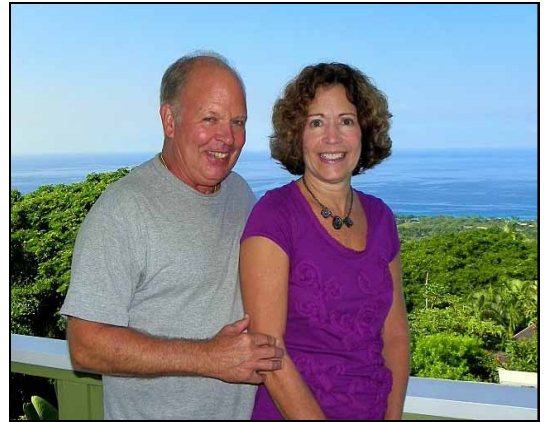


### 30th Anniversary in Hawaii

Bill and Beth Howard made a trip to the Hawaiian Islands to celebrate their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. It was a 15 day trip, spending five days on each of three islands. It also fulfilled another accomplishment – visiting all 50 states!

After a very long flight (actually 3 flights!), we began our trip on the Big Island of Hawaii, staying in a beautiful B&B with a gorgeous view of the Pacific Ocean and nightly sunsets. We love exploring and hiking, so we covered the whole island as best we could! One highlight was Volcano National Park where we saw the steaming Kilauea Caldera. Driving out the Chain of Craters Road to the ocean was so impressive with all of the different types of lava and the immenseness of it all. At the end of the road was a Sea Arch which had been carved out by the ocean. We also walked through an old lava tube!



*Bill and Beth Howard*



*Rainbow Falls*



*Kilauea Lighthouse*

Akatasu Orchid Gardens called to Bill, as he is a real orchid enthusiast. Other highlights included hikes to see Akaka waterfalls, Rainbow Falls, Mauna Loa Macadamia Nut Factory, Kona Coffee Plantations, Volcano Winery and of course some beautiful beaches!

After five days, we packed up and flew to Kauai, the Garden Isle. It was, without a doubt the most lush and beautiful flowers everywhere! We stayed in a lovely condo with a view of the ocean. We enjoyed sunsets every night, right from our own lanai. Here, we also visited waterfalls, botanical gardens, Hanalei Bay (where South Pacific was filmed), the picturesque Kilauea Lighthouse, the Spouting Horn and Waimea Canyon, which is the “Grand Canyon of the Pacific”. Our highlight was a Napali Coast Snorkel trip on a 65 ft Catamaran! It can only be accessed by air or by sea, and is an awe inspiring coast line with sheer cliffs coming down to the ocean.

Our final stop was Waikiki on the island of Oahu. Here we stayed at the Hale Koa, right on Waikiki, which is for military, DOD and those retired. What a find!! We highly recommend it! It was also ocean front and we were able to enjoy sunsets from our lanai every night. Pearl Harbor was, without a doubt our highlight on Oahu. It was a very moving experience – we took in the Arizona Memorial as well as the Battleship Missouri and the Bowfin Submarine. We also went to the North Shore to see the big waves and a surfing competition just happened to be underway.



Grand Canyon of the Pacific



*30th Anniversary Luau*

We climbed Diamond Head, snorkeled Hanauma Bay, visited the Dole Plantation and attended a Luau on our anniversary.

All in all, we went on 8 flights! I planned the whole trip myself, doing research on the computer and talking to people who had already traveled there, including one friend who had live there! One thing I would do different – I would stay a week on each island instead of 5 days.

There was so much to see and do that we spent very little time relaxing – it was usually on one of our lanais enjoying a sunset!

We truly enjoyed Hawaii – so much that we plan to go back before too long! If you go, do check out the Hale Koa!

***Happy 30th Anniversary  
to Beth and Bill from the  
Association of Mapping Seniors.***

