

**22 Feb ~ Friday, Royal Hawaiian, Honolulu.**

The baggage claim in Honolulu is quite removed from the incoming gate. We are greeted by representatives of a company called Roberts (the same company handled transfers in Tahiti.) We are not allowed to touch our bags. "That is our job."

In 2005, the islands welcomed 7,457,297 visitors who spent a record \$11.5 billion, according to the latest state figures.

The driver of our mini bus warns us that traffic is bad and it may take an hour to drive to the Sheraton Royal Hawaiian. It takes forty-five minutes.



2. Waiting for the bus with flower lei's.

We pass through China Town and the downtown area. We will see more tomorrow.

Our hotel, the Royal Hawaiian, is affectionately known as "The pink palace." Beautifully situated on Waikiki Beach.

We are welcomed with another lei, Jan's is flowers, tube rose and orchids, mine a string of kukui nuts.



Royal Hawaiian, the pink palace.

The kukui nut is very oily, used for moisturizing the skin, internal use (with caution) and in ancient times as a candle.



Kukui nut lei.



81. We have a Room with a Garden View.



3. Waikiki Beach at dusk.

We freshen up and head for the beachside bar. The sun is setting and everyone is rushing to take photographs.

The Mai Tais are good though different than we have enjoyed on other islands. Jan orders a club sandwich and I ribs.

It has been along day. We turn in early.



4. Beach bar at the Royal Hawaiian.



48. Ti plant in hotel gardens.