

Experience-based report “how to spend holidays”  
by Yuka Nakayama

Hawaii is a very popular tourist spot, and a lot of Japanese people take a trip there to enjoy marine sports, eating Hawaiian food, and shopping. Then, local people also usually enjoy them? Or they enjoy another things? I wanted to know amusements for Hawaiian people, so I researched how people who live in Hawaii spend holidays (weekend).

After school, I asked UH students (8 people) and my host family the question, “What do you like to do when you are free?” I also asked A classmates (10 people, including me) the same question because I wanted to compare the answer of Japanese people with the answer of Hawaiian people.

First, I show the answer of Japanese people. The main answers were sleeping, watching TV, and reading books. The majority of the people in A class said, “I want to take a long rest at home on holidays.” I was a little surprised that hardly any of the people often go out on holidays. In addition, three people like singing songs at karaoke. I think this result shows Japanese people tend to like spend a holiday indoors.

Second, I show the answer of Hawaiian people. Before I conducted this research, I thought people who live in Hawaii usually go to the beach and go shopping on weekends because there are a lot of famous beaches and large shopping centers, and no amusement parks in Hawaii. But, in fact, few people answered going to the beach or going shopping. About half of the people I interviewed like listening to music or watching TV in the same way as Japanese people. So, I also asked them the following questions. “How often do you go to the beach?” Three people said, “Once a week”, and four people said, “Once or twice a month”, and the rest of the people said, “I don’t go to the beach much because I don’t like the sea (or swimming).” Some people also said, “I like the sea, but I’m busy with my homework. So I can’t frequently go to the beach.” I think this result shows people who like the sea go to the beach several times a month, but people who don’t like the sea or swimming hardly go to the beach. By the way, the frequency of going shopping is twice a month on the average. I was surprised because the frequency is almost the same as Japanese one.

In addition, I asked some people the following question because they said they often playing a musical instrument (mainly guitar). “Can you play the ukulele?” Most people answered, “No, I can’t.” This answer was unexpected for me. But, considering very few Japanese people can play the Japanese traditional musical instrument, koto, it may be not unusual.

Through this research, I knew Hawaiian people enjoyed the same things (watching TV, listening to music, sleeping... and so on!) as Japanese people did, but Hawaiian people was more active than Japanese people. It was fun to find common points and difference between Hawaiian people and Japanese people.