

Does the world have a crush on Hawaii?

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Those of us who live in Hawaii know it's a special place. We know we're "lucky we live Hawaii." But isn't that true of people everywhere?

more than that. "it" factor, a certain "je ne sais quoi," a captivating quality

Fussen, Sleeping Beauty's Castle was inspired by Neuschwanstein castle in Fussen. The manager of a small hotel asked where we were from. "Hawaii," we told him.

"Hawaii!?" he repeated it with emotion. He had always wanted to visit there, he said.

Eddie Flores of L & L Hawaiian Barbecue said, "I remembered that when I was in the army, none of the girls wanted to dance with me at the NCO Club, until I told them that I was from Hawaii. Hawaii sells."

Hawaii allure, or charm, captivating. the world has a crush on Hawaii.

Let's look at some examples.

Poke

there are more than 3,000 poke shops in the U.S.

Paris has more than a dozen poke shops, as does, London, Moscow, and nearly every major European city.

Tiki bars

Every major U.S. city had a Polynesian tiki bar or restaurant from the 1930s to 1970s. Los Angeles had more than 50.

The Lexington Hotel in New York City had a Hawaiian Room from 1936 until the mid-1960s.

Trader Vic, Don the Beachcomber, and many others sprouted tiki bars and cafes all over the country.

Named after Hawaii

Hundreds of places on the mainland are named for Hawaii.

In North Carolina, there's a city named Honolulu.

Honolulu House in Michigan based on the original Iolani Palace. It was built by a man who lived in Hawaii from 1857-1860.

Michigan also has an Aloha township, named by a man who had visited Hawaii.

Wisconsin has an Aloha Beach. Aloha, Oregon has an Aloha High School, although they pronounce it "Alo-ah."

There's a town named Manoa in Pennsylvania, about eight miles from Philadelphia. It has a Manoa Tavern, Manoa Shopping Center, and Manoa Dry Cleaning.

Can any other state claim any of these accomplishments?

More evidence of Hawaii's "It factor"

- There are over 1,000 hula schools outside of Hawaii. Can you think of another state in the U.S. that emulates that?
- An estimated 35 million people around the world surf regularly.

It factor?

How many states named their streets, parks, or cities after Rhode Island or Connecticut placenames?

Can you think of foods from Illinois or Wisconsin that you can buy in London, Paris and Moscow restaurants?

Hawaii gave the world surfing. Can any other state make a similar claim?