

Buying and Mastering the Hawaii Board Game

This checklist is designed for enthusiasts ready to hunt down a copy of the classic Hawaii board game or dive into its modern successors. It ensures the reader avoids overpaying for incomplete sets and masters the gameplay mechanics from day one. Use this list to guide your purchase process and streamline your first game night.

Phase 1: The Hunt and Purchase

- Check the current market average on BoardGameGeek before browsing eBay.
- Verify that the seller has posted recent photos of the actual box contents, not stock images.
- Confirm with the seller that all wooden feet, shells, and fruit tokens are present.
- Ask specifically about any "smoky" odors or water damage on the cardboard components.
- Compare shipping costs, as the box is heavy and can inflate the total price significantly.
- Look for "local pickup" options on marketplaces to inspect the game in person.

Phase 2: Pre-Game Preparation

- Read the rulebook alone at least once before inviting friends over.
- Punch out any unpunched cardboard tokens carefully to avoid tearing the art.
- Sort all resources (shells, feet, fruit) into separate bags or containers for easy access.
- Assemble the puzzle-frame of the board to understand how much table space is required.
- Practice the "movement vs. buying" turn structure to explain it clearly later.

Phase 3: Gameplay and Strategy

- Focus on acquiring a resource engine in the first two rounds rather than points.
- Monitor the "feet" currency closely to ensure mobility across the island.
- Check the Kahuna tiles frequently to align your village building with scoring goals.
- Block opponents from key locations if it costs you little but hurts them significantly.
- Calculate the final round moves carefully to spend all remaining resources.

Phase 4: Care and Maintenance

- Count all components before putting them back in the box to ensure nothing fell on the floor.
- Bag the heavy wooden pieces separately from the delicate cardboard tiles.
- Store the box vertically to prevent the lid from caving in over time.
- Keep the box away from direct sunlight to preserve the vibrant cover art.