

# HAWAII our 50th state

## Our 50th State

By Jerry Alger

Back in 2004 my wife Lynda said she wanted to take a road trip on Route 66. I thought it was silly, but I had turned her down a couple times already so I reluctantly said ok. Long story short...I liked



that Route 66 trip so much we have driven it 6 complete times. Along with those trips over the years we have driven many other highways from coast to coast, north to south, in fact we have driven the complete perimeter of the USA. A couple years ago I asked Lynda how many states we have driven through. We got the map out and figured we only had a few states left on the east coast. I might mention Lynda keeps a journal, with entries compiled each night, of each trip. Last year we drove to the east coast on US 60 and returned on US 6. We not only completed those two 2 lanes coast to coast we drove through the last 3 states of the lower 48 states. Several years ago we took a cruise to Alaska so all we had left to complete our visit of all 50 states was Hawaii. So we decided to do it this year. We couldn't drive there so we decided to fly to Hawaii and take a cruise to several islands. We never planned to visit all 50 states, it just happened. We have been blessed and feel fortunate that we could do this. We are not sure where we will go next year.



## 90 day warning! Surge in passport renewal could cause massive delays in getting a new passport

Beginning in January, 2018 some experts are predicting a massive number of passport applications to start hitting the system. 10 years ago the United States started requiring passports for travel to Mexico and Canada which resulted in millions of new passports being issued. As you hopefully are aware passports have a 10-year life, thus all those millions of new passports now need to be renewed. The State Department, who is in charge of issuing passports, is encouraging people to try to renew their passports before the end of the year with hopes that it will prevent a major backlog of applications.

## Six-month passport rule may prevent people from traveling internationally

Many people I talk to are not aware that a lot of foreign countries do not let you into their country if you have less than six months left before your passport expires. This is called the six-month rule and is quite common in many countries around the world. Please take the time if you are traveling in the next 12 months to check your passport to see that it does not expire within six months of your expected travel, otherwise you might be faced with the unfortunate circumstances of missing your flight. This is another great reason to use a professional travel advisor who will keep your passport information and advise you when it needs to be renewed.

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