Planning Your Visit to Hanauma Bay

Obtaining a Permit
City Ordinance requires all groups to obtain a permit prior to visiting Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. The education permit* includes a 30 min educational orientation.

- Contact Hanauma Bay Education Program (HBEP) at least two weeks prior to date of requested visit. Call early to guarantee your preferred date.
  ✓ Phone (808) 397-5840
  ✓ E-mail: hanauma@hawaii.edu
- Be prepared to give:
  ✓ Name of group & contact person
  ✓ Phone, email, and mailing address
  ✓ Number of individuals in group (45 per permit, maximum)
  ✓ Age or grade level of group
  ✓ Date of requested visit
  ✓ Time of requested visit:
    9:00am, 11:00am, 1:00pm or 2:30pm
- HBEP will forward your permit request to the City & County Park Office. A permit application will be drawn up and emailed to you. At that time, please review the necessary information, sign, and email or fax back to the park office.
- If approved, the permit will be signed by the park manager and emailed back to you. Please make sure each driver has a copy of the permit when you visit.

On-Site Procedures
- Buses and other commercial vehicles may not park at the bay. Buses/Commercial vehicles may drop-off and pick-up in the commercial lot only. Personal vehicles (cars, vans) may park in the parking lot for a $1 fee.
- If the parking lot is full, groups with permits will still be admitted to the park. Simply identify yourself to the park staff and show them your permit.
- An HBEP representative will meet the group outside the main entrance to the education center. Groups will not be accommodated earlier than their permitted time. Please be prepared to present your permit when you meet our staff members.
- There is a $7.50 entrance fee for all non-residents 13 years or older. (Admission is free for Hawai`i residents with proper ID). Please have payment for the entire group together to expedite entry (cash & credit cards only). The HBEP representative will escort the group leader to the ticket window to pay the fee.
- The HBEP representative will lead the group through the education center for a private, mandatory 30 min. orientation before the group proceeds to the beach.

* No commercial groups will be permitted.
Directions to Hanauma Bay
Take Kalaniana’ole Highway(Route 72) heading toward Koko Head (east from leeward O`ahu or south from windward O`ahu). Signs indicate the turnoff into the Hanauma Bay parking area. Commercial vehicles must drop off passengers in the commercial lot only and may only stay for a maximum of 15 minutes. Personal vehicles (cars, vans) may park in the parking lot for a $1 fee.

Hours of Operation (add one hour to closing for summer hours)*
Park: 6:00am – 6:00pm* daily (Closed Tuesdays)
Life Guards on Duty: 6:30am – 5:30pm *
Snorkel Rental: 7:00am – 5:00pm*
Tram: 6:15am - 5:30pm*
Food Concession: 8:00 am – 4:30pm
Gift Shop: 8:00am – 5:00pm*

Facilities Available
Education Center Classroom: equipped with video, audio, DVD, and data projector; can be used for presentations and other educational activities by the Education Program staff.
Restrooms: in upper picnic area, in the education center, and on the beach
Changing Rooms: in the restrooms on the beach
Showers: several locations on the beach
Drinking Fountains: near beach showers, gift shop, and snack bar
Picnic Areas: picnic tables in the upper park
Equipment Rentals: Contact Snorkel Rental Shop 808-396-3483 for information
Telephones: near upper picnic area restrooms & next to women’s restroom on the beach

What to Bring
Group Permit: to present to park staff (a copy for each driver) **REQUIRED
Sun Protection: sunglasses, hat, rash guard, sunblock
Rain jacket (rain is rare at the park, but if it does rain, there is not much shelter)
Footwear: athletic sandals are ideal if both walking in sand and along ledges, slippers acceptable if only going in the sand and the water.
Swimsuit & towel (if going in the water)
Personal Lifeguard (if going in the water)
Drinking Water: to avoid multiple trips to the drinking fountains with thirsty students
First Aid Kit: for minor bumps and scrapes (lifeguards also have supplies and will assist with first aid)