

Date: Sat, May 15, 2010 at 8:50 AM

Subject: Our mini DXpedition to the Big Island of Hawaii To: randykh6rc@gmail.com

In February 2010, we decided to do something different for my annual birthday vacation to Hawaii. A ham friend and I rented the Leilani Bed and Breakfast Inn on the Big Island of Hawaii, which included a complete ham shack. The room accommodations included a private comfortable room with bath and away from the owners quarters. A meeting area, which serves as the breakfast and reading room, includes a high speed Internet connection provided to the guests at no additional charge. Each morning our hosts Randy and Lynn prepare fresh hot Kona coffee, cereal and eggs along with a wide assortment of fresh island fruits.

The Leilani B&B is located midway between Kona and Hilo in Ocean View and is a very quiet location within a few minutes drive to many local tourist areas. We visited the macadamia nut farms and brought back a nice assortment of chocolates and nuts. At the Black Sand Beach we watched the sea turtles. At the southernmost point of the Big Island are the windmills, whale watching area and rock climbing for the more adventurers. Volcanoes National Park is nearby where you can watch the lava flow into the ocean. Driving or hiking, there's plenty things to see and do near the B&B.

For ham radio enthusiasts like ourselves, the Leilani has a separate well equipped ham shack. I was able to operate from the station and made many contacts with ease. Our host Randy, KH6RC, has the best equipment available which includes an Icom 756 Pro III transceiver, a 4 element SteppIR antenna, a legal limit amplifier, and more. We were able to work many countries and islands from this ultra quiet location that we could not even hear from our stateside locations.

While this vacation was not designed to be a DXpedition, the bonus of just having a well equipped ham shack available made staying at the Leilani B&B worthwhile. For such amenities, including the ham shack availability, the B&B is a real bargain. If you're a ham and considering a vacation to Hawaii, be sure to book a few nights at the Leilani. I guarantee you be well rewarded with the fun of being the DX station.

Wayne, AI9Q

Luther, KC7KVL