



COMMANDER, U.S. PACIFIC COMMAND
(USPACOM)
CAMP H.M. SMITH, HAWAII 96861-4028

January 21, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL HAWAII BASED MILITARY PERSONNEL

SUBJECT: Cost of Living Allowance Living Pattern Survey for the Hawaiian Islands

The Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) Living Pattern Survey (LPS) for Hawaii is now available online. The link to the survey is at: <http://www.pacom.mil>.

WHAT IS IT? This is a COLA Survey that asks Military Members and their families which local economy outlets they use when they shop for food items, clothing, and many other goods and services, such as hair care, and auto repair. It also asks them how much of their shopping is done on the local economy, and how much is done at the Commissary, Exchange, or on the internet.

WHY THIS SURVEY IS IMPORTANT: The data reported in this survey will be used to adjust the COLA for all Hawaiian Islands. The Living Pattern Survey is one of the "Building Blocks" of COLA. Every 3 years a LPS is conducted to determine the names of the local economy outlets where military families shop. The annual Retail Price Schedule (Market Basket Survey) then collects the prices of 120 goods and services from these outlets. After DTMO's Allowances Branch compares the prices in Hawaii to those in average CONUS, a Cost of Living Index is computed that reflects the difference.

WHEN IS IT? The survey is available now and will be open until February 28, 2014.

WHO CAN TAKE IT? All Service Members assigned to Hawaii as their Permanent Duty Station for at least 3 months, and do not reside in the barracks should take the survey.

HOW TO TAKE THE SURVEY: Click on the link found on PACOM's homepage and follow the instructions. Service Members are encouraged to take the survey at home with their families. It takes about 30 minutes to complete.

HOW YOU CAN HELP: Get the word out to all applicable personnel. The key to success is maximum participation and accurate data. Please encourage everyone to take the survey.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION or questions contact USPACOM Quality of Life at uspacom.j102.fct@pacom.mil or call 808-477-7904/8121.

ANTHONY G. CRUTCHFIELD
Major General, U.S. Army
Chief of Staff

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