# A RETROSPECTIVE

#### **PASSENGER COUNTS**

Honolulu International Airport

Year	No. of Passengers	
1940	1,153	
1950	494,041	
1960	1,609,303	
1970	7,234,594	
1980	15,155,337	
1990	23,049,029	

awaii first entered the aviation age nearly 83 years ago when daredevil J. C. "Bud" Mars charged onlookers to watch him take off, circle, and land his plane on a neighborhood polo field on New Year's Eve, 1910.

From that moment, interest in aviation flourished, both on Oahu and the neighbor islands. On March 15, 1918, Army Major Harold M. Clark, Jr. flew to Molokai and back, becoming the first person to fly between islands.

In 1919, the military established a landing strip in Honolulu, but it was not until 1925 that Hawaii's first airport became a reality when the land along Keehi Lagoon was purchased for \$27,410.

On March 21, 1927, John Rodgers
Airport was dedicated, named after the late naval commander who 18 months earlier, piloted the first aircraft to Hawaii from the U.S. mainland following an adventurous flight that ended with the plane landing in the ocean 365 miles short of Honolulu and being sailed to Kauai using fabric torn from the wings. Also, in 1927 the Territorial Legislature appropriated funds for further development of the airport, sparking a boom in aviation enterprises.

On November 11, 1929, Inter-Islands Airways (now known as Hawaiian Airlines) began the first dependable air transportation service to the neighbor islands using three eight-passenger amphibians.

Hawaii's first commercial airline flight from the mainland was accomplished on April 16, 1935 by a Pan American Airways Sikorsky S-42 seaplane. The flight from San Francisco to Pearl Harbor took 17 hours and 14 minutes.

During World War II, the military controlled all airport operations and grounded civilian aircraft. However, the airport was returned to the Territory of Hawaii on October 1, 1946 and renamed Honolulu Airport. A year later, the Territorial Legislature formed the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission to operate all

of Hawaii's airports. Also, Trans-Pacific Airlines (now known as Aloha Airlines) began charter service in 1946.

By 1959, the impact of jet service to Hawaii and the state's growing popularity as a tourist destination was causing the old terminal to burst at the seams. As a result, in February of that year, construction began on a new John Rodgers Terminal, which opened its doors on October 15, 1962. The airport, now known as the Honolulu International Airport, has since been expanded several times to accommodate the growing demands of modern jet aircraft and an exponential increase in the number of visitors to the state.

Another milestone occurred in 1959 when statehood came to Hawaii. Following Hawaii's admission as a state, the Hawaii State Department of Transportation assumed the duties of the Hawaii Aeronautics Commission on July 1, 1961. Today, the department oversees the responsibility of 15 airports on six islands.

The state airports system is Hawaii's gateway to the world. The skies have become the state's principle avenue of transportation for people—residents and visitors alike—mail, food, and many other essential goods. Hawaii has but two links with the rest of the world—our harbors and our airports—and on the brink of a fast-paced new century, we are seeing an evergrowing importance of our airways.

onvenience and accessibility are the hallmarks of the Honolulu International Airport (HIA). The construction of the new Interisland Terminal is the latest example of an ongoing program of renovations and improve-

ments that began with the completion

of the expanded John Rodgers

Terminal in 1962.

HIA is one of the largest, busiest, and most beautiful airports in the world and provides all of the modern amenities and conveniences that today's traveler has come to expect. The airport has its own retail stores, bank and instant teller machines, currency exchange, restaurants and bars, barber shop, mini-hotel, medical facilities, art gallery, gasoline station, business center, aerospace museum, Governor & VIP Lounges, conference rooms, lei stands, jail, and parks.

HIA is always bustling with activity. At any given daytime or evening hour, an estimated 10,000 passengers, employees, and visitors are in the airport complex. Approximately 15,000 people work at the airport every day, while an additional 25,000 depend on the airport for their daily livelihood.

As rapidly as HIA has grown since the terminal first opened over 30 years ago, it is certain to grow even more as Hawaii prepares to enter the next century.

# SOME INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE AIRPORT:

- HIA was the 13th busiest airport in the United States and the 20th busiest airport in the world in 1992. HIA is the third busiest international U.S. gateway behind only New York's JFK and Miami International.
- The airport is owned and operated by the State of Hawaii, Department of Transportation, Airports Division.
- More than 22 million passengers used HIA during 1992, with eight million of those being interisland passengers.
- HIA is located on 4,480 acres of land nine miles west of Waikiki Beach and four miles west of downtown Honolulu.
- The airport is served by 10 national carriers (United, Northwest, American, Delta, Continental, Aloha, World, TWA, Hawaiian, and American Trans Air), two interisland carriers (Aloha, Hawaiian), 15 international carriers (Air New Zealand, Canadian, Korean Air, Qantas, Garuda Indonesia, Japan, Polynesian, Canada 3000, China, Japan Air System, Philippine, Air Micronesia, Air Marshall Islands, Air Nauru, and Asiana), and two commuter airlines (Island Air and Trans Air Hawaii).

- HIA averages 1,100 flight arrivals and departures daily, including mainland and foreign overseas flights, interisland flights, commuter air lines, plus general aviation, cargo, and military flights.
- HIA has four runways, measuring 6,950 feet, 9,000 feet, 12,000 feet, and 12,370 feet.
- The Overseas Terminal has 26 airline loading gates (soon to be expanded to 29).
- In the Overseas Terminal, the Wiki Wiki
  Bus offers airport users a continuous,
  free shuttle service between the main
  terminal lobby and the outlying gates.
  A separate shuttle provides continuous
  service between the Overseas Terminal
  and the new Interisland Terminal.
- A business center is located in the Overseas Terminal's central lobby offering travelers conference room facilities, secretarial support, facsimile and photocopy machines, and many other business related services.
- The State of Hawaii Visitor Information Program (VIP) has 17 visitor information stations throughout the airport. VIP hosts and hostesses assist visitors in 15 languages.
- HIA's facilities are designed in accordance with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) standards. The airport is wheelchair accessible and offers handicapped parking and telecommunication devices for the deaf (TDD phones).

Department of Transportation owns and operates a statewide airport system that includes 12 commercial airports, three general aviation airports, and annually handles 35 million passengers, 504,870 tons of cargo, and more than one million aircraft operations.

When visitor arrivals to Hawaii increased dramatically during the 1980s, the state began a \$2.5-billion construction program designed to keep pace with the demands placed on the state's air transportation network.

#### OAHU

On Oahu, that included construction of a new Interisland Terminal, a new International Terminal, a people mover to replace the Wiki Wiki buses, and expansion of the Overseas Terminal, as well as new cargo facilities and other projects.

In July 1993, the new \$130-million Interisland Terminal will open, and four new gates on the Ewa Concourse of the Overseas Terminal will open later this year. In addition, eight new gates are being designed for the Diamond Head Concourse of the Overseas Terminal.

The new International Terminal and the people mover system are in various stages of design.

With the economic down swing in tourism and lower revenues than expected, the state is in the process now of relooking at the master plan for HIA. The new International Terminal has been delayed beyond the six-year financial plan and many other construction programs at HIA will have to be cut or delayed.

#### **MAUI**

Kahului Airport on the island of Maui is the state's second busiest airport with annual passengers of 4.9 million. The new \$41-million passenger terminal was opened in October 1990, and the \$60-million baggage claim facility, and 12 additional gates opened in 1992.

The state is seeking to extend the runway at Kahului from 7,000 feet to 9,600 feet so that fully loaded aircraft can depart without having to go to Honolulu to refuel.

#### **KAUAI**

Lihue Airport on the island of Kauai is the state's third busiest airport with three million passengers a year before Hurricane Iniki struck in September 1992. That number is expected to increase as the island's recovery continues.

The state opened a new \$36-million passenger terminal at Lihue in February 1987. The master plan calls for an extended runway so that fully loaded aircraft can depart without having to go to Honolulu to refuel.

#### HAWAII

Keahole Airport on the west side of the big island of Hawaii, is the fourth busiest airport in the state with 2.1 million passengers per year. In the past year, construction has been completed on a new ground transportation facility, a new cargo building, and a temporary commuter terminal. Construction is currently underway on an extended runway. A new air-conditioned terminal building with loading bridges is planned.

#### LANAI

A new \$15-million terminal is under construction at Lanai Airport and scheduled for opening in early 1994.

#### **MOLOKAI**

Renovations to the terminals and runways at both the Molokai and Kalaupapa airports have recently been completed.

As the competition heats up in the global visitor industry, the Hawaii Department of Transportation will continue enhancing the state's air transportation infrastructure to maintain Hawaii's leadership as a tourism destination.



# NTERISLAND TERMINAL PARKING

The elevated roadway provides convenient access from the H-1 Freeway to ticketing lobbies and 1700 parking stalls atop the new Interisland Terminal





Ticketing lobbies are easily located from either the curbside drop off or the parking levels at the new Interisland Terminal



# ASSENGER WAITING AREAS

Spacious and comfortable, passenger waiting areas at the new Interisland Terminal allow boarding of flights through covered loading bridges





Four large carousels in the baggage claim will minimize waiting time for travelers at the new Interisland Terminal



