



Island FEVER

By Jenny Quill

Dig your toes into the sand on any of Hawaii's picturesque beaches, and you'll know why so many who visit never leave. Add to that the lush, tropical landscape; the convenient, five-hour flight from the West Coast; and the solid investment potential, and you've found one place worthy of calling home. Here, take a tour of the Aloha State's most idyllic properties, from island-style dwellings on Oahu to laid-back coastal retreats on Maui.

OAHU

Home to the bustling city of Honolulu and more than 75 percent of the state's total resident population, the island of Oahu is an ideal locale for those who like to get away but not *too* far away. The epitome of the city-meets-island lifestyle is The Watermark, a 38-story tower located in the heart of Waikiki, with 210 two-bedroom, two-bath residences (plus two penthouses) selling between \$760,000 and \$1.4 million. The amenities include views of the ocean, harbor and beach, spacious lanais (patios) and the convenience of living in the midst of all the fun and sun Waikiki offers.

Those interested in the west side of Oahu should look into the Marriott's Ko Olina Beach Club, a new development at Ko Olina Resort, about 45 minutes west of Honolulu. The property includes the Beach Tower, with 92 expansive condos on 11 floors, and the Ocean Tower, which has 155 villas ranging between 1,388 and 1,797 square feet. For a two-bedroom villa, buyers are parting with \$1.8 million. Perks of ownership include entry to the Ted Robinson-designed 18-hole golf course, the resort's four-star hotel, spa and private marina.

MAUI

"There are only so many places in the world that are like this," says Betty Sakamoto, the co-founder and vice president of Sakamoto Properties. Maui's quaint charm is indeed one of its strongest selling points, in addition to its mellow, beachside towns, clear blue water and magnificent white-sand beaches.

The Kapalua Resort, located on the island's northwestern tip, is home to The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, 54 holes of championship golf and three of Hawaii's most beautiful beaches, two of which have won the honor of America's Best Beach. The resort's latest offerings are The Residences at Kapalua Bay, 84 privately owned, three- and four-bedroom condos, and The Ritz-Carlton Club, Kapalua Bay, which consists of 62 fully furnished, two- and three-bedroom pieds-à-terre sold as one-twelfth fractional-ownership interests. A turnkey in The Residences will set you back about \$3.9 million or more, while a spot in The Ritz-Carlton

Club starts at \$332,000. Owners of both are granted membership in the new Kapalua Club and access to the resort's award-winning golf courses and 25,000-sq.-ft. spa.

Another island development includes Honua Kai. The first whole-ownership condominium community on Ka'anapali Beach in two decades, the project will reflect Hawaii's history and style in its sum of 700 condos and town homes. Phase 1 is sold out, Phase 2 opened sales in December (from \$600,000 to \$5 million), and Phase 3 is set to open for purchase in spring 2007 (pricing not available at press time). Boons of ownership include ocean and mountain views, lush gardens, swimming pools and one of the island's top beaches for diving and snorkeling.

HAWAII

Despite the fact that the recent real estate boom has slowed, the island of Hawaii (a.k.a. the Big Island) is still one of the best places to snatch up real estate. "The Big Island is an extremely attractive place, with dramatic coastlines and nice beaches," says Dodie MacArthur, the founder of MacArthur & Company. "You're secluded. You have a sense of the elements here."

On the south end of Mauna Lani Resort, Ke Kailani is one of the resort's highest priced developments, with residences and land selling for \$1.5 million to \$8.5 million. MacArthur says that many of her clients purchase homes there because of the added convenience. "A lot of people want to be able to lock it and leave it and not worry about it," she says. "It's especially important for people with three or four homes. If they're coming, someone is opening the house up and it's ready for them."

People looking for a community focused on active lifestyles will appreciate the amenities at Kuki'o, a private, oceanfront community north of Kona Airport. Kuki'o's Golf and Beach Club includes an oceanfront clubhouse, beach bar, swimming pools, outdoor pursuits center (with an activities concierge for members), fitness center and spa. Continuing the leisurely theme are two Tom Fazio-designed golf courses.

Residences in this posh borough include three- to five-bedroom cottages as well as villas with main and guesthouses.

For the ultimate in luxurious island living, there are plantation-style haies with barbecue areas, pools and spas; or, you can build custom on quarter-acre to two-acre homesites. The price tags for all properties range from \$1.75 million to \$27.5 million.

KAUAI

With its laid-back ambience, lush tropical flora and fauna and picturesque coastline, Kauai is the quintessential Hawaiian oasis.

The newest community to debut on the Garden Isle's shores is Kukui'ula, a master-planned neighborhood with Hawaiian plantation-style residences; a 216-acre, 18-hole Tom Weiskopf golf course; a spa; and a planned village center with upscale boutiques and cafes.

The three residential components, which start at \$1 million, include the Mauka (toward the mountains) Custom Collection, which features custom residences on a one-third acre to one-plus acre of land, with some lots bordering the golf course, and the Makai (toward the ocean) Custom Collection, a selection of 1,500- to 4,000-sq.-ft. custom abodes. The third option, the Makai Collection Cottages, is intended to be a more vibrant district, with pastel-color exterior schemes inspired by island flowers. The cottages top out at 4,600 square feet and come in six different floor plans.

LANAI

You'll be hard-pressed to find a more relaxing getaway than the island of Lanai. Life moves slowly here—there's one shuttle that zips between the island's three hotels—the Four Seasons Resort Lanai at Manele Bay, The Lodge at Koele and Hotel Lanai—one grocery store and one town, Lanai City, with about 3,000 residents.

The newest residential development on Lanai is The Palms at Manele, which fronts the 18th fairway of the Manele Bay's Jack Nicklaus-designed golf course. The 38 oceanview condos, listed for about \$2.28 million to \$2.52

million, are available in five floor plans stretching between 2,314 and 2,946 square feet, with your choice of three or four bedrooms. Additional amenities include private entry courtyards, great rooms, master suites, spacious kitchens and covered lanais (a necessity for drinking mai tais while watching the sunset). EW

to learn more

Oahu

Ko Olina Beach Villas,
877.598.4552, www.koolinabeachvillas.com.

The Watermark, 808.944.2800,
www.thewatermarkwaikiki.com.

Maui

Betty Sakamoto, Sakamoto Properties,
808.669.0070, www.sakamotoproperties.com.
Honua Kai on Ka'anapali Beach, 866.678.1310,
604.648.3459, www.playground.com.

The Residences at Kapalua Bay,
800.281.9440, www.kapaluaabay.com.

Hawaii

Dodie MacArthur, MacArthur & Company,
808.885.8885, www.macarthurhawaii.com.
Ke Kailani, 808.886.2000, www.kekailani.com.
Kuki'o, 808.325.4040, www.kukio.com.

Kauai

Kukui'ula, 808.742.0234, www.kukuiula.com.

Lanai

The Palms at Manele,
800.505.2624, www.lanailuxuryhomes.com.