



Our goal is to make your dream wedding a reality. We handle all the details so you can relax and enjoy one of the most important days of your life. Call us and let us start helping you create your wedding vision now!

Please call: (877) 711-3003 or contact us at: AlohaEverAfter.com

Wedding Checklist

Part I – Pace yourself. There are a lot of things to be done - but they don't all need to be done right now.

- ***Choose the general area you want to get married in** – This means pick which island, not which beach. This is especially important to do first if you're having a Hawaii Wedding.
- ***Choose your wedding coordinator** – See blog for info on “How to pick the best wedding coordinator for you”
- ***Make a deposit** - In the wedding industry no wedding vendors can be booked without the wedding coordinator first receiving a deposit. Once you know the general area you want to get married in and have found a wedding coordinator you feel comfortable with, *don't wait - act now!* Most deposits are quite reasonable and there will only be more stress and regret by waiting. In our experience nothing good ever comes from waiting on this issue.
- ***Pick a wedding date** - It's important to reserve the best wedding vendors before they are booked up!
- ***Have your wedding coordinator book the initial vendors** you know you must have (e.g. a fabulous photographer or videographer).
- ***Figure out what your approximate wedding budget is** – It's important that you don't go so over budget that you feel stressed, so ground yourself and figure out what you can do comfortably.
- ***Figure out (and communicate) what the top 3 priorities are for you for your wedding** – A common “top 3” would be wedding photography, wedding dress and tropical beach location. This is important because everyone wants more than they can afford, so you have to be practical and figure out early on what your priorities are, so that we can make sure they are taken care of first.
- ***Pick out a package, or list of items, that you want for your wedding.** Find a practical balance between the wedding of your dreams and your bank balance if you want to be happy. *Do NOT start discussing specifics about flowers yet.* Just lay down the general things you'll want, e.g. tell your coordinator you want a bouquet and a circle of flowers (to get an idea of where you are pricewise) but do *NOT* start talking about what colors or specific flowers you want. It's still too early and if you do it now you will likely change your mind several times before you're finished.

***Book the rest of your wedding vendors** (if any remain unbooked) now that you have a complete list of what you want.

Part II - You still have plenty of time before the wedding day.

Start your own behind the scenes work on the wedding. The important stuff to get booked is now behind you, so now is the time to start thinking about all of the details. Most brides get WAY ahead of themselves and start this process too early on, which overwhelms them and distracts them from the truly urgent tasks.

- Start looking for your dress
- Figure out what accent colors you would like to have. If you are going to have a wedding party do you want them to match? Do you want any bride's maids to have bouquets?
- Consider specific flowers and color schemes that would look good with the above (still do not order them yet!)
- Make a guest list and send out "save the date" cards or invitations
- Start looking at exact beach locations online (Sandy insert link to our locations page) and get an idea of where you might want to get married if you have not already decided
- Book your airline, hotel and car reservations
- Make sure you have secured the dates you will be gone with work, babysitters, house sitters and other people affected by your trip

Part III - The wedding is only a month or two away now!

***Submit a written list of the specific wedding flower order (this should not be done until about 4-6 weeks before the ceremony date).** Make sure your guest list is confirmed before doing this and you have thought through your order clearly. *Going back and forth on the flowers (even if just with minor details) is the best way to cause an easily avoidable mistake with the order!* Remember that at this point the order is being placed already; florists are busy and they are not wedding planners. Take the months ahead of time to plan out who gets what flowers, *avoid the temptation to rush into ordering flowers early* and wait to submit your specific order until you are really *certain it will not change* due to budget cuts, changes in the guest count or preference changes. In many cases a tropical mix with a general color scheme request is the best choice (because then the florist can pick the most beautiful options that you may not know are in season) ... but if you choose otherwise then now is the time to be specific.

***Submit any special requests** – Is there someone coming to the wedding with disabilities who needs a chair or help? Submit a list of "must have photos" only if photography is one of your highest priorities and you plan on having more than 15-20 guests. Put someone responsible in charge of managing this list: they will be able to locate your guests much better than the photographer would (she/he does not know them) and you want your photographer focusing on taking pictures, not finding people.

* **If you're getting your hair done**, find out what the specific requests your hairdresser has. General rule of thumb is do not wash your hair for 24 hours prior to styling. Pick out your style early. If you're having a Kauai Beach Wedding it will be windy, so go for a full up do!

***Get ready to go early** - Be kind and gentle with your partner, he/she might be nervous or stressed. Help them relax, and give them lots of hugs. Get everything ready early and make wise choices about the last week before you go. Less is more. Make choices that make you happy and relaxed above being an over-achiever. Your wedding will still be perfect even if you don't buy each last item for your trip. Hopefully if something is really important for your trip you will have bought it long ahead of time to be able to relax more now!

***Check back in with your wedding coordinator** only if it makes you feel better or if you are worried a specific detail you mentioned at the beginning might get forgotten. This is really not necessary as most wedding coordinators are highly detailed oriented professionals who would contact you if they had any questions, but it normally makes brides feel better to hear that "Yes, everything is taken care of".

***Wedding day prep** - Arrive to hair/nail/makeup appointments prepared and early. Set things out ahead of time. Hair and makeup appointments and getting dressed will always take longer than you think (leave 30-45 min to put your dress on). Relax, enjoy - this is the day you've been waiting for!

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