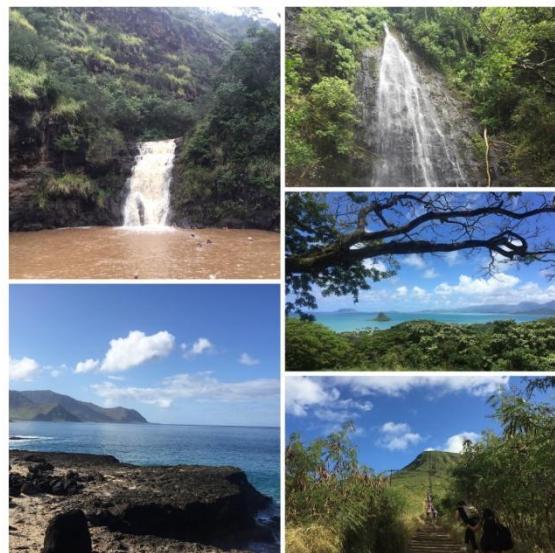
1. The absolutely beautiful sunsets.



2. Flowers in Hawaii are year round and with the wide variety of flowers and all their beautiful colours.



3. The waterfalls and amazing views you can discover on the many hikes around the island. There are hikes for all fitness levels and ages, so everyone is able to participate. You never know what you will discover; you may even be rewarded with wildlife sightings!



4. The power and beauty of the ocean and all the beautiful beaches around the island.



5. I am a huge animal lover and as such it is just amazing to see the variety of wildlife that you can find in Hawaii.



Lastly, here are some of the unique facts about living on Oahu I have learned in the past 3 years:

Geckos are very friendly and are good luck when inside your home. When you do not have a family pet, these friendly visitors are a good substitute.



The reason why Hawaii is the Rainbow State. Rainbows can be seen daily and no matter how often you see one, they are beautiful.



Winter clothes can come in handy! Hawaii has 8 main islands that are only a short flight away and offer many more unique sights and opportunities. Here my husband and I are standing on top of Mauna Kea, a dormant volcano which stands 4,207m above sea level. One occasion where we were happy not to have left our winter clothes in storage!



Many movies are filmed here on the Hawaiian islands – you can place yourself into many of your favourite movie scenes!



Local pineapples are delicious, but did you know they grow in the ground? It was not until we arrived here and went to a pineapple plantation did I learn how they grow!

