



# International Hospitality Center

563 Kamoku Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96826 • (808) 521-3554 • [ihc@iolani.org](mailto:ihc@iolani.org) • [www.ihchawaii.org](http://www.ihchawaii.org)

## We Are Now Online!

IHC is thrilled to announce the launch of our website!  
Spread the word and visit us at [www.ihchawaii.org](http://www.ihchawaii.org).

### Host Families Needed for Academic Semester/Year

What better way to “bring the world home” than to host a foreign student? We are currently seeking volunteers interested in hosting students for the academic semester/year, beginning in July. All students speak English, are eager to become a part of your family, and will attend your local high school. If you’ve never hosted a student before, don’t worry. IHC is here to support you and your student throughout the hosting experience, including pre-arrival orientation, during which you will have the opportunity to meet other hosts, both new and experienced.

We are proud to continue to work with the **CCI/FLEX (Future Leaders Exchange) Program** for the 11th year, which brings U.S. Congressional scholarship recipients from former Soviet Union countries as well as the

**CCI/YES (Youth Exchange and Study) Program**, which brings in students from 23 Moslem countries. YES was launched to build bridges of understanding in response to the tragic events of 9/11. Students from these programs are fully funded by the U.S. Department of State and have competed in a highly selective admission process to be awarded these scholarships. IHC also works with organizations who sponsor students from Europe, Asia, Southeast Asia, and Latin America. **We welcome students from nearly every corner of the globe**, so please request nationalities of interest.

Last year IHC volunteers hosted 70 students during the academic year! Thank you to all our dedicated hosts who serve IHC and our global community.

**Call Barbara at (808) 521-3554** to request sample bio-data for your future student.

## Summer English Language Program

The English Language Study and Homestay program, run by IHC for the past 25 years, will take place from **July 20 to August 16, 2008** on the campus of Iolani School. The Junior Division program is geared to students 5 to 13 years of age, while the Senior Division offers classes for students 14 to 19 years old. The multinational enrollment will include participants from Japan, Okinawa, Korea, China, Spain, France, and Romania.

The weekday program consists of English classes in the morning, followed by afternoon activities and excursions around Oahu. We match high school students with host families for the short four-week program so they can be totally immersed in English and also learn about American culture and daily life. Students travel to/from host homes and Iolani School by public bus. On the weekends, we ask that hosts involve their student in host routines and participation in family life.

Junior Division weekend homestays are also available.

“Volunteers are motivated by their desire to share the American way of life, an interest in other countries, languages and cultures, and a willingness to become involved in person-to-person diplomacy.”

-Barbara Bancel  
IHC Executive Director



*FLEX and YES students with Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona during our Annual Legislative Internship*

## Save the Date for Upcoming IHC Programs!

**March 23** – Arrival of officer training ship of the Peruvian Navy, “Mollando” in Pearl Harbor; Hosts provide hospitality during the day **(S)**

**April 18 to 20** – Daini Weekend Homestay (Japan) **(S)**

**June 28 to July 5** - U.S. Department of State sponsored program for East West Center (Polynesia) **(S, MLD)**

**July 2 to 29** - Spanish Heritage - English classes and activity program (Spain) **(S)**

**July 20 to August 16** – English Language and Homestay Program (Asian and European countries) **(S)**

**August** – Academic Semester/Year Student Arrivals (Europe, Asia, South America, Middle East) **(L)**

**Late Summer** – “Orientation Homestays” (one-week) for college and university students **(S)**

**Ongoing** – Au Pair in America Program: Childcare with a Cultural Flair (40 countries) **(L)**

**S**=short-term **L**=long-term **MLD**=mainland only

### A BIG Thank You to Hawaii Independent Schools!

We'd like to give special thanks to some of Hawaii's **fine private schools** that have, and will again, offer **scholarships** to IHC sponsored students for the 2008-2009 School Year:

- Academy of the Pacific – Honolulu
- Christian Liberty School - Keaau
- Island School – Lihue
- Le Jardin Academy – Kailua
- Lutheran High School – Honolulu
- Parker School – Waimea
- St. Andrew's Priory School - Hnl.
- St. Joseph High School – Hilo

### IHC Staff

**Marina Valenzuela** is the **IHC Trainee Assistant** for 2007-08. A graduate of Reed College in 2007, Marina participated in a study abroad program to Argentina. When not working at IHC, she enjoys tango dancing. Please introduce yourself to Marina when you next visit IHC.

We are currently **hiring highly motivated summer high school and college interns** to work in the IHC office and in the classrooms of our English Language Program on the campus of Iolani School. It's an ideal opportunity for future teachers, students interested in international affairs, or those looking to bridge cultural and ethnic gaps in the world. Please call Barbara Bancel at (808) 521-3554 for more information.

If you are interested in becoming a **Volunteer Local Coordinator** to assist with Academic Year/Semester students in 2008-09, please let us know. Our “LCs” help support small clusters of students in Hawaii and on the Mainland and provide friendship to students and hosts in your area.

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### Au Pairs: Childcare with a Cultural Flair

For the past 21 years Hawaii families have welcomed Au Pairs into their homes through the **Au Pair in America Program**. For those who aren't familiar with the term, an *au pair* is an English-speaking young woman, aged 18 to 26 years, who comes to America to spend one year in a “host family.” She provides 45 hours of **childcare** per week for infants through school-aged children. Instead of hiring an American nanny or searching for qualified babysitters, why not host an Au Pair who will care for your child(ren) with an **international cross-cultural bonus!**

Nearly 4,200 qualified Au Pairs from 40 countries are matched per year across the U.S. Au Pairs' duties may include baby-sitting, changing and bathing babies or young children, preparing meals, driving children to school and activities, supervising homework, running errands, shopping and taking care of other child-related needs. Approved by the Department of State, Au Pairs have J-1 cultural and educational exchange visas and are very carefully selected, interviewed, referenced and trained.

Currently, there are **18 Au Pairs in the Hawaii cluster**, overseen by Barbara Bancel. For those with childcare needs, we would be happy to send you **application** information for this very successful childcare program.



*YES students (Academic Year Program) enjoying the end of Ramadan*

## What Can We Do For YOU?

Our appreciation for IHC volunteers and all of your hard work and dedication goes beyond a simple “thank you.” Certainly the primary reward of volunteering is very personal and meaningful the ongoing rapport and friendship hosts develop with their international participants. We would, however, like to offer two special invitations to IHC volunteers. **We hope you will enjoy these benefits in the near future:**

For many years, IHC has enjoyed “Greenline” service at all **Outrigger and Ohana Hotels**. We would like to extend our **special rates** to volunteers and their friends and families who may be visiting Hawaii. Just call Barbara at the IHC office to make your reservation.

IHC is also happy to make **discount** reservations on the **Mai’tai Catamaran**, located at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel. The one-and-a-half hour cruise is breathtaking during daytime or at sunset. Expect to get your feet wet, catch the wind in your hair, and enjoy the sunshine!

## Host Family Profile: The Dalys of Yuma, AZ

**Number of students hosted:** 17

**Countries hosted:** Australia, Brazil, France, Georgia, Germany, Japan, Kazakhstan, Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine. **What do you like most about hosting international students?** We love learning about different cultures. Our granddaughter has gained perspective of the world. **Advice for new hosts:** Be patient and remember the students are from a different country, language, and culture. Also, lay out the rules of the house early on. **Funny hosting moment:** Several years ago we hosted a Ukrainian girl. She had been here almost six months when she approached me one night and asked if there was anyway she could get hot water to run in her shower. It turned out she had been taking a cold shower for six months. She took a long hot shower that night!



*Students in the Summer English Language Program with their Activities Coordinator (see article on page one)*

## Short-Term Hosting Opportunities

### Individual Homestays

Would you like to host a foreign student and learn about a new culture, but are too busy to host an academic year or semester student? Then the Individual Participant Homestay program is perfect for you. These students arrive from locales such as France, Japan, Italy, Spain, and Thailand for 1 to 3 weeks. All are covered by health and accident insurance, have their own personal spending money, are eager to meet American hosts and learn about you. Some even participate in internships in their disciplines. The similar Individual Orientation Homestay (one week) is designed to ease the student into life in Hawaii. Afterward, they embark on their studies at local colleges such as the University of Hawaii, Hawaii Pacific University, Tokai University, and the East-West Center.

### SHE-Herencia (“Spanish Heritage”) Homestay

This summer we will again welcome our friends from Spain’s well-known SHE-Herencia program for a four-week homestay from **July 2 to 29**. These high school aged students, accompanied by a Spanish leader, will be participating in English classes three days a week at Iolani School and in activities and excursions two days a week. We are currently seeking homestay hosts interested in learning about Spain to volunteer for this short-term program. **Please call Barbara at (808) 521-3554 if you are interested or would like to refer a friend.**

### Beijing High School #4

IHC was recently asked to welcome a carefully selected group of 49 students, 3 faculty, and the vice principal of Beijing High School #4 from China, who were visiting the U.S. for cultural exchange and scientific exploration. We arranged a week-long homestay on Oahu for each participant. Our Chinese visitors then went to the Big Island for scientific research and the U.S. Mainland to visit American colleges. Volunteers appreciated the short-term program as a simple way to get to know our Chinese friends and to get involved with the International Hospitality Center in the short-term.



*Barbara Bancel, IHC Executive Director  
with Saikat Mitra and  
Kulsoom Abbas from Pakistan*

## Director's Profile

**Barbara Bancel** (left), the **Executive Director**, oversees IHC programs in Hawaii and on the U.S. Mainland. She is responsible for recruiting and training new host families and matching hosts with exchange students, including developing short-term programs for students wishing to participate in English programs or be matched with American hosts. Barbara's spring 2008 travel includes a trip to Chicago to attend the Center for Cultural Interchange's (CCI) Regional Director meeting, travel to Oregon to recruit host families and to visit her daughter and two small grandchildren, and to Montana to conduct the mid-year evaluation for a cluster of Academic Year students.

In addition to serving as the Executive Director of IHC, Barbara is also the Hawaii Community Counselor for Au Pair in America, the National Consultant for CCI, and a member of the executive committee for NAFSA: Association of International Educators. Barbara was first attracted to the field of international educational and cultural exchange as a study abroad student in Spain. Later, she taught English in São Paulo, Brazil and French for ten years at Le Jardin School in Kailua, Hawaii.

Barbara founded IHC in 1976.

## Exchange Students Learn about the Democratic Process

With many thanks to members of the Hawaii State Legislature, IHC Future Leaders Exchange (FLEX) and Youth Exchange and Study (YES) participants (U.S. Congressional scholarship recipients) had the opportunity to participate in a **one-day Internship at the State Capitol** on January 25. Each student was hosted by a Hawaii Legislator and took part in staff research sessions, committee meetings, a tour of the capitol, and Senate/House legislative sessions. FLEX and YES students are always amazed by the access the American public has to government officials. After years of study of American history and government in their home countries, this Internship brings alive the whole process of the American democratic system. **Note photo on page one with Lt. Gov. Duke Aiona.**

We are most grateful to the following legislators for making this experience available to our exchange students:

**Rep. Rida Cabanilla Arakawa, Rep. Lyla Berg, Rep. Joe Bertram, Rep. Mele Carroll, Rep. Cindy Evans, Sen. Mike Gabbard, Sen. Colleen Hanabusa, Rep. Sharon Har, Sen. Lorraine Inouye, Sen. Russell Kokubun, Rep. Marilyn Lee, Rep. Joey Manahan, Rep. Barbara Marumoto, Rep. John Mizuno, Rep. Hormina Morita, Sen. Norman Sakamoto, Sen. Sam Slom, Sen. Jill Tokuda, Rep. Clift Tsuji, Sen. Shan Tsutsu, and Rep. Gene Ward.**

### Can't commit? Here are short-term ideas for getting involved:

- Provide a one-week "Orientation Homestay" for a newly arriving foreign university student in the late summer
- Try out a Weekend Homestay
- Lend a hand in the IHC office
- Host a few officers/cadets from a foreign navy for a Hospitality Day (e.g., sightseeing, shopping, beach picnic, etc.)

### Dear Volunteers,

As we complete our 32<sup>nd</sup> year, it is gratifying to know that some of you who hosted for the first Thanksgiving Hospitality so many years ago are still actively involved in IHC. Last year, our volunteers touched the lives of 4,887 international students, and government and foundation grantees from 48 countries. Without your generosity and commitment, we would not be able to meet the ever-increasing number of participants who wish to learn English and about American life. You are part of a group of over 2,000 community volunteers throughout the State of Hawaii and more than 800 hosts across the Mainland U.S.A.

**Thank you for your support...we simply can't do it without you!**

Visit our new website!  
**[www.ihchawaii.org](http://www.ihchawaii.org)**