Serving as the capital and main gateway to Hawaii, Honolulu is home to a “beef stew” of diverse cultures from around the Pacific and the globe. The city’s economy is focused primarily on tourism, defense, international business, and environmental research, which has cemented its role as a major financial center of Hawaii and the western U.S. Close-knit relationships between K-12 schools and the public university system ensure a fairly steady pipeline for youth into higher education.