



BEACH INFORMATION

BEACHES WITH LIFEGUARDS

MAUI

North Shore

Baldwin Beach Park
Ho'okipa Beach Park
Kanaha Beach Park

West Shore

D.T. Fleming Beach Park
Hanakao'o Beach Park (Canoe Beach)

South Shore

Kamaole 1
Kamaole 2
Kamaole 3
Makena State Beach Park

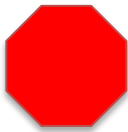
HAZARDS LEGEND



CAUTION

Approach with caution, conditions can change. This is the safest level of near shore or off shore conditions.

HIGH



HAZARD

Conditions are hazardous. People are advised to stay out of the ocean.



EXTREME HAZARD

Conditions are extremely hazardous. Stay out of the ocean.

NEAR SHORE

This best describes the beach and near shore conditions. This information is important to beach goers, swimmers, snorkelers and surfers. Beaches are rated for wave hazards using these signs. The ratings are updated daily at 9:00 am, 3:00 pm, and 7:00 pm or as conditions change. To have the safest beach experience, visit guarded beaches with a normal caution rating (yellow square).

OFFSHORE

This describes the off shore conditions. This information is important for kayakers and boaters. Beaches are rated for wave hazards using these signs. The ratings are updated daily at 9:00 am, 3:00 pm and 7:00 pm or as conditions change. To have the safest beach experience, visit guarded beaches with a normal caution rating (yellow square).

OCEAN SAFETY INFORMATION

1. Minimize your risk.

If you are not familiar with the shoreline, do not visit unguarded beaches. Dangerous waves and currents do not happen randomly and most human involvement is a matter of choice, not chance. Many ocean related accidents are caused by:

- A lack of understanding that the shoreline can be dangerous.
- A lack of caution

2. Learn the conditions

Always talk to a lifeguard to determine the safety level of the ocean and shoreline. Find out about the surf and wind conditions for the whole day. Find out about:

- Strong currents and waves that surge up the beaches.
- High surf.
- Waves that break directly on the shore (shore break).
- Hidden rocks.
- Dangerous shore areas.

3. Understand wave and current behavior.

Waves arrive in groups separated by lulls. Watch the ocean for several minutes before entering the water. A calm sea may change in an instant when a group of waves arrives. Don't be fooled by the variability of the waves!

Waves make currents that can be dangerous. Rip currents in the surf zone can carry you out to sea. A wave rushing up a beach (wave surge) can knock you down and drag you into the ocean. Large waves on rocky shores can knock you into the ocean. Check to see if the rocks or sand you are walking on are dry; avoid wet areas. Remember that beach hazard ratings are only general guidelines. Distinctions between beach areas, ocean bottom, and the angle of incoming waves can cause large variations in safety. No matter what the beach hazard is, there are safe beach areas in Hawaii, learn about them.

4. Hazards legend

Rules that govern beach hazard flag assignment (see first page of this section for Caution, High Hazard and Extreme Hazard flag signs).

5. Rip Current Safety

(This information is taken from the National Weather Service Website)

Why Rip Currents Form?

As waves travel from deep to shallow water, they will break near the shoreline. When waves break strongly in some locations and weakly in others, this can cause circulation cells which are seen as rip currents, narrow, fast moving belts of water traveling offshore.

IMPORTANT TIPS TO HELP KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE WHILE HERE IN HAWAII:

Before entering the water, remember to SOAK:

- Study the conditions before entering the water.
 - Observe the activities of others in the ocean.
 - Ask the Lifeguards about current conditions.
 - Know your limits in the water.
1. Always study the currents and waves before you go out in the water. Notice where the rip currents are, where the waves are breaking, and where any submerged rocks are.
 2. The waves in Hawaii vary in size. Several sets of 2 foot waves can be followed by a sudden set of 6 foot waves. So don't assume all waves are alike.
 3. Never turn your back to the ocean. When anywhere near the water, always watch the ocean to look for approaching waves. (A big wave can quickly rush up the beach, grab you and pull you in)
 4. Don't assume the waves are safe just because you see some Hawaiian kids body-surfing or swimming in them. Remember, they were raised on these waves, you were not!
 5. Use extra caution on wet rocks where waves can surprise you unexpectedly.
 6. When in doubt, don't go out.
 7. When the water is brown, turn around.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU FIND YOURSELF IN A RIP CURRENT:

The best thing to do is learn to spot rip currents and avoid them. However, if you do find yourself in a rip current, remember the following. It could save your life!

- Don't fight the current – Conserve your energy, keep calm, float, breathe, don't panic, and wave for help.
- Swim out of the current, then to the shore – Swim out of the current in a direction following the shoreline. When out of the current, swim at an angle away from the current towards the shore.
- If you can't escape, float or tread water – You can easily float in the current, there is no undertow.
- If you need help, call or wave for assistance – If there is large surf or shoreline hazards, wave your hands for help and wait for assistance.