

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TRAVELERS CAN EXPERIENCE BARACK OBAMA'S HAWAII  
President-Elect Was Born and Raised in Honolulu**

**HONOLULU** – Honolulu is proud to be the birthplace and boyhood home of President-elect Barack Obama and visitors to Hawaii can easily explore the sites and favorite places that shaped the foundation of his life and rise to becoming the leader of the free world.

The young Obama flourished in the Islands, where local values foster tolerance, compromise and mutual respect – and where diversity defines people rather than divides them. The social mores of the Aloha State and the experience of growing up in Hawaii's culture have had a deep and lasting influence on the President-elect.

Fans of Hawaii's native son can visit more than two dozen Obama sites around Oahu including:

- **Kapiolani Hospital for Women and Children** where America's next president was born on Aug. 4, 1961, to Barack Obama, Sr. and Ann Dunham.
- **Punahou**, the celebrated private school that Obama attended from fifth grade through high school graduation in 1979. Other notable Punahou graduates include America Online co-founder Steve Case and golf phenom Michelle Wie. *Note: Punahou School is a private campus.*
- **Lower Makiki to East Honolulu** where Obama lived in six different residences and spent most of his youth living in an apartment near Punahou School with his grandparents Stanley and Madelyn "Toot" Dunham.
- The **Baskin-Robbins Ice Cream** shop on South King Street was one of the first places Obama worked as a teenager.
- Obama had his favorite places to hang out with family and friends, which included **Puu Ualakaa State Park** on Tantalus, **Kapiolani Park** at the edge of Waikiki, and **Sandy Beach**, a popular body-surfing spot in East Honolulu.

- In August while vacationing with his family before the campaign to the general election, the Obama family enjoyed some R&R on Oahu, which included golfing at **Olomana Golf Links** and **Luana Hills Country Club**, spending time at **Kailua Beach Park**, visiting **Nuuanu Pali Lookout**, snorkeling at **Hanauma Bay**, enjoying a traditional local-style plate lunch at **Zippy's**, touring the **Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor**, paying respects to Stanley Dunham who is buried at **Punchbowl**, the **National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific**, and much more.

The Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau has created a special microsite at **GoHawaii.com/Obama** that highlights some of the significant places tied to Obama's earlier days in Hawaii and where he vacationed in August 2008.

Oahu activity providers are also responding to visitor interest in Obama. Guides of Oahu has recently launched an Obama tour (ObamaTourHawaii.com) and other operators are expected to follow.

Today, Obama credits his upbringing in the Islands as a major influence on his character and values, saying, "What's best in me, and what's best in my message, is consistent with the tradition of Hawaii." He grew up in Honolulu and spent much of his time under the care of his maternal grandparents, Madelyn and Stanley Dunham. His grandmother, whom he called "Toot" – short for *tutu* (the Hawaii word for grandmother) – passed away on Nov. 2, 2008, just two days before her grandson's historic election as president.

People interested in learning more about President-elect Obama's boyhood in Hawaii can read *The Dream Begins: How Hawaii Shaped Barack Obama* written by Honolulu journalists Jerry Burris and Stu Glauberman and published by Watermark Publishing (BooksHawaii.net).

For more information about Hawaii, the Islands of Aloha, visit **GoHawaii.com**.

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***Note: For a screenshot of the GoHawaii.com/Obama site, please contact Nathan Kam at Nathan.Kam@MWC-Anthology.com.***

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