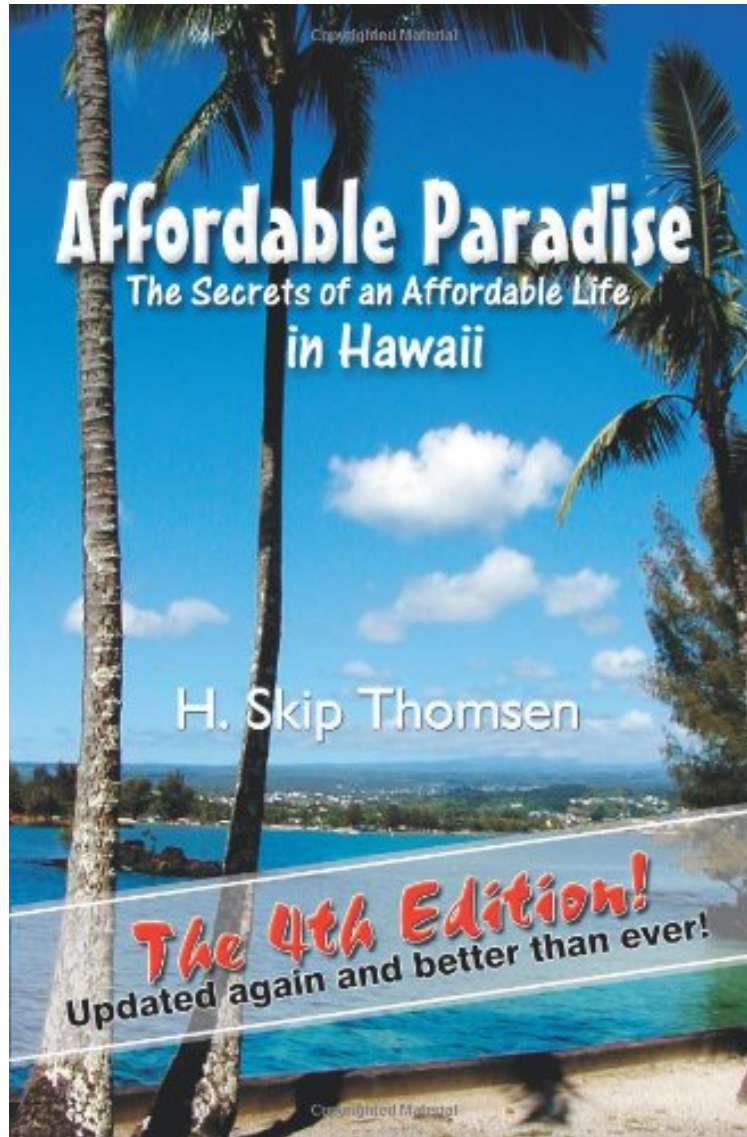


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## Affordable Paradise: The Secrets of an Affordable Life in Hawaii

*H. Skip Thomsen*

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**H. Skip Thomsen : Affordable Paradise: The Secrets of an Affordable Life in Hawaii** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Affordable Paradise: The Secrets of an Affordable Life in Hawaii:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Good Common Sense Information About the Culture of the Big Island of HawaiiBy TacompatThis 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. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Focus Is on the Big Island By Cindy Blackshear 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". 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Paradise can be affordable By L. Edwards 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 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.

Fantastic book and a great help!, April 30, 2009 I 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, 2005 I 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, 2007 This 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) From the Publisher 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. From the Author Affordable Paradise was initially inspired by the many questions my wife and I receive from tourists, our vacation-rental guests, family and friends about how can you two afford to live in such an expensive place? Contrary to some popular beliefs (and published statistics), homes are cheaper here than in many places on the mainland, and there is lots of work available. Living affordably here does require some different techniques than on the mainland. Just living in Hawaii requires a different mindset than what we see on much of the mainland. Living in rural Hawaii is much like living in a foreign country. Affordable Paradise is my offer of answers to many questions. The other side of the story: Although Hawaii is truly Paradise for many, it is clearly not Paradise for all. Along with

the offering the secrets of an affordable life in Hawaii, I felt it was my responsibility to bring the reader up to speed on the realities of Island living, as well. I felt I could save some folks a lot of time, expense and heart-ache by letting them feel through my words some of the elements here that seem to drive people back to the mainland--back to their comfort zones. Whether or not you ultimately decide to make Hawaii your own Paradise, it is this writers sincere hope that Affordable Paradise will be instrumental in your decision and of help in your adventure wherever life leads you!  
Aloha Nui Loa! Skip Thomsen