The County of Maui consists of the inhabited islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai and the uninhabited island of Kahoʻolawe.

**Geography**

The county is the second largest of the four counties in the State of Hawaii. The county has a total area of 2,398.74 square miles, of which, 1,161.52 square miles is land and 1,237.22 square miles is water. The land area is approximately the size of Rhode Island.

The island of Maui, known as the “Valley Isle”, is the second largest in the Hawaiian archipelago. It has a land area of 735 square miles, is 48 miles long and 26 miles wide.

The island of Maui is the center of trade, commerce and county government. It is also the largest island of the four islands making up the county.

Historically, pineapple and sugar have been the major industries. Today, however, tourism and construction are the leading components of the Maui County economy, which continues to include agriculture as well as technology, renewable energy and scientific and research facilities.

The 264 square-mile island of Molokai is the second largest in the county. Molokai is known as the “Friendly Isle” and has a reputation for its aloha. The population is largely Hawaiian or part-Hawaiian and traditional pursuits like fishing and farming have contributed to preserving its cultural heritage.

The island of Lanai has historically been called the “Pineapple Isle” because for many years most of its 141 square miles were devoted to pineapple production; cultivation of the crop has since been phased out. Larry Ellison, the new owner of approximately 98% of the land on Lanai, has expressed his intentions to refurbish existing resorts, water and electric utilities. Mr. Ellison has also stated he plans to create a variety of sustainable enterprises such as a solar-powered eco lab, organic farms, a desalinization facility and a fleet of electric cars.

**Demographics**

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2011, there were an estimated 156,674 people residing in Maui County and a population density of 133.3 people per square mile. There were 71,222 housing units and 52,065 total households. The average household size was 2.9.

Maui County’s population is composed of multiple ethnic heritages including Hawaiian, Japanese, Caucasian, Filipino, Chinese, Korean, Tongan, Samoan and others. The racial makeup of the county is 35.10% White, 0.60% Black or African American, 0.20% American Indian and Alaska Native, 25.40% Asian, 9.50% Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific
Demographics (Cont’d)
Islander, 0.90% from other races, and 28.30% from two or more races. 10.10% of the population is Hispanic or Latino of any race.

Maui County’s population was spread out with 25.1% under the age of 20, 5.4% between the ages of 20 to 24, 27.1% between the ages of 25 to 44, 29.4% between the ages of 45 to 64 and 12.8% 65 years of age or older. The median age was 39.6 years.

Government
In Maui County as well as in the three other counties within the state, there are no subordinate or separate municipal entities. The state government administers the school system, airports, harbors, hospitals, judicial system and the state highway system.

Most non-federal taxes are administered and collected by the state under Hawaii’s highly centralized tax system. The major sources of state revenue are the general excise tax and corporate and personal income taxes. There are no state personal or property taxes, no local levies for school districts nor special assessments. The County of Maui provides a broad range of municipal services including public safety, highways and streets, water and sanitation, human services, public infrastructure improvements, parks and recreation, public transportation, planning, zoning, and general administrative services.

Maui County is governed by the County Charter, originally adopted by the electorate in September, 1967. On January 1, 1983, a new charter became effective. The 2013 edition takes into account amendments between 1983 and 2012 as amendments were proposed by the Charter Commission.

The executive power of the county is vested in and exercised by the executive branch, which is headed by the popularly elected Mayor. The Mayor serves a four-year term and is limited to two consecutive full terms. Mayor Alan M. Arakawa was elected to serve the current term starting on January 2, 2011. Mayor Arakawa is the first mayor in Maui County history to have lost a re-election bid and four years later won a second non-consecutive term.

The Mayor establishes and directs basic management guidelines for all 17 executive departments of the county and serves as a liaison between the County Council and executive departments and agencies.

The Mayor’s Office and Managing Director are responsible to prepare and oversee the county’s operating and capital improvement program budgets, provide support services to county boards and commissions, respond to citizen concerns, and coordinate internal county communications and the dissemination of information to the public.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period July 1</th>
<th>No. of Residents</th>
<th>% Change Annual</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>138,744</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>140,119</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>141,523</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>143,591</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>145,240</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>154,834</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>156,674</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Maui County Data Book 2012, compilations from multiple sources.
The Maui County Council is a nine-member legislative body of officials who are elected on an at-large basis (i.e., all county voters can cast votes for all nine seats), one each from nine residency areas. Each Council member is elected for a two-year term.

The Council is the legislative and policy-making body of the Maui County government, as provided by Section 2-2 of the Charter of the County of Maui: “All powers of the county shall be carried into execution as provided by this charter, or, if the charter makes no provisions, as provided by ordinance or resolution of the county council.”

As provided in Section 3-6 of the County Charter, the Council is specifically empowered to:

- Legislate taxes, rates, fees, assessments and special assessments, and to borrow money, subject to the limitations provided by law and the Charter of the County of Maui;
- Legislate appropriations for county purposes subject to the limitations provided by the Charter of the County of Maui;
- Conduct investigations of (a) the operation of any department or function of the county and (b) any subject upon which the Council may legislate;
- Fix the salaries of such employees and officers as may be necessary;
- Require periodic and special reports from all county departments concerning their functions and operations. Such reports shall be requested and submitted by and through the mayor; and
- Retain or employ, by a vote of two-thirds of its entire membership, special counsel (private attorneys) for any special matter presenting a real necessity for such employment. Any such employment shall specify the compensation, if any, to be paid for said services.