

## HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT GARDENS

Landscape Design: Richard C. Tongg, FASLA, Landscape Architect

Year: 1962

Administration: Governor William Quinn, State of Hawaii

Three major attractions surround the Main Terminal Lobby and the "Y" Concourse of the Honolulu International Airport. They are cultural gardens that display the influence of the Hawaiian, the Chinese and the Japanese heritage upon "Island-Living" in the State of Hawaii.

The flora and fauna in each garden are indigenous to the country they represent and were chosen for their suitability to Hawaii's tropical climate.

### THE HAWAIIAN GARDEN

In the Hawaiian Garden, there are quiet lagoons filled with mullet fish, gurgling springs and waterfalls cascading down lava walls. In a lush tropical setting, banana, coconut, hala (pandanus) and kukui (candlenut) trees shade ti-plants, exotic ferns, such as the lawai and monstera and eye-catching flowers, white ginger, red torch ginger and bird-of-paradise. At night, luau torches illuminate the garden where glass ball floats hang from the huge branches of the monkeypod trees.

### THE CHINESE GARDEN

The Chinese Garden has a bright red resting pavilion with a curved roof of yellow glazed tile crafted by Hong Kong masons and artists and assembled in Honolulu. A statue of Dr. Sun Yat Sen, founder of the Republic of China, was donated by the Chinese community to the garden. There is an arched bridge symbolic of the hope of spanning the seas to achieve world peace. Goldfish and ducks splash about in the man-made lakes amidst lotus and lilly pads. Pine and bamboo trees along with other native Chinese flowering trees are strategically placed among craggy rock formations.

### THE JAPANESE GARDEN

Serenity is found in the Japanese Garden. Across a zigzag bridge (which keeps away evil) is a wood shingle-roofed shelter with stone benches. Colorful carp fishes create patterns in the ponds surrounded by sculptured pine and weeping willow trees. Stone lanterns softly illuminate the setting at dusk. A commemorative pagoda on an elevated plateau at one end was donated by Hawaii's Japanese community on the Centennial Anniversary of the first Japanese immigrants to Hawaii.

Pathways, bridges and stepping-stones connect the three gardens. Waterways flow among these garden ponds and lakes to symbolize the intermingling of the cultures of Hawaii.